



J. RANDALL CURTIS



J Randall Curtis is Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington, and the Director of the Cambia Palliative Care Center of Excellence. He is a past President of the American Thoracic Society, has held several university and academic positions, and has received numerous honors and awards. Professor Curtis has an impressive track record of research grants and scientific publications, mostly to develop interdisciplinary communication interventions to improve Patient and Family outcomes in the ICU.

In addition to being a talented clinician and researcher, Professor Curtis is a well-known character of the international critical care community. He is Randy. There are three types of ICU specialists worldwide. There are those who have not met Randy in person but who know his work, which has given them the opportunity to change their practices and improve family-centered care. There are those who know Randy and admire him for all that he has scientifically achieved, and for all the opportunities that he has offered to improve communication with patients and family members in the ICU, including them in research projects, discussions and/or providing mentorship. And then there are those who know Randy more personally, and love him for all the above-mentioned reasons and for the person he is. For more than 25 years, Randy has developed a group of clinicians and researchers who were among the first to actually listen to family members to better understand their needs. This qualitative information has nourished several thoughts and publications, and has permitted the design of methods that target these specific needs. The same has been done for vulnerable patients. Randy and his group, a group that includes his close colleague Ruth Engelberg, have led and are leading several trials to assess the effectiveness of these interventions and to provide convincing data to motivate practice changes to improve family centered care.

Randy is the spokesman for family members of the critically ill. Randy does not show up to be at the center of the scene: he is an ambassador, faithful to his cause, and committed to moving forward, beating all the odds. After spending years focusing of the needs of family members, he has also sought to understand possible variations across different situations, across centers, across countries, and across cultural settings.

Randy has used his talent to bring together multi-discipline teams to address his clinical and research questions in a way that is meaningful to many. Physicians and nurses from the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine all know Randy. Always present and encouraging. Always positive. Contributing new ideas to projects and extending their scope, editing papers, being involved in trials, and connecting with people. Randy was born in Massachusetts, lives in Seattle, and has soulmates in Europe.

The sabbatical year in Paris has been a privilege for us to get to know Randy, Amy and Alice better. A happy and kind person, strongly attached to his family, always keen to share ideas, as much engaged and involved in research meetings as happy to share walks, meals, and to enjoy a drink. Conducting the same trial in the US and in France has been a huge source of knowledge transfer, learning from cultural and administrative differences.

Some quotes from Randy are very illustrative of his temper and his philosophy, such as "Getting to the other side of the no" – a very challenging and stimulating approach! And also "Always try to work with people you like" – a simple but very wise tip!

ESICM awards Professor Curtis engagement for Critical Care worldwide. This honorary membership is well deserved as his contribution to our specialty is outstanding, and his willingness to always mentor, share, collaborate and think is unlimited. We know that these shared interactions will endure and that Randy will continue to inspire generations of ICU specialists committed to improve family centered care.

ELIE AZOULAY

ESICM President-Elect

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NANCY KENTISH-BARNES

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