



MAURIZIO CECCONI

It is with deep admiration and affection that ESICM awards Professor Maurizio Cecconi this medal, in honour of an exceptional clinician, scientist, and leader whose contributions to intensive care medicine are both transformative and enduring.

Professor Cecconi serves as Professor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at Humanitas University and Head of Department at Humanitas Research Hospital in Milan. His international journey, spanning Italy and the United Kingdom, has seen him rise swiftly through clinical and academic ranks, always with a hallmark combination of intelligence, decisiveness, and calm under pressure.

During his presidency of ESICM, Professor Cecconi demonstrated tireless dedication, strategic vision, and an inclusive leadership style that united and inspired our community. The words that best capture Prof. Cecconi's legacy are tenacity, loyal engagement, and tireless dedication. He consistently placed the interests of ESICM above his own interests or benefit, advocating for the society with a clear focus, and always striving to anticipate its next crucial steps. His presidency (2020–2022) coincided with one of the most challenging periods in the history of intensive care. During the COVID-19 crisis, Maurizio led with clarity and resolve, helping position ESICM as both a scientific authority and a public voice for intensive care across Europe and beyond. Among his many achievements, he spearheaded the C19_SPACE project — the largest ICU training initiative ever funded by the European Commission — and laid the foundation for a new era of education through Intensive Care Fundamentals and Airspace (a bedside tool for professionals treating patients with severe infections). A forward-thinking advocate for data science and artificial intelligence, Maurizio also launched ESICM's first Datathons, enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration and defining the path forward for innovation in intensive care. For his service during the pandemic, he was knighted by the President of the Italian Republic and named by JAMA among the most influential physicians of the COVID-19 era, honours that speak volumes about his impact on the field and society. Additionally, as past president, Maurizio continues to emphasise the role of HERA, the Authority for Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies, and to lead the ESICM

EU and Global Affairs Task Force, with EPIC-IG, an interest group on intensive care medicine in the European Parliament, as one of its key activities.

Maurizio's professional vision is both altruistic and remarkably concrete. He consistently links high-level strategic thinking to the real-life needs of patients, healthcare professionals, and institutions. His sense of purpose is fuelled by a deep moral clarity, always placing human dignity and solidarity at the core of any project or initiative. And yet, what makes Maurizio truly exceptional is not only the seriousness with which he approaches his work, but the joy and warmth he brings to those around him.

Maurizio is a profoundly human presence in our community. His leadership is characterised by a deep commitment to building meaningful, respectful, and lasting human relationships. Friendship, kindness, and trust are not peripheral to Maurizio's way of working; they are the foundation upon which he constructs teams, collaborations, and visions for the future. He brings people together not just through shared goals but through shared values. Maurizio makes room for every voice, regardless of background, discipline, or career stage.

Maurizio is a man of conviction, but also of laughter. Whether around a dinner table or in a hallway conversation, Maurizio understands that thinking together, laughing together, and sharing a coffee or a drink are not distractions from meaningful work; they are what make it possible. For him, a well-lived life blends intellect with pleasure, commitment with conviviality, and progress with humanity. Family and friendship are at the very heart of his achievements.

Maurizio embodies the values we hold most dear. This medal is a recognition not only of his accomplishments, but of the extraordinary human being he is.

ELIE AZOULAY,
ESICM Past-President

JAN DE WAELE
ESICM President