



JULIA WENDON



Professor Julia ('Jules') Wendon is internationally recognised for her exceptional contributions to the intensive care of patients with severe liver disease.

Jules qualified in medicine from the University of Dundee in 1982 and was appointed consultant in intensive care medicine at King's College Hospital London in 1992, becoming the Director of intensive care in 2010, as well as being the Director of R&D for the Trust. She was promoted to professorial chair in 2011 in recognition of her distinguished contributions to research and teaching. At King's, she established the Liver Intensive Care Unit to provide high-quality support for the liver failure and transplantation programme. Her commitment to patient care and to training junior colleagues was legendary, and her leadership resulted in the unit expanding from five to 19 beds, with five consultants on a dedicated rota. The unit rapidly acquired an international reputation for excellence.

The combination of her research, teamwork, publishing, lecturing & teaching has resulted in improved survival of liver failure patients in the UK and worldwide. Jules has published more than 270 peer-reviewed articles, including aspects of the pathogenesis of acute liver failure, organ support, modifiers of inflammation and promoters of cell repair, prognostic markers, and epidemiology. She is the 'go-to' expert for up-to-date pragmatic guidance on the clinical management of liver failure and is a popular invited lecturer at all the major international conferences on this subject.

In recent years, Jules has taken on additional roles in health services management. Appointed Executive Medical Director at King's in 2015, she was also the Executive Director of Clinical Strategy at King's and Guys & St. Thomas' Foundation Trust (GSTT) until 2021. In 2019, she was appointed Clinical Director for Critical Care in London, coordinating the Adult Critical Care response to the Covid pandemic in the capital. This work included setting up 5 Critical Care Hubs in the region, caring for 1700 adult ventilated patients and 500 continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) patients at the peak of the pandemic. She continues to work in this role to deliver a pan-London adult critical care service including an inter-hospital transfer service.

Jules has been a long-time supporter of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and was the UK representative on Council between 2018 – 2021. She is regarded not just with respect, but also with great affection by her many colleagues, trainees, collaborators, and – most importantly – her patients. She is an inspiring leader and role model, and it is with great pleasure that the Society awards her honorary membership of the ESICM.

JULIAN BION

ESICM Senate