

Ethics Section Zoom Meeting

Thursday, 22 May 2025, 17:30-18:30

Chairperson: Victoria Metaxa

Present: Adam Mikstacki, Andrej Michalsen, Annette Robertsen, Carla Teixeira, Christiane Hartog, Diogo da Costa Oliveira, Barbara Tamowicz, Giuliano, Maria Cruz Martin Delgado, Jennie Lewis, Joana Mapril, Jos Latour, Julie Benbenishty, Kateřina Rusinová, Nikos Efstathiou, Radhouane Toumi, Rik Gerritsen

ESICM Section Updates and Initiatives

Victoria provides updates from ESICM that will impact their section. Members can now join two sections simultaneously, which is a positive progress for smaller sections. ESICM plans to implement a WhatsApp channel for direct communication between section members, with moderators from the section overseeing it. The channel will be used to send out information and updates, but members cannot actively participate in discussions. Victoria also mentions that May is their section's month, with recent activities including a webinar on human factors, a quiz, and an upcoming podcast about visiting ICUs.

Cross-Sectional Collaboration

Victoria discusses the last Sections' meeting with Jan de Wale and Rino Maggiore, where ideas around conference planning were discussed. She introduces the idea of having topics that span multiple sections, such as of post-intensive care syndrome or burnout. Andrej supports the cross-sectional collaboration concept on themes like post-intensive care syndrome and burnout, emphasising the benefits of combining efforts and uniting viewpoints. Victoria notes that while this approach has merits, it may affect section visibility and publicity at conferences.

Balancing Collaboration and Specialisation

The group discusses the proposal for more intersectional sessions at a conference, with Victoria supporting the idea of collaboration between different sections. Diogo suggests that post-intensive care topics fit well with their ethics section due to its holistic nature, while also noting the need to reintegrate organ donation discussions. Rik and Andrew caution against making everything collaborative, emphasising the importance of maintaining some purely educational sessions. The group agrees that while collaboration is valuable, there should still be a balance with specialised topics. They conclude that the likely intention is to have a hybrid approach, combining both specialised and collaborative sessions.

Project Endorsement and Research Initiatives

The section discusses several key points related to project endorsement and research initiatives. Victoria explains that informal endorsement by the section is easier, while formal ESICM endorsement requires a more structured process. She invites any section member that needs more information on endorsing a project to email her directly.

- **End-of-life Consortium (VM).** Victoria presents the plan to create an EoL consortium of LIMC, which would focus on exchanging ideas, promoting research and increasing awareness on these important topics from countries that have been underrepresented in research so far. All members

welcome this idea. Katerina says that it is exactly what the 2024 ESICM EoL Guidelines were hoping to achieve.

- **End-of-Life Care Awareness and Practices of Intensive Care and Emergency doctors: The EoLMICS Multinational Survey.** Radhouane presents a research project focused on evaluating end-of-life practices in low and middle-income countries' ICUs, highlighting the challenges in applying existing guidelines due to cultural and religious differences. Katerina expresses support for this project, noting its alignment with the goals of increasing awareness and gathering data from underrepresented countries to inform future guideline updates. Victoria clarifies that this survey is linked with the Consortium idea but is run separately for now. The group congratulates Radhouane on his project and expresses enthusiasm for collaboration. Radhouane agrees to share his protocol with the attendees for potential comments. Victoria proposes the idea of forming a consortium, which is received positively. Julie offers to connect Radhouane with ICU physicians from the Palestinian Authority.

- **"ICU professionals experiences with transplant coordinators in deceased organ procurement processes. Qualitative studies** (Jos Latour)

- **European Society of Intensive Care Medicine Consensus Statement on human-centred partnership in ICU** (Jos Latour, Emilio Rodriguez-Ruiz, Margo van Mol)

Jos discusses the two projects he is involved in. The first project focuses on organ donation and transplant teams, aiming to address the variability and potential friction caused when transplant teams take over patient care in some countries. A small qualitative study involving multiple countries is being planned.

The second project, approved by ESICM leadership, is a consensus statement on human-centred partnership in the ICU. This project will be led by the Ethics section and was chosen over guidelines due to the limited RCTs and studies available on the topic. Jos outlines a methodology for developing a consensus statement on a human-centred topic. The approach involves identifying six domains, conducting rapid reviews of evidence for each domain, and formulating statements. A Delphi study will then be used to gather expert consensus worldwide. Jos mentions that domain leads and experts will be suggested to conduct the rapid reviews, and guidance will be provided.

- **End-of-Life Care Guidelines**

Katerina discusses the research agenda for end-of-life care guidelines, emphasising the need for more comprehensive, multicentric research based on the data gathered in various domains to address specific questions and expand evidence.

Any other business

Victoria concludes the meeting by discussing plans for a section dinner at the upcoming ESICM conference in Munich. Andrej volunteers to find a suitable venue for drinks and dinner on Monday, as Tuesday is reserved for the President's dinner.

Victoria agrees to circulate meeting notes to the entire ethics section, and the participants express enthusiasm for the upcoming conference and the opportunity to meet face-to-face.

Next steps

1. Radhouane to share the protocol for the end-of-life practices study in low and middle-income countries with the meeting attendees for comments.

2. Victoria to circulate information about the proposed ethics consortium for low and middle-income countries to the entire ethics section.
3. Victoria to meet with the neuro section about their consortium for neurotrauma to gather information for the ethics consortium.
4. Jos to continue developing the proposal for the consensus statement on human-centred partnership in the ICU.
5. Andrej to find a suitable venue in Munich for the ethics section dinner/drinks during the ESICM conference.
6. Victoria to circulate meeting notes to the entire ethics section.
7. Ethics section members to consider participating in research projects to expand evidence around end-of-life care, based on the research priorities identified in the guidelines.