



MERVYN SINGER



It is both a delight, as well as a privilege, to write this citation on behalf of Professor Mervyn Singer for the award of Honorary Membership of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine Society. This is an outstanding honour conferred on individuals who have made exceptional contributions of the highest calibre to both the Society, as well as to the specialty of Intensive Care Medicine. There can be no doubt that Mervyn fulfils these criteria, being at the vanguard of both UK and European intensive care. I can think of no individual more deserving of this medal than Mervyn.

Born in London in 1958 and educated in north London at The Latymer School, Mervyn went to medical school at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, graduating in medicine in 1981. In 1998, he was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London, Honorary Fellowship of the Edinburgh Royal College in 2003, and Fellowship of the UK Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine in 2011.

As well as being Professor of ICM and Director of the Centre for ICM within the Division of Medicine at University College London, he is also theme lead for the UCLH/UCL Biomedical Research Centre and critical care lead for the National Institute of Health Research Health Informatics Collaborative.

If that is not enough, he was the first intensivist to be made a Senior Investigator of the UK National Institute of Health Research, is Treasurer of the International Sepsis Forum, and found a few moments to co-chair the Sepsis-3 Definitions Task Force. One cannot forget that he is also the Editor-in-Chief for ICM Experimental, as well as sitting on the boards for several journals. And he still does – and enjoys – 12 weeks a year of clinical service.

It is no exaggeration to call Mervyn “unique”. Always heard before being seen, his lecturing style in particular guarantees great entertainment and packed auditoriums. Moreover, rather than regurgitating the “classical view” on a subject, he often presents an alternative approach which challenges dogma with an intuition rarely encountered in medicine. Although one may not always agree with him, one cannot dismiss his ideas without serious consideration. This intellectual rigour is reflected in his research which encompasses basic science (and an ongoing love affair with the mitochondrion) to multi-centred randomised controlled trials, plus everything in between! It is often forgotten that Mervyn's M.D. thesis, performed at St George's Hospital under the mentorship of David Bennett and awarded by the University of London in 1990 was entitled “Continuous haemodynamic monitoring by oesophageal Doppler”, a technique which is now at the forefront of patient care in our intensive care units. He's currently developing new monitors to assess 'tissue happiness' and even a new drug for suspended animation; these will hopefully go into man in the near future.

He sits on national innovation funding panels and interacts actively with industry to develop and test new drugs, monitors and devices in both laboratory and clinical settings. It is no exaggeration to state that his work has directly impacted on many of us. This research background has stood him in good stead and has led to him supervising and inspiring a generation of clinical scientists.

Outside the ICU arena Mervyn is supported by his wife, Sue, and two children, and the pride he feels for his family is obvious when engaged in conversation about them. His other great passion is sport and, in particular, football. He shares an affliction with myself in that he is a staunch Tottenham Hotspur supporter, being a season ticket holder and regular attendee of home games.

Mervyn is truly a giant among his peers and his numerous achievements are testament to this (and only briefly outlined here!), but importantly he is always approachable and has time for everyone. He is probably the most popular doctor I know and will chat to anyone with his own brand of wit and charm to the fore. It is my great honour to write this citation for Mervyn Singer, and I am delighted that the Society has decided to bestow this high recognition on such a deserving individual.

LUI FORNI

ESICM Chair of the Research Committee