Charles Hinds will be known to many of you here as an exceptional clinician, scientist, educator and role model, who has given a lifetime of commitment to Intensive Care Medicine. Charles Hinds qualified in 1972 and trained in anaesthesia and ICM at St Bartholomew’s Hospital in London before being appointed to the staff in 1980. He was Director of Intensive Care for 15 years, and in 2004 was promoted to a chair of intensive care medicine in recognition of his contributions to research and education. He continues to undertake active clinical duties in the ICU, including on call.

His achievements in medical education include writing one of the foremost textbooks in ICM (Hinds & Watson, now in its 4th edition). He was a member of the UK’s Intercollegiate Board for Training in Intensive Care Medicine in the early stages of the development of ICM as a specialty, and senior examiner for the UK-Dip ICM. He has also been an examiner for the European Diploma of Intensive Care Medicine, Senior Editor of the European Distance Learning Programme, PaCT, and is a popular lecturer at national and international conferences.

Charles Hinds is an exceptional researcher. He has written more than 150 scientific publications, including important and influential original research, reviews and book chapters. He has raised over £3M in research grants and has trained a new generation of clinical scientists to independent practice. His research has bridged the gap between anaesthesia and critical care, with a strong emphasis on the perioperative role of anaesthesia in improving patient outcomes through perioperative optimisation. His NEJM paper demonstrates the absence of benefit of dobutamine to drive high levels of oxygen delivery in the late stages of sepsis and studies show that outcomes are improving for patients admitted to intensive care following bone marrow transplantation.

In recent years, his attentions have turned to the genetics of sepsis. Together with Dr Chris Garrard, Professor Adrian Hill and colleagues in Oxford, he has established the UK Genetics of Infection & Sepsis research group (GAINS) and, with Professor Stuber in Bern, he has led the European GenOSEpt collaboration, work that is now coming to fruition with genome-wide analyses of the world’s largest database in this patient population (3451 patients from ICUs in 16 countries).

Charles Hinds has always been most generous in helping others develop as independent researchers and in supporting colleagues with their research. He has supported and supervised many trainees in acquiring higher research degrees and, for many years, has been a member of the Research Committee of the Intensive Care Society. He has been President of the Intensive Care Society and UK representative on the Council of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine.

Charles is well-supported by his wife Joan, not only in his capacities as an intensivist, but also in his addiction to fishing, a pastime requiring persisting optimism in the hunt for an elusive quarry and boundless patience. These are also necessary ingredients for sepsis and genetics research and Charles possesses them both. His commitment to science, to patient care and to the success of the ESICM make him a more than worthy recipient of Honorary Membership of the Society.

JULIAN BION
ESICM Past-President