



LENNIE DERDE

Lennie Derde has changed two things ESICM cares about a great deal: how we do clinical trials in intensive care, and how we teach the people who deliver it. In recognition of that work, ESICM is delighted to award Lennie Honorary Membership.

Lennie studied medicine at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and trained at UMC Utrecht in internal medicine, then in infectious diseases, and finally in intensive care medicine - an unusual route that proved to be a great asset. Her PhD, on controlling antimicrobial resistance in the ICU, remains one of the most rigorous attempts to work out what actually interrupts the transmission of resistant organisms in intensive care units. She has been a consultant intensivist at UMC Utrecht since 2013, where she co-leads the epidemiology of sepsis and inflammation research group with Olaf Cremer, and since 2026 she has been Chief Executive of the Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases (ECRAID).

Lennie is European Principal Investigator and immediate past global Chair of REMAP-CAP. When the pandemic arrived, REMAP-CAP was already running - and because it was, the world learned within months that corticosteroids and IL-6 receptor antagonists improve survival in critically ill patients with COVID-19. Those results changed practice in every ICU represented in this room and were also the clearest demonstration we have that adaptive platform trials are not a methodological curiosity but the most efficient way to answer urgent questions in intensive care. Lennie has spent the years since making that machinery work for everyone else: leading work packages in RECOVER and ECRAID-Base, leading the IMPRINT consortium, and writing about the regulatory and ethical hurdles that still make multinational trials harder than they need to be.

Within ESICM, Lennie chaired the Education and Training Committee from 2022 to 2024 and sat on the Executive Committee. The ESICM education portfolio had grown exponentially - and organically - and with the ESICM staff and the committee members, she designed the structure ESICM uses today. It did take some time - there were more drafts than anyone now cares to count - and what everyone who sat through those discussions remembers is that she listened. Arguments for and against were genuinely weighed, and the structure is better for it. She remains a faculty member on the Sepsis and Severe Infections, Research, and Sustainability masterclasses, and serves as co-vice chair of the Surviving Sepsis Campaign for ESICM and a member of its Steering Committee.

Colleagues describe the same qualities, in the same order. Formidably intelligent, with a rare ability to absorb an enormous quantity of information and hand back the clean synthesis of it. Focused and practical, always interested in what will actually work. Open-minded, and willing to discuss anything with anyone. And alongside all of that, a great friend: the colleague who asks how you are doing and waits for the real answer.

For the rigour she has brought to clinical research in intensive care, for the structure she has given to ESICM's education, and for the generosity with which she has done both, ESICM is proud to welcome Dr Lennie Derde as an Honorary Member.

Congratulations, Lennie!

JAN DE WAELE

ESICM President