



**FRANTISEK DUSKA**



The Honorary Membership of our Society is awarded to those who have made exceptional contributions to the Society or the field of Intensive Care Medicine. This year, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine recognizes Dr. Frantisek Duska for his outstanding contributions to our Society, and to the field of Education in Intensive Care Medicine.

Frantisek, known to most as Franki, is an Associate Professor of Intensive Care and the Deputy-Dean of the Medical Faculty of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and FNKV. He also holds the position of Head of Department at the University Hospital in Prague. Over the years, he has made many contributions to ESICM, particularly in the field of Education.

As the chair of the Clinical Training Committee (CTC), Franki played a pivotal role in shaping the current format of the EDIC exam. Subsequently, he became the chair of the Division of Professional Development (DPD; currently the Education and Training Committee). With his unwavering energy and enthusiasm, he continued the work initiated by his predecessor, Pascale Gruber, to expand and modernize the educational offer of ESICM. Together, they built the foundations of today's educational program.

In a 2022 letter to the editor in Intensive Care Medicine, co-authored with Pedro Pova, Franki wrote that "the progress in the knowledge achieved by basic and clinical research can only be translated into better patients' care through education." He has shown exceptional dedication to enhancing the education of intensivists in Europe and globally. Franki recognized the significance of transitioning to a competency-based medical training approach, to ensure high-quality education in Intensive Care Medicine. Under his leadership, the Competency-Based Training in Intensive Care (CoBaTrICE) Committee integrated new developments, such as bedside ultrasound and extracorporeal life-support techniques, into the curriculum.

When the Covid-19 pandemic emerged, it posed unprecedented challenges for intensivists in their daily work and life, but it also significantly impacted the educational program of our Society. The need for education among intensivists and trainees persisted despite the limitations on face-to-face meetings and travel; there was an urgent need for online examination; and large numbers of healthcare workers not used to the ICU environment needed to be trained urgently. Franki embraced this challenge.

Franki's contribution was crucial in the development of the COVID-19 Skills Preparation Course (C19 SPACE) programme, dedicating his time and sacrificing sleep and family commitments. C19 SPACE uses novel educational methods to provide a toolkit to help inexperienced healthcare workers deployed to ICU and to enhance the performance of ICU teams. Within a few weeks of the European Commission's request in 2020, the comprehensive learning program was developed, created, and made available throughout Europe. To date, over 20,000 healthcare workers worldwide have received training through the program.

The development of C19 SPACE led Franki and others to recognize the need for fundamental training in Intensive Care Medicine, beyond the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. They envisioned a standardized introductory course tailored to the educational requirements of such doctors, which now forms an integral part of ESICM's educational program, known as "Intensive Care Fundamentals".

In addition to his substantial contributions to the field of education, Franki is an esteemed researcher in the field of muscle metabolism and bioenergetic failure in ICU patients, and in organ donation. He is also a proud and dedicated clinician. And if you wonder how he manages all these commitments: He often spends a few days in his cabin in the mountains, surrounded by the serenity of the forest, to get things done.

Personally, I vividly recall meeting Franki for the first time: I was immediately struck by his determination to bring about change, he is a true force of nature. His warm personality captivated me, and I consider myself fortunate to have learned from him, particularly in the field of ICU Education.

For all these reasons and many more, the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine is proud to award the Honorary Membership to Frantisek Duska for his contributions.

**LENNIE DERDE**

ESICM Chair of the Education and Training Committee