

My 5 keywords for ESICM:



- E**xcellence
Enable members to deliver high quality care, tailored to the individual patient
- S**cience
Facilitate research that guides top clinical care and informs accessible education
- I**dentify
Value and highlight the expertise, knowledge and needs of ICU healthcare workers
- C**ollaboration
Promote and support ICU teamwork around the globe, and expand international partnerships
- M**ember
Increase membership and member involvement in society activities, and provide easy access to all society related information

Dear ESICM members, dear colleagues, dear friends,

Today, I want to share **my candidacy for ESICM President-Elect** in the upcoming elections of our society. In the past years I had the privilege to contribute to ESICM's activities in different ways, and it is an honor for me to be a candidate for this position. Thank you for the opportunity to briefly explain **what I stand for**, to outline how I envisage the **role of ESICM**, and to summarize my **priorities for the society**.

First, allow me to tell you a few things about myself. I am 53 years old, married, with 2 children aged 20 and 21, and when not at work, I am a keen cook, budding cyclist, and passionate wildlife photographer.

Since 2001 I hold a **clinical position** at the department of Intensive Care Medicine at the Ghent University Hospital (Belgium) where I am in charge of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. In 2021 I was appointed Full Professor at Ghent University and hold a **Senior Clinical Researcher grant** from the Flanders Research since 2014. In the past years, I have published on topics including antimicrobial therapy, sepsis and abdominal problems, and presented at national and international meetings.

I have been an **ESICM member** since 2001, and I have served as an ESICM officer in different positions, starting as **Representative for Belgium** in 2010, followed later by positions as **Deputy** and **Chair in the Infection Section**, and most recently as **Chair of the Research Committee** (2018-2021). As Chair of the Research Committee, I have worked with the Research Committee members on further streamlining the procedures for the Awards selection as well as endorsement of projects and surveys, creating a modular and hybrid Course on Research, and we laid the foundations for engaging patients and families in research. More recently, I had the privilege to co-lead the ESICM **AIRSPACE** and **UNITE-COVID** research project.

With confidence I can say that I am **familiar with the society and its organization**, the different entities within the society, as well as the society's strengths and weaknesses. I hope that those of you who have worked with me have appreciated my honesty and **trustworthiness**. I am open-minded, **respectful**, and constructive, and highly value integrity, **transparency**, and accountability.

Surely you will agree that **intensive care medicine is changing**, just as the world we live and work in. Science has been under duress in the past years, and much of our interaction has moved to virtual meeting rooms and classrooms. Increasingly the specific characteristics of intensive care medicine as a medical specialty are recognized, but barriers remain and for the outside world it remains unclear what the role of intensive care healthcare workers exactly is. Increased demands and **expectations from society**, the impact of the pandemic and distress caused by working in the ICU under **difficult circumstances** has led to important challenges. Jeopardized personal well-being, decreased **motivation**, and increased job leave among ICU professionals are important themes that need to be addressed by ESICM.

As an intensivist with a surgical background, I embrace **collaboration and multidisciplinary** in intensive care medicine. Now more than ever, we need to realize that we **work as a team** with all healthcare workers in the ICU and beyond, both in clinical care and research. The complexity of diseases we encounter on a daily basis, the needs of our patients and families, the expectations of health care providers working in an ICU requires expertise in many domains, beyond clinical medicine. **Teamwork** will be one of the key themes in the years to come, and as a society we need to facilitate this.

ESICM is the society that can take on these challenges. My **vision for ESICM** is for it to be the **leading professional society of intensive care healthcare providers** from around the globe that aims to improve the care for patients and their families in the ICU., and a society of members ...

- ... that nurtures clinical **excellence**, offers top-notch education, and facilitates cutting-edge research, all of which is led and inspired by science.
- ... that continues to build **identity** for intensive care medicine as a profession, represents the intensive care health care providers, and reaches out to society at large.
- ... that is inclusive, diverse, and transparent.
- ... that appreciates the value of ICU **teams**, embraces multidisciplinary and values a healthy work/life balance.

In many of these domains, ESICM has been working intensively in the past years, and has reached important targets, and I am confident that **with the support of all ESICM members and officers**, we can continue to improve and advance in all these areas.

