I am deeply honored and take much pride in writing this citation for Prof. Carol Hodgson who is awarded an Honorary Membership of the ESICM.

Carol graduated from La Trobe University with a Bachelor of Sciences in Physiotherapy in 1990, and from Monash University with a PhD in 2010. She was awarded a Fellowship to the Australian College of Physiotherapists as an ICU Specialist in 2010.

Currently, Carol is Head of the Division of Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine as well as the Deputy Director of the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Center both at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. She is a Specialist Physiotherapist in Intensive Care at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia with more than 30 years of clinical experience in treating critically ill patients. She sits on the Executive and Scientific Committee of the International ECMO Network (ECMOnet), the Guidelines Leadership Group for National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce and is a Council Member of the International Forum of Acute Care Trialists (InFACT).

Carol leads international multi-centre trials for the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Clinical Trials Group, with expertise in long-term functional recovery after critical illness. Carol has contributed to international guidelines for the management of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome, sepsis and COVID-19, including recommendations for the use of mechanical ventilation, high-flow nasal therapy, oxygen, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, and early rehabilitation. Prof Hodgson is ranked in the Top 1% worldwide for her expertise on topics including “Critical Care”, “ICUs”, “ECMO”, and “Clinical Trials”, and is ranked Number 1 Worldwide for “Early Ambulation” (https://expertscape.com/).

Carol is an internationally recognized expert on physiotherapy, outcomes and critical care and has received federal and foundation grant funding to conduct research related to outcomes after critical illness, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, and early rehabilitation. Professor Hodgson’s contributions to intensive and critical care medicine have been recognized through several highly prestigious awards, including the Excellence for Early and Mid-Career Research from the Faculty of Medicine, Monash University (2015 and 2017), Best New Project ANZICS-CTG (2017), Senior Staff Medical Prize Alfred Health (2016) and Director of the Centre for Research Excellence in ICU by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (2021).

I met Carol several years ago discussing research and she invited me to join the steering committee for the Phase 3 Trial of Early Activity and Mobilization (TEAM RCT). The TEAM RCT is an international trial and will be the largest randomized controlled trial investigating early rehabilitation of the critically ill. This trial will answer the important question if early rehabilitation is able to positively contribute to the long-term outcomes of our patients.

Despite all these achievements, Carol has a very full personal life. She enjoys travelling with her family (husband and 4 children). Carol is kind and a wonderful person. Carol is an experienced and influential leader and has always been an inspiration to me. How she manages all the described above and stay humble, friendly, and balanced – I really don’t know! The one thing I have no doubt about is that she is deeply deserving of the ESICM honorary membership.

STEFAN SCHALLER
ESICM NEXT Committee Chair