



**JOHN KELLUM**



It is a great privilege to be asked to write a citation for Professor John Kellum on the occasion of his award of Honorary Membership to the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine. There can be no more deserving candidates reflecting the enormous impact he has made on intensive care medicine both in the US but also worldwide.

Originally, John attended medical school in Toledo (Ohio, USA), following undergraduate studies there in Psychology, from which he graduated *cum laude*. Graduate studies were based at the University of Rochester, before he found himself at the University of Pittsburgh - undertaking his fellowship in critical care medicine - as well as his MD, awarded from Toledo, from which his love of the science behind critical illness developed.

John is synonymous with many things in ICU research. He is best known for his pioneering work in the field of acute kidney injury where, together with Claudio Ronco and Rinaldo Bellomo, they transformed the landscape of acute renal failure.

He is never more passionate than when discussing AKI and its burden on patients and relatives, and the need for better care as well as diagnostics. His work has highlighted many aspects of AKI unknown previously, that are being translated from bench to bedside, resulting in better outcomes.

His work as a clinician scientist sits comfortably next to his laboratory work, where he manages to keep abreast of change in an almost effortless manner, leaving the rest of us dumbfounded! Of course, he is also a great proponent of the alternative approach to acid base balance and Peter Stewart's work, which resulted in a reprint of the original text.

Although we have debated on many occasions as to the relative merits of each approach, this is always done in good grace, with humour, which anyone who knows John recognises as one of his many attributes.

His achievements do not end there, being actively involved in the mechanisms of organ failure, organ donor management, bioengineering....the list goes on! Over 300 peer-reviewed papers, 200 or more reviews, over 100 book chapters and 5 current patents point to his dedication and drive. This is reflected in that fact that he has been cited over 60,000 times and has an H index in 3 figures!!

John also has another passion, that for teaching, and it is clear when lecturing to a packed auditorium, where his enthusiasm is infective. Furthermore, he has the great ability to convey difficult concepts to an audience in a simple way that one can only envy, and this approach reflects the fact that he has mentored so many of the current, and soon to be, shining lights in our field.

Away from the clinical arena, you could ask for no better company as "JK". A somewhat *bon vivant*, he has many a great tale as to digestive delights enjoyed around the world, and he embraces travel and new experiences with typical gusto, often sharing the experience with his wife Nita and his two children, a family of which he is clearly immensely proud of.

His easy manner comes to the fore when approached by a shy trainee or investigator, who wishes to discuss something with him. He never appears rushed and always grants people time to discuss with him any aspect of his work or problem they may have.

A better doctor, scientist or man is difficult to meet and I am honoured to call John my friend. Whenever we are due to meet, I look forward not only to the impassioned debate, but also the roaring laughter and fun that will ensue. He thoroughly deserves this award, not only for his achievements to-date, but also his unswerving support of the European Society, and this award as an honorary member is well overdue.

**LUI FORNI**

ESICM Secretary