

Ethics section meeting during LIVES 2026 Lisbon

Monday, 12 October 2026, 14:30-15:30

Present: Victoria Metaxa, Annette Robertsen, Diogo Costa Oliveira, Annachiara Marra, Nikolaos Efstathiou, Peter van Heerden, Jozef Kesecioglu, Jos Latour, Marco Vergano, Giovanni Mistracchi, Katarina Rusinova, Andrej Michalsen, Rik Gerritsen, Monika Kerckhoff, Laszlo Zubek, Spyros Mentzelopoulos, Shahla Siddiqui, Hanne Irene Jensen, Carla Teixeira, Joana Mapril, Maria Cruz Martin Delgado, Sasa Rajsic, Sarah Andersen (ethics section in the Canadian Critical Care Society), Nick Bunker, Fernando Berdaguer, Piotr Szawarski, Fiona van Gelder, Andrea Mujica, Barbera Tamowicz, Radhouane Toumi, Mohammed Boussarsar, Myrto Remoundou, Iva Josuta, Carmen Lopez Soto, Emilio Rodriguez-Ruiz, Stephan Schaller (ethics section + chair PICS section)

Apologies from Mervyn Mer, Tina Tomic Mahečić and Jan Bakker, who were not able to come

Thanks to Annachiara for taking notes during the meeting

Ethics Section network

The new chair of the ethics section, Annette Robertsen, welcomed all.

All members presented themselves by name and country. Thank you all for coming.

Part of the purpose of the meeting is to enable community and connection between members. We really value our NEXT members (NEXT = ESICM members below 38 years), new members and of course our long-term committed members. The size of our section/ number of voting members does impact how much space ethics is given in the congress. Remember, all ESICM members can choose two sections to be affiliated with. Help promote our section within your own network.

Social activity: In the evening on October 12th, the first day of the congress, the ethics section hosted a section dinner open to all members. 30 people attended. Thanks to Joana Mapril for making the dinner possible.

Feedback from ethics section representatives in Committees

Research Committee – Nikolaos Efstathiou

The research committee is responsible for research awards, for the process of endorsement of surveys and research projects and for coordinating trials. More information about application processes can be found on the webpage of the research committee.

There are biannual calls for ESICM guideline/ consensus/ position paper proposals; the application form can be found via a link on the ESCIM webpage. The next call will be in 2027.

ESICM have created a research strategy for 2027 – 2032. Related to this strategy, there is an ambition to build a research platform for ICU data in Europe. It will require resources. This work is still in progress.

Nikolaos has finished his term. Thank you to Nikolaos for all your work for the section.

Educational Committee - Diogo da Costa Oliveira

ESICM has recently revised its educational structures. This year the focus of the work has been on identifying educational gaps and updating material. Next steps will include new learning pathways and further identification of gaps.

The CoBaTriCE (= competency-based training in intensive care medicine in Europe) is under revision.

Educational material: The ethics section is responsible for the ACE (= Academy of Critical Care Education) modules on ethics, communication, well-being and organ donation. All these modules have been updated during the last year. The revised versions are now available on the ESICM Academy website. Thanks to all members who have participated in this work (Diogo, Joane, Andre, Marta, Julie, Annette, Alessandro, Nikolaos, Tina, Ante, Andrej, Katarina, Margo, Andre O-S, Emilio, Kyrrilos, Francesca, Caterina, Rik, Kristina F, Laura / full names will be in the Annual report)

The next revision will be in 2 years, and members will be asked to participate in the revisions then.

Social Media Committee – Annachiara Marra

The Ethics Section has two active WhatsApp groups for their members to share updates, educational resources and opportunities: one official channel, which must be distinguished from the informal discussion group channel. Please join. Members can contact Annachiara to be added.

The webpage has recently been updated.

Two bite-sized videos on ethics were made last year (one with Katarina on what happens when we deliver families bad news and one with Anne-Henrikje on the NURSE acronym); see our section's webpage. New bite-sized videos will be made during the Lisboa congress.

Ethics was the topic of the month in May 2025 and included a podcast on children visiting the ICU, a webinar on human factors in the ICU, two interactive quizzes on ICU diaries and on palliative care; they remain available online.

In 2026, ethics is the topic of the month in October. Victoria is interviewed on ICU staff's mental health and well-being; see the video on the webpage. A podcast on proportionality and ICU admissions is now available online - https://www.esicm.org/esicm-talk-ethics-of-icu-admission-from-can-tought/?fbclid=IwDGRjcAVCvJxbGNrBUK8j2V4dG4DYWVtAjExAHBkb2YFc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQMMzUwNjg1NTMxNzI4AAEee38Pie_UoT4EezhsZ9cIEFrH3RfovGhI4BdeStHEKoG5mpxwZEu50e-w8Yk_aem_Vgqb6pooyFT4g9gLfYTUJg

A webinar on ethical dimensions of time-limited trials in critical care will be held on Nov 17. Please share the event through your network.

Executive Council – Victoria Metaxa

ESICM arranges a series of events during the year, not only LIVES. ESICM has increased its number of members. Members are not only from Europe but from many countries all over the world. Geographic representation remains uneven. ESICM is collaborating with the EU; see the webpage for the European board of Intensive Care Medicine. ESICM has developed a new research strategy and new educational initiatives; see above.

On the Ethics Section board

Since last year, every section in ESICM has a board. The section board includes the section chair, the committee representatives (education, social media, research) and an executive committee representative. The ethics section board will, from now on, communicate regularly to check in, give each other updates on activities, share ideas, etc. Annachiara will create a separate WhatsApp group for the ethics section board.

