Minutes of the ESICM Council meeting held on Sunday 6 December 2020 at 10.00 hrs via Zoom

Present:
J Keseçioğlu (outgoing President), M Cecconi (incoming President), E Azoulay (President-Elect) L Forni (Secretary), J-L Teboul (Treasurer), A Gribes (Chair, DSA), J De Waele (Chair, Research Committee), A Wong (Chair, Editorial & Publishing Committee), F Duska (Chair, DPD), S Schaller (Chair, NEXT Committee), J Mellinghoff (Chair, N&AHP Committee), G Citerio (Editor-in-Chief, ICM), M Antonelli (Past President), J Alexandre (CEO), N Van der Elst (Membership, ESICM), G François (Research, ESICM) and V Sarno (Minutes).

Country and Scientific Section Representatives:

Apologies were received from V Bekos (National Rep. Greece), F Nacul (International Rep. Central & South America) and L Zavorszky (incoming National Rep. Hungary).

1. WELCOME, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN BERLIN ON 02 OCTOBER 2019

The President welcomed all those present to the meeting. The agenda of the meeting and the minutes of the General Assembly held in Berlin on 2 October 2019 were approved and adopted.

2. COVID-19 / C19_SPACE REPORT / EU RELATIONS

The President provided an overview of the actions taken by ESICM during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Events and Webinars

The Society organized several virtual events and webinars to provide a better understanding and better preparation.

A first webinar was held only 6 days after the first patient was admitted in the ICU in Lombardia, featuring a Chinese professor who shared his first-experience with the pandemic. 2,000 people attended the webinar.

The COVID-19 “Marathon” Webinar on 28 March and the “Half-Marathon” on 16 May registered more than 160,000 participants from 143 countries.

Weekly Webinars (in total 40 Hours) featured 90 expert speakers from all over the world and were followed by more than 600,000 viewers and more than 1 000 000 impressions.

Research and studies

ESICM has endorsed a number of important COVID-19 related research studies.

With the purpose of answering questions about the disease, its development and its best treatments, the Society has organised UNITE COVID-19, a one-day point prevalence observational study of the burden of the virus in ICUs across the world.
EU Relations

ESICM has been identified by the European Commission as the leading association of intensive care professionals in Europe. In this capacity, the Society has shared a wealth of knowledge on training, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, data and PPE to face the pandemic.

European Commission DG SANTE invited the ESICM President and President-Elect to take part in several live “EU COVID-19 Clinicians Network (CMSS)” webinars, focused on the human aspects of the pandemic response and the preparation for a second wave.

Framework for Free Movement of Intensivists in Europe

Currently, no freedom of movement is accorded to intensive care professionals under the EU law.

This is due to the differences in training to become an intensivist in Europe and a lack of agreement on how intensivist qualifications are to be recognised between Member States.

In December 2019, ESICM approached the European Commission for the first time to assess how to offer intensivists this fundamental EU right, taking into consideration the diversity of the field.

A viable option is for Intensive Care to be recognized and included as a novel profession in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications. Annex V is a list of recognised specialised professions which are entitled to free movements within the EU.

The President assured that the Society adopts an inclusive and multidisciplinary approach, firmly believing that the Intensive Care profession is enriched by all the specialities. Hence, ESICM doesn’t seek a primary speciality and intends to leave the responsibility of managing the training to the individual countries.

The focus of the work with the the most important thing is the outcome, so the competencies.

The European Commission approached ESICM in November 2020 to consult on the possibility to include Intensive Care Medicine in Annex V and use this framework to gain freedom of movement for intensivists.

ESICM replied to this initial request with a draft paper and the Commission started a preliminary fact-finding mission on 30 November with a consultation of the Healthcare Attachés of Member States.

November 2020: EU Commission approached ESICM on Annex V. Draft paper from ESICM, preliminary fact-finding from Commission, pre-consultations phases have started. It is opened to suggestions from anybody form the society or sister societies.

At the same time, ESICM sent out the preliminary paper for consultation to National Societies and also to the members of Multidisciplinary Joint Committee. The information was also shared with all ESICM Members.

