



JANET VICTORIA DIAZ

The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) is honoured to award Dr Janet Victoria Diaz with Honorary Membership in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the field of Intensive Care Medicine and her unwavering dedication to advancing global health.

Dr Diaz, who currently leads the Clinical Management and Operations Unit at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, has played a pivotal role in shaping the response to health emergencies on a global scale. Under her leadership, the unit has consistently delivered safe, quality care to patients during health emergencies, with a particular focus on emerging infectious diseases (EID) and critical care. Dr Diaz has been instrumental in developing clinical practice guidelines, operational protocols, and training materials adopted worldwide, significantly improving patient outcomes in the most challenging environments.

Throughout her fantastic career, Dr Diaz has supported the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) community in every role she has undertaken. Her leadership was particularly instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, where her tireless efforts were critical in coordinating the global response. As ESICM President during this time, I witnessed her unparalleled commitment to saving lives. For instance, her work and support were crucial in the success of the COVID-19 therapeutics Living Guidelines and the ESICM-WHO C19SPACE programme, which trained thousands of healthcare workers in intensive care practices during the pandemic and after.

Her career has spanned continents, beginning as an ICU physician in California, where she provided top-tier care and mentored the next generation of critical care specialists. Her work at institutions like San Francisco General Hospital and California Pacific Medical Center laid the foundation for her global impact, which she has continued to expand through her work at WHO.

A recognised leader in clinical research, Dr Diaz has contributed to numerous high-impact studies and publications, addressing critical issues such as respiratory support in low-resource settings, the management of sepsis, and optimising care for patients with COVID-19. Her contributions have advanced scientific understanding and directly informed global health policy, making a tangible difference in the lives of countless patients worldwide.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr Diaz is known for her passion for football (soccer) and has attended multiple World Cups across the globe. She is an avid player, enjoys long-distance running, and is an enthusiastic skier. Her vibrant personality and dedication to her work and hobbies are a testament to her well-rounded character and relentless energy.

Dr Janet Diaz is a true role model in the field of Intensive Care Medicine, and it is with great pride and admiration that the ESICM welcomes her as an Honorary Member.

MAURIZIO CECCONI

ESICM Past-President