



Julian Bion



The Intensive Connection

The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine proudly awards this citation of Honorary Membership to Professor Julian Bion, MD for his major contributions to the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and to Intensive Care Medicine around the world, but foremost for his key role in improving the quality of care of acutely, critically ill patients and their relatives through the development of a programme of high quality education and training.

Julian Bion is Professor of Intensive Care Medicine at the University of Birmingham and honorary consultant in intensive care medicine at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Birmingham. As an active, dedicated and skilled front-line physician and teacher, he is committed to full clinical duties in one of the largest intensive care units in Europe.

Julian Bion was President of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (2004-2006) and foundation chairman of the European Board of Intensive Care Medicine (2006-2009). He led the restructuring of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and he was instrumental at establishing the European Critical Care Research Network. Most importantly however, he conceived, led, and is now the research director of the competency-based training programme for Intensive Care Medicine. CoBaTrICE was established as an EU Leonardo da Vinci-funded collaboration and has now been successfully adopted by a considerable number of national training programmes worldwide. CoBaTrICE has been identified as an example of best practice by the European commission, and the process has been emulated by the United States.

His involvement in training and education goes back to the late eighties. Julian Bion has been responsible for undergraduate training in resuscitation and intensive care at the University of Birmingham since 1987, and he successfully developed national standards for undergraduate training in the care of the acutely ill patient. At the postgraduate level, he was the first Regional Advisor in Intensive Care Medicine for the West Midlands. He has been an elected Council member of the Royal College of Anaesthetists since 2007 and Chair of the Professional Standards Committee. In 2010, he was elected as the first Dean of Great Britain's new Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine. As a result of the strong collaborative efforts of Prof. Bion and others, the United Kingdom joined Spain and Switzerland as the third European country with intensive care medicine recognised as a primary medical

speciality. Hopefully, many more countries will follow in the near future!

The research interests of Julian Bion include sepsis and multiple organ failure, quality management and patients' safety, and improving patient outcomes through professional education and training. The sheer number of Prof. Bion's contributions limits the opportunity to name them all, but to mention just a few: He established an EU-funded European collaboration to determine genetic predisposition to mortality from septic shock, the GenOSept project, and he is a member of the national steering committee of the HTA-funded study on protocolised management of sepsis, the ProMISe study. Julian Bion is also senior clinical lead for a National Patient Safety programme, aiming at reducing blood stream infections from central venous catheters in ICUs. Finally, he is leading a national approach that aims to integrate clinical research and behavioural sciences with education and professional development to improve the quality and reliability of care of acutely ill hospitalised patients.

In 2004 Julian Bion received the Shubin-Weil international award for excellence from the Society of Critical Care Medicine in the USA. He was awarded honorary life memberships of the Czech Society of Intensive Care Medicine in 2008 and of the UK Intensive Care Society in 2009.

Taking into account all these professional activities, it may come as a surprise that "the man with the bow-tie" still has some spare time to invite friends from all over the world to his home, to browse through his collection of more than 4000 books, or to attend to his collection of excellent wines. Finally, with no less than three pianos at his home in Birmingham, you can be confident that even though "CoBaTrICE" may be a master keyword in Julian's life, his passion does not end there. Be assured, it also includes discussions of other aspects of life with his most beloved wife Nitaya, his family and his many friends.

HANS U. ROTHEN