It is the beginning of the process and represents a pre-consultation phase and it is open to suggestions from anyone in the Society.

The European Commission will continue the consultation process with the Member States in January.

The President encouraged every member of the Society to share their feedback, so to provide the Commission with complete and diverse information from all professions.

He also noted that, with the spread of the pandemic, the necessity for intensivists to be able to move freely and hold out a helping hand across borders has been clearly demonstrated. ESICM believes action must be taken to improve the standard of care on offer and to focus even more on the free movement of intensivists. In that perspective, ESICM is working towards this goal with the European Commission, so that EU ICUs are never caught unprepared again.

COVID-19 Space, Skill Preparation Course

In its work with the European Commission, ESICM was identified as a Society with a very wide range of expertise and an extensive network, which makes it eligible to create and implement an EU-wide training course for healthcare professionals not usually working in ICUs to prepare European hospitals for the second wave of COVID-19.

The C19_SPACE training programme funded by the European Union consists of a complete curriculum for doctors and nurses to master the basic skills and be part of an ICU team under the supervision of intensive care specialists.

The programme is under way in all 27 Member States and the UK and will run until December 2020.
ESICM was found eligible to create and implement a EU-wide training course for healthcare professionals, not daily working in ICUs.

The programme is being conducted with the support of national intensive care societies and national health ministries, national champions, local trainers (intensive care physicians and nurses) and trainees.

The recruitment drive was supported by the ESICM national societies and network, throughout the EU.

The training is adaptable to the participant, taking into consideration any training previously completed in the field and a fast-track training programme for doctors and nurses with experience.

Currently ESICM is receiving very positive feedback from trainees, trainers and hospitals enrolled in the programme and believes that this multidisciplinary pool of healthcare workers trained in Intensive Care basic skills will prevent the saturations of ICUs as we experienced during this pandemic in the future.

The content of the training includes online self-learning and local training components using webcasts, podcasts, clinical case videos and Virtual Reality recorded by experts.

Results achieved
> 600 hospitals
> 2700 trainers assigned out of which 50% active
> 11600 trainees enrolled
6056 nurses
5691 doctors
Registrations & C19_SPACE Programme ongoing

The President elect thanked everyone who promoted the training in their national countries.

3. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The Secretary began his presentation by remembering the late Hans Ulrich Rothen, an active member of the Society, whose memory lives on in the trainings and recognizing us as a specialty. he carried out for the speciality.

Membership

Despite the pandemic, membership has experienced constant growth, thanks to all members, the national representatives and the strengthened ties with national societies. Current membership is 8,852, slightly less than 8903 (2019). 71.4% of the members come from European countries. In terms of diversity, 37% of the membership is now female and female representation is higher in the younger age groups.

Elections 2020

The Secretary thanked all the officers, Section and Committee representatives who will be stepping down at the General Assembly on Tuesday, and welcomed their successors.

The new Executive Committee officers include Elie Azoulay (President-Elect). Nicole Juffermans has been elected new ICMx Editor-in-Chief.

The new Section Chairs are:
CD - Xavier Monnet (F)
HSRO - Christian Jung (D)
POIC - Aarne Feldheiser (D)

New Research Committee members include:
ARF Section Deputy Chair - Lise Piquilloud (CH)
CD Section Deputy Chair - Bernd Saugel (D)
HSRO Section Deputy Chair - Gunnar Elke (D)
POIC Section Deputy Chair - Ben Creagh-Brown (UK)

New e-Learning Committee has three new elected members: Mo Al Haddad (UK), Cristina Santonocito (IT) and Lina Grauslyte (UK).

The Examination Committee has two new elected members: Alex Nica (F) and Frauke Weidanz (D).

