



## RUTH KLEINPELL

I take much pleasure and pride in writing this citation for Dr Ruth Kleinpell on the occasion of her award of Honorary Membership of the ESICM. Ruth is Associate Dean of Clinical Scholarship and Independence Foundation Professor of Nursing Education at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in Nashville Tennessee, USA. She is a certified Acute Care Nurse Practitioner with more than 25 years of clinical experience in the ICU and acute care settings.

As Associate Dean of Clinical Scholarship, Ruth acts as a mentor to junior faculty for clinical scholarship and research initiatives, collaborates on Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) clinical projects, and provides consultation to the VUMC advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) for various scholarship initiatives. She also holds honorary professorial appointments at the University of Sydney and Monash University School of Public Health.

She also serves as PI for a national collaborative through the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Office of Advanced Practice for a national Choosing Wisely- APRN initiative.

Ruth is an international authority on advanced practice nursing, outcomes and critical care and has received federal and foundation grant funding to conduct research related to outcomes after critical illness, the role of the advanced practice nurse and patient and family-centred care.

Professor Kleinpell's contributions to intensive and critical care medicine have been recognised through several highly prestigious awards, including the 2019 Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

She has served as President of the World Federation of Critical Care Nursing (WFCCN) for two consecutive terms and also the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), and the Tennessee Nurses Association Political Action Committee Board, where she is one of nine trustees charged with representing the interests of Tennessee nurses and advocating for the profession in the legislative arena.

The ANCC provides internationally renowned credentialing programmes that certify and recognise nurses in specialty practice areas. It also accredits health care organisations that provide and approve continuing education for nursing professionals and provides the ANCC Magnet Recognition Program, the most prestigious distinction a health care organisation can receive for excellence and quality patient outcomes.

Ruth is a Past President of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and the third nurse to serve in this capacity in the 46-year history of the organisation. She is also Past President of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses, an international organisation with over 40 country members representing over 500,000 critical care nurses worldwide. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the American College of Critical Care Medicine, the National Academies of Practice, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, and the Institute of the Medicine of Chicago.

In October 2019, she was elected to the Council of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine. This professional organisation promotes the highest standards of medicine for all, without discrimination. It is comprised of more than 85 national scientific societies and federations. The international association is governed by an elected Council of 14 members and Ruth is the only nurse to be elected to the Council. Fellow Council members include representatives from Australia, Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, India, Belgium and the United States.

Ruth has conducted research related to outcomes in hospitalised older adults and post-discharge follow-up interventions using telehealth for vulnerable populations including elderly patients at high risk for hospital readmission. She has also conducted research focusing on outcomes after ICU treatment and role development of acute care nurse practitioners, among other funded studies.

She recently served as principal investigator on an AHRQ-funded dissemination and research implementation grant aimed at disseminating patient-centred outcomes research to members of a health professional association. She is currently serving as PI on a PCORI funded two-year initiative to promote patient-centred outcomes research in ICU settings, using a national collaborative with 63 hospital ICU teams to implement patient and family centred initiatives.

Ruth has presented at over 360 conferences in over 46 countries and has recently implemented a programme to promote therapeutic music in the ICU at Vanderbilt University Medical Center with students from Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music - <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/projects/musicicu/index.php>

Despite all these achievements, Ruth has a very full personal life. In her free time she bakes, goes for long walks, and before the pandemic, she enjoyed travelling with her husband and son, especially to Singapore for the tropical climate, multi-cultural experiences, and botanical gardens.

I have known Ruth for many years and she has always inspired me. She is a wonderful and caring friend. If you know Ruth, you can expect to find a postcard in the mail, which always brings lots of affection and a smile, even during difficult times.

I don't know how she manages all of this, but I can say that she is a wonderful person, an influential, experienced leader, and an educator with a caring and modest manner. Ruth is without doubt a most deserving awardee of the ESICM Honorary Membership.

### MAURIZIO CECCONI

ESICM President-Elect