Below you can find what I think are **the key priorities for ESICM** for the coming years:

To lead and inspire

- Promote **clinical excellence based on science**, and provide high quality guidance on all aspects of care
- Facilitate **research** by increasing opportunities for members to participate in research and expanding investments in a central infrastructure for collaborative research
- Offer a complete and accessible **educational portfolio** using the latest educational methods and tools
- Maximize the **impact** of ESICM publications e.g. our journal Intensive Care Medicine and ICM Experimental, and explore new formats



To include and involve

- Increase member **participation** in ESICM sections and committees and attract more nurses and allied health professionals, scientists to become part of the ESICM family
- Highlight the importance of and need for efficient **teamwork** in all ESICM activities
- Create awareness and offer solutions for a **healthy work/life balance** for all ICU health care workers

To reach out and represent

- Increase international **collaboration** and reach out to low- and middle-income countries
- **Reach out** to patients and families and involving them in our organizational decisions, and engage society at large
- Increase **cross-media presence** using the latest formats for efficient communication with members and beyond
- **Represent** all ICU healthcare workers and build a clear identity for intensive care medicine as a specialty

==> In supplemental table 1, you can find concrete actions related to these key priorities

Throughout my journey in ESICM, I have encountered dedicated and motivated **clinicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals**, committed and proficient **researchers**, and talented and enthusiastic **trainees** in the different sections, working groups and ESICM committees – the core of our society – and I had the privilege to work with many of the highly skilled professionals of the ESICM office team in Brussels. When attending an ESICM event, I always learn from the chats and discussions, I appreciate the new ideas and insights, I enjoy the small talk about many other topics than intensive care medicine ;-). **ESICM clearly is a society that brings the best out of its members**, a society that is driven by passion and professionalism, a society where members feel respected. This experience is a strong motivation for me to stand as a candidate for ESICM President-elect.

In summary, my candidacy builds on my previous experience in ESICM, and is aligned with the mission and vision of ESICM. I am passionate about intensive care medicine, and as an **enthusiastic clinician and teacher**, with an **active role in research**, I feel have accumulated the skills and experience to lead ESICM.

For this, I count on your support and would encourage you to vote in the ESICM elections between September 22 and 29. Log in on the ESICM website and click on the tab 'Election' where you will find further instructions. I am confident that together with all ESICM members, we can further strengthen our society. If you have any questions or comments, contact me at jan.dewaele@ugent.be, or use any of the social media channels below.

Kind regards,



Jan De Waele

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JanJDeWaeleMD>

Strava <https://www.strava.com/athletes/8250501>



Supplemental table 1. Key priorities with actions

To lead and inspire

- Invest in guideline development for intensive care practice
- Develop an 'ESICM centers of excellence' program to boost research and education
- Facilitate clinical observerships for ESICM members
- Set up infrastructure for collaborative research
- Strengthen international research activities
- Set up peer expert advice for researchers
- Integrate innovative learning formats in all education activities
- Provide free access to online education for LMIC
- Develop and promote EDIC as the primary diploma for intensive care medicine
- Further deepen the collaboration between ESICM and its Journals
- Explore new formats to increase impact and valorization

To include and involve

- Expand benefits and opportunities for ESICM members
- Continue the path towards equity and diversity in ESICM activities
- Identify and resolve barriers for ESICM membership among non-physicians
- Increase member involvement in section and educational activities
- Integrate team-based approach in educational activities
- Expand mentorship and fellowship activities for NEXT
- Offer the best and most complete education to ICU teams
- Increase awareness about the importance of work/life balance
- Facilitate member participation to ESICM activities and business meetings

To reach out and represent

- Appoint patient and family organization within ESICM
- Involve patients' and families' perspectives in scientific events
- Increase collaborative educational activities with major ICU societies around the globe
- Develop joint guidance with other societies
- Expand social media opportunities for all ESICM entities
- Redesign the ESICM website
- Provide patients and families with information about intensive care medicine through the ESICM channels
- Represent and support ICU healthcare workers
- Build and promote a clear identity for intensive care medicine as a specialty

JanDeWaele ESICM



My 5 keywords for ESICM:

Excellence
Science
Intity
Collaboration
Member