The Clinical Training Committee’s (CTC) new member is Slavica Kvolik (Croatia).
New NEXT Committee members include:

Victoria Bennett (UK) – Congress
Kristina Fuest (D) – e-Learning
David Perez Torres (ES) – Editorial & Publishing Committee
Andrea Ortiz Suñer (ES) – Editorial & Publishing Committee
Rahul Costa-Pinto (Australia) – Examination

New national representatives are:

Lorinc Zavorszky (Hungary)
Jone Jackeviciute (Lithuania)
Anja Kramaric (Slovakia)


Request for Approval of the Establishment of an ESICM Translational Biology Section

Drs John Laffey and Nicole Juffermans have written to the Secretary on behalf of the Translational Biology Group to propose the creation of a Translational Biology Section within the Society.

- This formal proposal contains the signatures of 53 ordinary/international members, who would join the Section as voting members, and three letters of support from other ESICM Sections.
- John Laffey could be offered a three-year mandate to lead the Section (as Chair), until formal elections take place.
- The position of Deputy Chair will not mean an automatic three-year appointment or a transition to become Chair. It will be a one-time position.

The Executive Committee approved this on August 31st.

The Council approbation is requested. The Council approved.

Society Medal and Honorary Members

The Treasurer complimented Carole Boulanger, the first nurse to win the Society Medal, and her major contribution to the society, it shows exactly the values that the society holds. If you want to know more, you can read my citations.

ESICM Honorary Membership has been granted to Pascale Gruber, former DPD Chair, Ruth Kleinpell SCCM Past President, and Jeffrey Lipman.

Conflict of Interest declarations

Conflict of Interest declaration forms will be circulated to all members of the Executive Committee, Council, Section Chairs and Deputies, shortly after the congress.

Secretariat

The CEO and his staff were congratulated for their hard work in times of pandemic.

The Secretary announced changes to the staff at the ESICM office, including the departure of Sherihanne Scharff and Celia McClements and the arrival of Veronica Sarno (as Junior Communication and Digital Officer) and Margaux Osselaer (Administrative Assistant).

4. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2020 (10 + 2 months).

Division of Scientific Affairs

Annual congress

Less income is expected from LIVES 2020 compared to last year’s congress in Berlin and what was estimated. Registration fees have gone down, due to the digital congress being free for ESICM members. This is compensated by less expenses.

The webinars have become an important source of income this year, thanks to industry sponsorships. Overall, the income is less than what budgeted, but still positive.
**Education**
Less income from the EDIC examination, less people registered.

More income from the Clinical Training Committee, due to less expanditures. Some online courses were organized.

**Editorial and Publishing**
ICM Journal is an important source of income, with 770K forecasted for 2020, better than what expected from last year.

**Financial Result**
The provisional financial result shows a negative €48,000, significantly lower than what forecasted, thanks to the sponsors and ESICM committees, who adapted quickly to the virtual world.

The President thanked the Treasurer and ESICM CEO for offsetting the challenging financial situation the Society faced in 2020. The Treasurer specified he is not presenting the forecast for 2021 as the situation is still uncertain and he will propose sth for the March Council Meeting.

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### 5. REPORT FROM THE DIVISION OF SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

**Congress Activities**
The Chair of the DSA thanked ESICM industry partners for their support, which made it possible to organize this year’s digital congress.

Moving from physical to digital, the congress offers even more content:

- 365 presentations and more than 90 hours of video on demand content
- 397 presentations and more than 30 hours of live sessions
- 7 live channels
- 327 ESICM speakers
- 47 Industry speakers
- Around 6000 delegates worldwide
- 50% increase in female speakers over the last two years, coming from other networks, therefore we have a lot of new speakers.
- 1,203 abstracts submitted (1,138 accepted)
- 30 Best Abstract selected to be presented during the Congress
- 297 ESICM speakers

He hoped to see many of the Council members at the next Congress in Copenhagen, and thanked all the members of the Congress Committee for their support and making the congress the success it is.

**Research Activities**
The Chair of the Research Committee presented the new Research Committee. Four new members will start their mandates after the General Assembly:

- Lise Piquilloudm, Deputy of the ARF Section
- Bernd Saugel, Deputy of the CD Section
- Gunnar Elkemm Deputy of the MEN Section
- Ben Creagh-Brown, Deputy of the POIC Section

**Research Awards 2020**
Out of the 134 applications received, the Society was able to offer 11 awards. No Industry Awards were granted.

