



Warren Zapol

The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine proudly awards this citation of Honorary Membership to Professor Warren M. Zapol, MD, for his major contributions to the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and to Intensive Care Medicine.

Warren M. Zapol, MD, is the emeritus Anaesthetist-in-Chief at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Reginald Jenney Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School. He is currently the Director of the MGH Anaesthesia Centre for Critical Care Research. After completing residency in Anaesthesiology at MGH, in 1972 he joined and has remained on staff ever since. Supported by the NHLBI, Dr. Zapol's research efforts include studies of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), acute respiratory distress syndrome, and cardiopulmonary physiology in animals and humans. His contributions to the study of ARDS and of pulmonary hypertension in ARDS include classic seminal papers. The randomised controlled trial on ECMO he published in JAMA in 1979 represented perhaps the first randomised multicentre controlled clinical trial conducted in critical care. The NIH funded this trial, which can be considered the basis of the current NHLBI ARDS Network (ARDSnet).

One would be remiss to only focus on these aspects of Prof. Zapol professional achievements. His intellectual curiosity knows no bounds, and over the years, he has probed a wide range of fields, providing him with the possibility to integrate knowledge and experiences from very different sources. In addition to his roles as an anaesthesiologist and intensive care physician, supported by the National Science Foundation, Prof. Zapol has led nine Antarctic expeditions.

His endeavours in this field have received the highest recognition in the United States: In 2008, he was appointed by President George W. Bush and reappointed by President Barack Obama in 2012 as an academic representative to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. In 2006, the United States Board on Geographic Names officially named a steep mountain glacier in Antarctica after Prof. Zapol.

Through his Antarctic research his team learned how marine mammals avoid compression/decompression sickness and hypoxia during prolonged free diving. In the early 90's, he led research on the vasodilating effects of inhaled nitric oxide and applied this knowledge to ARDS pathophysiology and management. In 2003, he was

awarded the IPO Inventor of the Year Award for his work on an innovative treatment for hypoxic newborns utilising inhaled nitric oxide. This technique, pioneered with his MGH team, is now used to save the lives of over ten thousand babies each year in the U.S. He has, throughout his career and continues to, lead and mentor numerous fellows and researchers – both in the experimental lab and in the clinical investigation field.

ESICM recognises Professor Warren Zapol as one of the most important leaders and initiators of modern critical care. His brilliant mind and broad vision of physiological problems provide us in the field with an archetype of what can be achieved.

Personally, it is a great honour and privilege to be able to present Professor Warren Zapol this ESICM citation of Honorary Membership for his major contributions to our understanding and treatment of critical illness. Moreover, I am extremely proud to have worked alongside him, and to have been part of his 'crew'.

ANTONIO PESENTI