The role of the executive committee representative, Peter van Haiden, on our board is to act as a bridge/contact for our section with the Executive Committee.

Ethics and end-of-life Masterclass

The ethics and end-of-life Masterclass, currently an online course, is arranged by the Ethics Section every 2 years. It was last arranged this spring. The Masterclass has been led by Andrej Michalssen and

Carole Boulanger for several years. The next course will be led by Katerina Rusinova and Carole Boulanger. The faculty includes multiple ethics section members (names will be included in the section's Annual report). The course is highly valued by participants, and all members were asked to promote this course among colleagues.

New educational initiative

A brief update was given on the ongoing Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) project. Sasa Rajic is participating on behalf of our section. His role is to make sure that ethical and communication aspects are integrated into this new educational programme. For more on the concept of EPA, see the paper by Maggiorini M et al. From competence to entrustment: strengthening clinical autonomy within the ESICM educational framework, ICM 2026. EPA is an add-on to existing educational work within ESICM. Thanks to Sasa.

On a new educational project initiated by the leadership of ESICM on Crisis preparedness and crisis resilience

Following a request from the ESICM leadership, the Academy has started working on the development of a crisis preparedness training programme. An initial draft with aims, plans for content development, and suggestions for roles of the different ESICM sections (who lead, who co-lead, who give input) has been shared. The project is now in a mapping phase. The first task is to give feedback with suggestions for which sections should have responsibility for what, and whether what is suggested makes sense. There is an opportunity to give input on planned content.

The draft about the project has been posted via WhatsApp. Please contact Annette if you have not received it and you are interested.

Jozef told us to remember the relevant publication by C Sprung et al Recommendations for intensive care unit and hospital preparation for an influenza epidemic or mass disaster: summary report of the ESICM's task force for ICU triage during influenza epidemics or mass disaster from ICM 2010

Members interested in contributing were asked to come forward.

In the days following the meeting, many have come forward (so far: Andrej/Germany, Lazlo/Hungary, Shala/USA, Jonah/ USA, Sarah/Canada, Marco/Italy, Jan/ The Netherlands, Natalie /UK, Nick/UK, Piotr/UK, Annachiara/Italy, Andrea/Venezuela, Radhouane/Tunisia, Mohamed/ Tunisia, Josefine/Belgium, Tina/Croatia, Rita/UK, Ryan/USA, Barbera/Poland, Mervyn/South Africa, Lionel/ Reunion France, Francesca/ Italy, Chamin/UK, Tughan/ Turkey, Hannes-Casper/Germany).

Andrej/ Diogo/Annette will coordinate the work. More information will follow.

Updates on research projects within the section

The Human-Centred Partnership Project led by Jos Latour, Margo van Mol, Emilio Rodriguez-Ruiz and Jozef Kesecioglu. Finished. The project has resulted in a paper that will be published in ICM and a session during the congress.

End-of-Life Practices in LMIC (low- and middle-income countries) Intensive Care Units: The EoLMICs Multinational Study. This important study is led by Mohamed Boussarsar, Radhouane Toumi and Victoria Metaxa and aims to map end-of-life practices in low-and middle-income countries. "LMICs should not merely be represented in global critical care but should contribute to the evidence that shapes it" (ref M Boussarsar). The study is in the planning phase. Ethics approval is ready. A network of sites has been recruited, and more sites will be invited. The project remains open for additional collaborators.

ICU Ethical and Communication Survey (ICE-ComS) - Emilio Rodriguez-Ruiz, Jos Latour, Victoria Metaxa. It is ready to start; invitations to participate will go to NEXT members who are country representatives.

All were urged to come forward with ideas for new collaboration/ new research projects that we, as a section, can collaborate on in the times ahead. Annette stressed that the Ethics Section is a network of colleagues that have a true engagement and interest in different aspects of ethics and is a unique opportunity for possible collaboration. All suggestions were welcomed.

Congress planning

Next congress LIVES 2027 in Copenhagen will be planned by the Congress Committee that include Annette as Ethics Section chair. Our section usually just gets one thematic session and one debate, which means there is limited opportunity to invite members as faculty. However, the topic of ethics can be included through collaboration with other sections in joint sessions, and thereby a need will be created for more members to be invited as faculty. The program will be developed during the months of December and January, and members were invited to share ideas and their specific areas of interest with Annette.

Contact info: anerob@ous-hf.no (work email), annrobe@online.no (private email) or via WhatsApp

Other activities:

Book on Springer on shared decision-making in the ICU

Katerina Rusinova has co-edited a book on shared decision-making in ICU with Andrej Michaelson; it is soon to be published on Springer, and several section members have contributed chapters. Congratulations to Katerina.

Ethics paper published by section members

Several members in our section have published very interesting publications on ethics during the last year. All were encouraged to share new relevant publications with the section via WhatsApp to strengthen visibility. In the annual report from the section, a list of last year's ethics publications by members will be included.

Thanks to Victoria

The members expressed their thanks to Victoria for all the work in her role as chair from 2024-2026, and for the kind and helpful encouragement and support towards the members. Thank you!

Next ethics section meeting

There will be an online meeting during winter/ spring 2027. Invitations and links will be posted later. I will also post updates on what is going on in the WhatsApp channel.

LIVES 2027: The next ESICM LIVES congress will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Annette encouraged many to attend.

As you can see from all the above, there is a great collaborative effort to make the section thrive. Please engage and continue all the good work. Thank you all.

Annette Robertsen