**Research Projects**
DecubICUs’ primary paper has been published in October. Three other trials are close to completion, four are currently recruiting patients and two are ongoing. The latter includes UNITE COVID-19, for which patient validation is closed and data clearing has started.

There have been 5 survey applications and four project endorsements since last year’s congress.

56,800 patients have been included in ESICM trials since 2013.
Surviving Sepsis Campaign

The Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC) is a joint initiative between the ESICM and SCCM. The revision is ongoing.

Public Affairs

ESICM has joined forces with the European Hematology Association (EHA) and other medical societies and patient advocates across disciplines in a coalition calling for urgent action to make clinical trials less bureaucratic and more patient-centered, efficient and cheaper. ESICM has co-signed the statement on reducing bureaucracy in clinical trials published on 25 September 2020 on the EHA website. The plan is write a consensus document in the future.

ESICM is now a full member of the Biomedical Alliance and part of their different task forces and committees (Medical Devices, Horizon 2020 and Education). The Society is also a member of the European Sepsis Alliance, which held its second annual meeting in March 2019.

The Chair of the Research Committee thanked staff member Guy François and former staff member Sherihanne Schraff for their support.

6. REPORT FROM THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPD)

The DPD Chair thanked the members of the Committee and the office staff, particularly Melania Istrate, Dominique De Boom and Estelle Pasquier for their support during these difficult times.

The Academy supports all the education activities of the Society, including the ACE courses, Master Classes, Learning Pathways, e-Modules and exam preparation courses.

There are currently 83 e-Courses: 37 are available online, 8 are undergoing editorial procedure.

There are 3 Master Classes + 2 online e-Master Classes; one industry supported course; three Diploma Preparation Courses; one Learning Pathways and one course for the ALIVE Fund. Four Open Courses are dedicated to COVID-19, 2 courses for C19_SPACE trainees (Doctors/Nurses).

13,898 active accounts have been created for users of the Academy. The most accessed ACE courses are Mechanical Ventilation, Renal Replacement Therapy, ARDS, arrhythmia and Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation.

UEMS accreditation

41 e-Course modules have been submitted and approved for accreditation.

Clinical Training Committee

Educational Needs Survey 2020

The survey received high responses. On top of the classic intensive care topics, respondents highlighted a preference for courses on practical procedures and interactive and hands on sessions.

Learning on real cases with Case Base Fundamentals, it’s starting at LIVES 2020.

EDIC

The refresher course was held online and both events were fully booked.

EDIC I The Spring Exam session was postponed due to the pandemic. The Autumn session was held in 9 centers across the world and welcome 274 candidates.

EDIC 2: Both sessions have been postponed to 2021

EDEC

155 registrants have signed up for EDEC between 2019 and 2020. 40 have received their diploma, since the start of the course in 2016.

The webinar series ‘How do I manage…?’ has had an average of 50 participants. A live clinical case course ran in Brussels in January 2019, with 18 attendees and live streaming in ICUs in Amiens, London and Utrecht.

Master Classes
Due to the pandemic, Master classes were moved online, but the response has been positive. For the first half of 2021, courses will continue to happen digitally.

A new Master Class, Critical Care Ultrasound, it’s set to happen at LIVES Copenhagen 2021.

**CoBaTrICE**

The CoBa competencies and syllabus will be updated in 2021 to include echo and ultrasound.

Dr Duška ended his report by remembering the late Hans-Ulrich Rothen, ex Chair and senior advisor to CoBaTrICE.

The vision for 2021 is to create customised e-learning syllabus based on adaptive-difficulty self-assessment aligned with CoBa.

Provide EDIC exam in major European languages, serving as national ICM exam in more EU countries. Hybrid sustainable Master Classe, maybe arrive to face-to-face + watch and interact from home.

