This year, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine is honouring Dr Pascale C Gruber for her outstanding achievements in the field of education in intensive care and her commitment to the Society.

Pascale is a Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine and Clinical Director for Critical Care, Surgery and In Patients at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, United Kingdom.

We are immensely grateful to Pascale for her passionate devotion to intensive care education in the broadest sense and her engagement with ESICM.

Pascale, along with Prof. Charles Gomersal, helped to develop the BASIC course, a two-day non-profit course covering essential and fundamental aspects of Intensive Care, mostly for nurses and trainees in the early stages of their career. ESICM participated at the outset of this project, which later become extremely successful and gained worldwide popularity.

As a member and later Chair of the Clinical Training Committee, Pascale was a driving force of the development of the ESICM face-to-face courses, which are now well-established and financially sustainable, and have been attended by thousands of participants, and fully booked as default.

Pascale has also been a director and founder of the courses that are aimed at preparing candidates for parts I and II of the EDIC exam.

Pascale’s successful mission continued in 2016-2019, when she was the Chair of the Division of Professional Development and a member of ESICM Executive Committee. During these years, she coordinated the extremely rapid development of the Society’s educational activities. At this time, the Point-of-care Acute Care Training (PACT) was being replaced by a more modern Academy, the newly-built ESICM educational centre in Brussels needed to be wisely populated with face-to-face courses and the number of participants of the EDIC exam continued to rise. Pascale was in the “driving seat” during this explosion.

Always firm, well-organised and approachable, Pascale placed particular emphasis on good team spirit, coordination and collaboration within the Division of Professional Development. On top of this, she co-chaired the Multi-professional Working Group of the ESICM Diversity Task Force.

For me personally, it has always been hard to believe how much Pascale was able to deliver to our Society, and all of this on top of her busy clinical and managerial role in her hospital, her research and teaching, and last-but-not least, her maternal duties.

I can still remember the day when I first met Pascale, ten years ago in Bern, where she was co-organising an ICU management course and I was a participant. She greatly inspired me and since then, I have had the pleasure to work with her. I am very grateful that she remains a colleague and a friend, not just of mine, but also many others.

Pascale, thanks for everything that you have done for our Society!

FRANTISEK DUSKA
ESICM Chair of the Education and Training Committee