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DEREK ANGUS

At a time when attracting young talent to our discipline is crucial, there is probably no one better to serve as a role model than Derek C. Angus. As the immediate Past President of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, I am proud today to see our Society award him Honorary Membership.

Those who know Derek well will appreciate that this award comes on top of an impressive list of honours bestowed by prestigious institutions from around the world. Whilst he lives and works in the United States, he maintains a strong connection with his European heritage and is fully committed to the advancement of intensive care globally.

Born in Scotland, Derek Angus graduated from the University of Glasgow. In the late 1980s he undertook a mission with Médecins Sans Frontières in Hong Kong, where he literally had to set up a healthcare delivery system for North Vietnamese refugees. This experience clearly prompted him to focus his thinking about healthcare as system-based, whilst maintaining a keen interest in compassionate clinical care of the critically ill.

At the start of the 1990s, he relocated to the University of Pittsburgh, commencing a fellowship in Critical Care Medicine. In addition he obtained a Masters Degree in Public Health studying how acute care systems respond to disasters. Since then, Derek Angus has distinguished himself as a world-class acute care trialist and a leading expert in the organisation, cost, and efficiency of the ICU, with a particular interest in the care of patients with sepsis.

Derek Angus is currently Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, with secondary appointments in Medicine, Health Policy and Management, and Clinical and Translational Science. His research interests include clinical, epidemiologic and translational studies of sepsis, pneumonia, and multisystem organ failure, as well as health services research into the organisation and delivery of critical care services.

With over 300 papers, cited almost 50,000 times on Google Scholar, his scientific achievements are outstanding. Derek Angus is also the founder and Director of the CRISMA Center,

a highly-productive research powerhouse funded primarily by the NIH to the value of around US\$5 million annually. Under his leadership, CRISMA has grown and comprises more than 60 researchers; attracting and nurturing bright clinical scientists that promise to advance the way we deliver Intensive Care around the world.

In his "spare time", Derek Angus is also the JAMA section editor for "Caring for the Critically Ill". Despite all of these varied commitments he remains one of the most approachable leaders of our discipline, and is viewed as a "super cool cat" by trainees and young faculty in his institution as well as abroad.

On a more personal level, I met Derek Angus at the turn of the century, sitting on a Jury at an International Consensus Conference. Since then, I have been fortunate to work with him on a variety of projects, including one in Paris, where he undertook a sabbatical year in 2006. I have been even more privileged to become one of his close friends.

Beyond the scientist, I came to enjoy being around the man. He is wittingly smart with a generosity of spirit complemented by genuine curiosity. With the unique ability to bring spontaneity to the daily routine, he is adept at recognising bright ideas and translating concepts to deliver outstanding high-impact results.

Derek never fakes a smile – he is all smile – and has managed to find the perfect life balance between work, family and friends. With his truly wonderful wife Julie and their five daughters, he enjoys skiing, biking, windsurfing, and the arts. We share a common passion for life and music, and I can testify that he is equally gifted in choosing a great bottle of wine or delivering a 48-bar saxophone solo over a jazz standard. Some people just seem to "have it all" and Derek Angus is one of them. He is one of the smartest, most enthusiastic, charismatic and effectual leaders the discipline of intensive care medicine could dream of having as an ambassador. We are fortunate to have him as a member of our critical care community and the ESICM is especially proud to now consider him an Honorary Member.

JEAN-DANIEL CHICHE
ESICM Past-President



The Intensive Connection

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