In our era you can easily find on the internet, a curriculum or bibliography of virtually anyone.

It is, therefore all too easy to appreciate the impact of Malcolm Fisher’s research on the Intensive Care field and his predominant position in our discipline, widely recognized by many major awards, a huge number of international invited lectures and the presidency of national and international societies.

But the internet does not tell the whole story. Sometimes an entire nation is identified with one person and to say “Malcolm Fisher” is as to say “Australian Intensive Care”. Motivation, passion for research and clinical skills can all be measured and Malcolm has all of these to the highest degree.

What you cannot find in the CV is the ability to create and keep alive teams and networks and for this you need charisma, intellectual honesty and credibility.

The first “talent” is inherited, the others are acquired during your working life. Malcolm was born with the first and has mastered the others. Finally, in Malcolm I see concentrated the virtues of Australia, which he described to me when we first met in his country: famous for hospitality, sunshine, wine and a sense of humor.

As with every great person, Malcolm has never taken himself too seriously, but I truly believe that he deserves, as very few others, the award that ESICM is honoring him with.

Luciano GATTINONI
ESICM Past President