### 7. REPORT FROM THE EDITORIAL & PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

**Guideline Endorsement**

Three new guidelines have been approved and the one on Mechanical Ventilation has been published. It is important to have a strong and stringent process for guidelines, as this helps to increase the quality of what we are able to produce.

**Journal Review Club (JRC)**

The reviewer base has been expanded and a regular turnover of journal reviews has been kept despite the pandemic.

**e-Newsletters**

The President’s Voice is new quarterly newsletter provides members with ICU news and highlights the more strategic activities of the Society.

The monthly e-Newsletters give updates about ESICM initiatives, EDIC/EDEC, courses, awards, research surveys, open trials, e-LIVES webcast highlights, new reviews and interviews, and are sent to 25,000 recipients. Many members use the newsletter as a resource to go to the website.

**Social Media**

During the pandemic, the online presence of the Society has increased.

Taking as example the COVID-19 Marathon on March 28, Dr Wong showed it attracted 78,000 viewers, much above the average 4-5000 viewers generally attracted.

Several thousand colleagues also joined on the Society’s other social media platforms.

The blog offers an opportunity for colleagues who are not ESICM members to contribute, especially those from low to middle income countries.

Dr Wong indicated as next steps, the development of the communication with both fellow professionals and with the public, which was already initiated by the President and the President-Elect.

### 8. REPORT FROM THE NEXT COMMITTEE

The Chair of the NEXT Committee welcomed new Committee Members, Andrea Ortiz Suñer (ES), David Perez Torres (ES) and Kristina Fuest (D).

He announced NEXT first publication in ICM, as a letter about the new scoring criteria for ESICM NEXT fellowship evaluation, for improved fairness. The Fellowship is the most popular programme, but it had to be postponed due to the crisis. New scoring system.

**Mentorship Programme**

A new 2 year, structured program had been put in place, entailing continuous concomitant evaluation.
10 mentees have already been selected and their paring with mentors is in progress. For the section chairs, we still have problems to find mentors, so it would be appreciated the help to finalize the panel.

Due to the pandemic, two initiatives have been postponed:
- Diversity report template
- Implicit bias test survey to all members

**NEXT at LIVES**

A wide-ranging programme is to be held in the NEXT Lounge and NEXT has joined forces with the Haemodynamic Section to offer a Haemodynamics Master Class.

NEXT will also be cooperating with the new Data Science Section on course content and the Social Media Task Force during the congress.

NEXT is currently working with the Research Committee to help to re-design the Research Master Class as an Educational Track for the future.

Strategy process with our new president Maurizio Cecconi
- Set-up new Diversity process brainstorming in NEXT committee
- Long-term strategy of financing the ESICM NEXT fellowship program
- Collaboration with TBG section and E-Move
- Research blended learning track

### 9. REPORT FROM THE N&AHP COMMITTEE

| Consistent but low membership numbers across N&AHP despite N&AHP sessions. |
| Poor representation of AHP, clinical pharmacy, dietetics, occupational therapy, clinical psychology etc. |
| Membership is loyal many being members for many years. |
| Membership has dropped this year and a little more than 200 N&AHP members belong to the Society compared to almost 300 last year. This might be due to the special offer run last year, with registration for 3 months if people enrolled into the congress. |
| AppIC is now translated into five different languages and has 3965 users this year. The app includes 63 articles, as well as 31 pharmacology articles. |
| DecubICUs – one-day point prevalence study |
| The Chiar thanked Sonia Labeau & Stijn Blot for their tremendous job. The biggest research project we have had so far in our committee. Published in ICM October 2020. |
| INACTIC (International Nursing Advanced Competency Based Training for Intensive Care) |
| Completed in January 2020. |
| Develop advanced practice critical care nursing competencies. |
| Current work underway for publication of these in peer reviewed journal. |
| Many thanks to the team for completion. |
| Journal Reviews |
| N&AHP Committee members are continuing their active involvement in the Society’s journal reviews and have reviewed additional articles of specific interest to N&AHP. |
| Education |
| N&AHP Hot Topics in ICU. Inter professional speakers and moderators, experts in the field, according to best evidence coupled with clinical experience and expertise. |
| Distance learning: Six webinars, with more than 1200 registered on the platform. A number never registered before. The first one was in March, then break due to pandemic than August. |
| **N&AHP COVID-19 Marathon Webinar** |
| Organized in July, with a focus on rehabilitation, recovery and reflection. |
**LIVES Digital 2020**

