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KONRAD REINHART

It gives me great pleasure to write this citation on behalf of Professor Konrad Reinhart to support him being awarded the Honorary Membership of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM).

Konrad was born in the medieval city of Bamberg, Germany then studied medicine at the University of Munich and Berlin, qualifying as a doctor in 1975. As a student he did not take his medical training too seriously, as was dedicated to the goals of the far left student movement in Berlin. In 1978 he was a candidate and spokesperson for Berlin's "Alternative Liste", which was the first Green party in Germany that aimed to clear the 5% hurdle and to gain seats in the Berlin parliament. If this attempt had not failed, perhaps Konrad would not have become a physician, but a politician.

He trained in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine at the Hospital Benjamin Franklin in the Free University of Berlin, received his MD in 1978 and achieved specialist recognition in 1984. Konrad was among the very view that realised in the early 1980s that, although sepsis was one of the main killers in the intensive care unit, it was poorly addressed at medical school and that there was no medical speciality that focused on the condition and therefore sepsis patients had no lobby. From then on, he started to dedicate his scientific and professional career to sepsis.

In 1985, Konrad organised the first international meeting solely dedicated to sepsis in Berlin, which since then takes place biannually and in 2001 became the official international meeting of the German Sepsis Society that now takes place in Weimar. Since 1993, he has been the Professor and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine at the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany. By successfully raising public funding for major research projects, such as the establishment of an Integrated Research and Treatment Center – Center for Sepsis Care & Control – and the Center of Innovation Competency "Septomics", that focuses on new sepsis diagnostics, Konrad has since developed Jena to be one of the leading hubs for sepsis and infection research.

In 2001, Konrad became the founding president of the German Sepsis Society, which, at that time, was the first interdisciplinary national professional society dedicated to foster sepsis research and to improve the quality of sepsis care by launching the first national Sepsis guidelines in Germany in 2002. As a speaker of the publicly-funded nationwide German research network (SepNet) in 2002, he initiated the first study on the epidemiology and quality of sepsis management in Germany that helped to increase awareness for sepsis in Germany and fostered the establishment of the first national patient advocate group on sepsis - the German Sepsis Aid - in 2005. The SepNet clinical trials group conducted a number of large multi-centre randomised controlled trials on the efficacy and safety of new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in sepsis. Many of these have been published with Konrad as a senior author in very high profile journals. Examples include: Effect of empirical treatment with moxifloxacin and meropenem vs meropenem on sepsis-related organ dysfunction in patients with

severe sepsis, JAMA 2012; A Trial of Intensive Insulin Therapy and Pentastarch Resuscitation in Severe Sepsis, NEJM 2008.

Konrad has been a member of the ESICM since 1985. From 1996-1998 he served as Secretary of the ESICM. Throughout this time, he has also been an extremely active member of the Sepsis and Inflammation (SIS) section, leading the section through the positions of hon. Secretary and then Chair (2004-2008) and also being the German Council representative from 1990 to 1994. He has represented the society on the Surviving Sepsis Campaign since 2002 and has chaired the Task Force on colloid volume therapy in the critically ill (2012). His concerns as to the safety of some of these colloid solutions was borne from his own original research and led to him becoming a significant advocate for patient safety (BMJ 2014) and an expert to the EMA on whether (or not) the license for these products should be changed.

He was founding Chairman of the Global Sepsis Alliance in 2010. He was a member of the Council of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (WFSICCM) from 2005 to 2013 and, since 2004, has been a member (and from 2008-2010 its chair) of the Steering Committee of the International Sepsis Forum (ISF). In 2012, under the leadership of Konrad, the Global Sepsis Alliance launched the World Sepsis Declaration and initiated the first World Sepsis Day that, since then, has been successfully held in over 50 countries on all continents. By learning from advocates of other diseases, such as cancer and HIV, nobody else has understood better than Konrad that "for any illness to rise to political prominence, it needed marketing" and that "a disease needed to be transformed politically before it could be transformed scientifically" - Siddhartha Mukherjee author of "Emperor of all maladies: A Biography of Cancer".

His research activities in the field of sepsis and intensive care medicine have led to more than 550 peer-reviewed publications and his H index from the ISI Web of Science (2014) was an impressive 64. He has been granted many previous honours and awards for his research successes, perhaps the most prominent of which include the Research Award of the Federal State of Thuringia, Germany (2008) and by being asked to become a member of the German National Academy of Science in 2011.

Konrad, as a representative of ESICM on the Surviving Sepsis Campaign, as a member and Chairman of the ISF, and now as Chairman of the Global Sepsis Alliance, has worked tirelessly to improve the awareness of sepsis and to globally foster quality improvement of sepsis care and research. Inspired by the successes of these joined efforts, the international sepsis community now strives for a resolution on sepsis and a mandate for World Sepsis Day by the United Nations World Health Assembly. If achieved, this would mean another quantum leap forward in the global fight against sepsis, to which Konrad has made major contributions.

ANDREW RHODES
ESICM Senate



The Intensive Connection

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