

**KENT DOI**

If ESICM has a friend in Japan, it is Kent Doi. Professor Doi holds the Chair of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Tokyo, and over the past decade he has done more than anyone to connect ESICM with the Japanese intensive care community. In recognition of that work, and of a scientific career that has shaped how we understand and treat acute kidney injury (AKI), ESICM is delighted to award Kent Honorary Membership.

Kent graduated in medicine from the University of Tokyo in 1997 and trained first in internal medicine and then in nephrology, in Tokyo and Kanagawa. He returned to the University of Tokyo for his PhD and spent three formative years as a visiting fellow at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, working with Robert Star on sepsis and sepsis-induced kidney injury — a subject he has not let go of since. Back in Tokyo, he moved deliberately from nephrology into intensive care, and has held his current Chair since 2021. He is board-certified in internal medicine, nephrology, dialysis therapy, blood purification in intensive care, apheresis, emergency medicine and intensive care medicine: a list that says as much about his curiosity as about his appetite for work.

Kent brought urinary L-type fatty acid-binding protein into the ICU, validating it as a biomarker of AKI in sepsis, and went on to describe the crosstalk between the injured kidney and the lung, the heart and the mitochondria — work that helped move AKI from an isolated organ failure to a systemic syndrome. He has published more than 300 peer-reviewed papers, serves on the editorial boards of *Kidney International* and the *Journal of Intensive Care*, and is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*. Alongside the laboratory and the clinical trials, he has taken on the harder and far less visible questions of how intensive care is delivered: ICU capacity in Japan, outcomes for patients admitted to hospitals without an ICU, and the national organisation of intensive care services.

Within ESICM, Kent served as International Representative for the Asia-Pacific region on the ESICM Council from 2023 to 2025, and he has been the architect of the collaboration between JSICM and ESICM — most visibly through the EUROJAPAN meetings, which have grown into a genuine two-way exchange rather than a courtesy exchange of lecturers. He is well placed to build that bridge: he sits on the JSICM Council and is President of the Japanese Society of Blood Purification in Critical Care. He contributed to the ESICM AKI Section's projects, and served on the panels of the Surviving Sepsis Campaign guidelines of 2021 and 2026. He sits on the KDIGO AKI guideline panel, and has contributed to ADQI, to the EXTRIP workgroup and to the ISN Renal Disaster Preparedness Working Group.

Anyone who has worked with Kent will recognise the description: hardworking to a degree that quietly embarrasses the rest of us, gentle, kind and unfailingly polite. He is generous with data and with credit, and reliably present for the parts of the work that attract no applause. Bridges between societies are not built by memoranda; they are built by individuals who are trusted on both sides, and Kent is exactly that person.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Professor Kent Doi joins the ranks of esteemed ESICM Honorary Members. This honour celebrates his scientific achievement, his service to ESICM and our profession, and the warmth and enthusiasm with which he has connected our community to his own.

Congratulations, Kent!

JAN DE WAELE
ESICM President