

**MARTIN BALIK**

Dr Balik's career is distinguished by a blend of clinical excellence, innovative research, and impactful teaching, making him a luminary in the global medical community.

Dr Martin Balik has consistently demonstrated a commitment to advancing the field of intensive care medicine through his groundbreaking research and clinical practice. His work in haemodynamic monitoring and critical care ultrasonography has not only enhanced patient outcomes but also set new standards in critical care protocols globally. A prolific researcher, Dr Balik has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles that have significantly influenced the practice of intensive care. Most recently, his studies on the use of antiarrhythmics for tachyarrhythmias in septic shock are likely to change what we do at the bedside on a daily basis. These contributions have been widely recognised, earning him respect and admiration from peers and colleagues worldwide.

Dr Balik's influence extends beyond his clinical and research endeavours. As an educator, he has mentored countless medical professionals, imparting knowledge and skills that have shaped the next generation of intensivists. His dedication to teaching is evident in his active participation in ESICM master classes, workshops, and training programmes, where he shares his expertise and fosters a collaborative learning environment. Dr Balik's long-term involvement in critical care echocardiography has been transformative. He has played a pivotal role as a long-term member of the European Diploma in Advanced Critical Care EchoCardiography (EDEC) committee. Recognised as the father of the EDEC exams and diploma, Dr Balik's contributions have been foundational in establishing rigorous standards for this crucial aspect of intensive care. His leadership and vision have ensured that the EDEC diploma remains a benchmark of excellence, equipping intensivists with the skills necessary to deliver high-quality patient care.

In addition to his work with EDEC, Dr Balik started and gained valuable experience within the European Diploma in Intensive Care (EDIC) group. His involvement with EDIC further underscores his commitment to fostering professional development and elevating the standards of intensive care practice across Europe and beyond.

Throughout his career, Dr Balik has been a staunch advocate for the integration of evidence-based practices in intensive care. His leadership roles in various professional organisations have facilitated the development and dissemination of clinical guidelines that enhance patient care and safety. His commitment to continuous improvement and innovation has driven the adoption of new technologies and methodologies in critical care settings.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Dr Martin Balik joins the esteemed ranks of ESICM Honorary Members. This honour celebrates his exceptional achievements and the profound impact he has had on the field of intensive care medicine. Dr Balik's legacy is characterised by his unwavering dedication to improving patient outcomes, his passion for teaching and mentoring, and his relentless pursuit of excellence in all aspects of his work. Last but not least, Dr Balik is known for being honest, kind and a knowledgeable person with a unique and contagious sense of humour.

Congratulations to Dr Martin Balik on this well-deserved recognition. His achievements are a testament to the profound difference one individual can make in the lives of patients and the broader medical community. Together, we are intensive care.

FRANTISEK DUSKA

ESICM Honorary Member