**Dedicated Channel to Nurses & AHP, with** Interactive Sessionsm N&AHP Case-based Fundamentals
N&AHP research & networking: what's new?, a workshop: Scientific writing - A beginner's guide and
Video-On-Demand programmes

On other channels, we offer:

Working during the pandemics - What happened to us, nurses and physicians? - Round Table
Meet the Expert - A chat with Carole Boulanger

**C_19 SPACE Programme**

The Nurse Pathway has registered so far 1227 nurse trainers enrolled (of which 568 active) and 3996 nurse
trainees enrolled (of which 2439 pre-test).

- 8 hours of educational content specific for NAHPs not working in intensive care
- 4 clinical case scenarios
- 4 days of recording videos for the Virtual Learning Experience

The Chair thanked everyone who participated in recording the videos for the Virtual Learning Experience, as
well as the technical/logistics team who made it happen under the direction of ESICM office people who make
all this happen incl. the office in Brussels under direction of Melania Istrate.

Year of the Nurse and Midwife 2020 and proud that former Chair Carole Boulanger has received the ESICM
Medal this year.

Educational survey to come early 2021 to plan future activities

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<th><strong>10. REPORT FROM THE ICM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF</strong></th>
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<td>It has been a very busy year, with more than 3,000 submissions, compared to the average 2,000. Some days we received 50 articles per day. Of these, 11% accepted.</td>
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<td>We try to be fast, with around 5 days to come to a first decision, in-house rejection.</td>
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<td>Even in these difficult times, more than half of the reviewers invited completed their reviews. We give European Credits to all the reviewers, as reward.</td>
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<td>Most papers are already rejected during the first phase, checking if they don’t fit with the editorial line and for quality.</td>
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<td>Social media activity has increased and the journal gets more Twitter mentions than the other journals. 41,000 tweets since the beginning of the year on intensive care.</td>
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<td>We decided to have only one website, only on Springer.com, suppressing the ICM portal cause easier to update. The impact factor is slightly decreasing but we remain the first journal for impact factor only dealing with intensive care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanked the Intensive Care Medicine Publishing Office. I would like to thank all the deputy and associate editors who did an amazing work because we managed the double of manuscripts compared to the past, with the same speed and quality.</td>
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<td>Reviewers are rewarded for their work with UEMS credits.</td>
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<td>The Editor-in-Chief ended his presentation by inviting every Section to submit their best research.</td>
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<td>Discussion ESICM guidelines and statements</td>
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<td>SSC update</td>
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Partnership with sister publication ICMx, some articles transferred to them, develop some campaigns and strategies together, to boost the sister journal.

The new Editor in Chief will officially start in January. The Journal will move to translational. New editorial board. Increasing submissions in 2020, increase rejections, but no impact factor yet. ICMx does not address a niche yet.

Ahead> use of a production schedule, publish thematic issues, invite reviews of renowned expert on important topics, with a transnational look. Liaise with the new group, develop a strategy to create a buzz on social media.

Work with Springer on a strategy to obtain an IF

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President thanked Past President Massimo Antonelli and the Executive Committee, especially President-Elect Maurizio Cecconi, to whom he proudly and full of trust handed over the Presidency.

The new President thanked Past President Massimo Antonelli; ESICM CEO and office staff for their work on the digital activities and events organized in 2020; the new President-Elect Elie Azoulay; Prof Giuseppe Citerio and Dr Nicole Juffermans; the Executive Committee and the Chairs of the Sections Committees; outgoing president Jozef Kesecioglu; and all ESICM members. He wished to see everyone in Copenhagen in 2021.

There being no further business, the President thanked all those present for the work that they have done this year. The meeting closed at 19.50 hrs.