EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE



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The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) proudly awards Professor Charles L. Sprung, MD the 2011 ESICM medal for his major contributions to both the Society and also to Intensive Care Medicine.

Charles Sprung

Charles Sprung graduated from Yeshiva University in 1971 and SUNY-Downstate Medical Center, New York in 1974. He completed his Internal Medicine residency and Critical Care Medicine fellowship training at Kings County Medical Center and then became the Director of the Section of Critical Care Medicine at the VA Medical Center and University of Miami. He emigrated to Israel in 1989 as the Director of the General Intensive Care Unit at Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center where he continues to work. From 1997, he has been the Director of the Institute of Medicine, Ethics and Law at Hadassah.

Charles Sprung has played a major role in advancing the specialty of Intensive Care Medicine around the world. He was a member, and then President (1983-4), of the Organizational Committee of the Florida Society of Critical Care Medicine. He was Chairman of the Israel Society of Critical Care Medicine (1990-1993) during which time Critical Care Medicine became a recognized subspecialty in Israel. He was the Chairman of the Ethics Section of the US Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) (1987-1994), of the ESICM (1998-2001, 2004-2007) and the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (2005-present). He has been a council member of SCCM (1987-1994) and a council member of ESICM (1996-2010) and the ESICM Treasurer (2007- 2010). As Treasurer, he was instrumental in increasing ESICM investment income despite difficult financial times and in initiating the purchase of the new ESICM building and supervising its renovations.

Charles Sprung has been active in researching the spectrum of intensive care medicine problems but particularly haemodynamic monitoring, sepsis, pulmonary edema/ARDS and ethical issues for more than 30 years. His book "The Pulmonary Artery Catheter - Methodology and Clinical Applications" has served as required reading for many intensivists. He has participated in most of the large sepsis studies over the last 30 years as an investigator, coordinator, clinical evaluation committee member, Safety and Efficacy Monitoring Committee member or chairman. He has coordinated several ESICM European multi-center studies, funded by the European Union, that include End of Life Decision Making and Procedures in European Intensive Care Units–ETHICUS, Systematic Study of General Ethical Principles Involved in End of Life Decisions for Patients in European Intensive Care Units–ETHICATT; Triage Decision Making for the Elderly in European Intensive Care Units–ELDICUS and the landmark Corticosteroid therapy of septic shock- Corticus study. He has published extensively in all of these areas and has written more than 250 original articles and over 50 books or book chapters.

The Critical Care community in Israel is especially proud of the achievements of Professor Sprung and the position he has attained internationally. Professor Sprung has been able to promote its goals and needs both politically and academically. He has succeeded in conducting and leading research in Critical Care in an environment of particular scarcity of resources and has been instrumental in impacting the way critical care is practiced in Israel, being a clear voiced advocate for increasing resources in terms of personnel, equipment and beds to facilitate better treatment of critically ill patients. The Israeli Society of Critical Care Medicine, is extremely fortunate to have Professor Sprung as one of its members and is thrilled that the ESICM has decided to award him with such a well-deserved honor.

Charles Sprung is an enthusiastic educator who loves to teach at the bedside. He transmits both the wisdom of experience and mastery of relevant medical literature (typically at his fingertips) to guide the best treatment of the patient. He has over the years mentored thousands of residents and fellows in and outside the ICU. He is an internationally recognized intensivist who has made his mark in the field as an extraordinary friendly, enthusiastic and knowledgeable physician, clinician, researcher, teacher, administrator, organizer and consensus builder. He has shown that honesty, dedication, persistence and conscientiousness are important qualities in getting the job done well.

The ESICM recognizes Professor Sprung's leadership and the importance of his contributions. His studies have changed the way physicians practice intensive care medicine around the world. It is an honor for Intensivists around the world who have worked closely with him, or were mentored by him, to have one of their most distinguished and talented members recognized with the award of the ESICM medal.

Yoram G. Weiss

Roland M.H. Schein

Eran Segal

Rui Moreno