Message from the President, WFSICCM

In my previous message I mentioned how much I and my Council colleagues were looking forward with excitement and anticipation to the 12th World Congress in Seoul in August. We had planned a busy schedule within the scientific program; in parallel sessions; in working groups and in smaller international meetings. In this message I would like to share with you some of the outcomes and accomplishments from Seoul:

• There were 3444 registrants from 83 countries which included 332 Speakers and Chairs from 45 countries. The world was truly represented in Seoul. 565 abstracts from authors in 47 countries were submitted and the 100 winning abstracts (oral presentation) will be published in a future edition of the Journal of Critical Care.

• As part of the highly innovative “Step-up” program, 51 presenters from 26 low income or resource-limited countries were able to participate. It is now an ambition to make this program a permanent feature of future World Congress and to provide a platform for participation for colleagues in the developing world.

• In the exhibition hall there were 126 booths which allowed 55 companies and societies to showcase their products, services and activities.

I congratulate our colleagues in the Korean Society of Critical Care Medicine for delivering such an excellent meeting and for achieving the goal of making all those who participated to take “One Step Further in the Pursuit of Critical Care”. I particularly want to extend my sincere thanks to my Council colleague Professor Younsuck Koh. His leadership and inspiration were key factors in the success of Seoul 2015. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Korean friends for their comprehensive and efficient organization. They have “raised the bar” in setting a new level of accomplishment for the World Congress and one which I’m sure future World Congress organizers will aim to emulate. If you would like to review the content from Seoul including presentation materials; lecture videos and Congress highlights in photos and videos please use the following link:  http://ab.wfsiccm2015.com/main.asp

While in Seoul further progress was made in discussions about World Federation Task Forces which are developing global statements in several important areas. These are Ethics and End-of-life; Triage; what is an ICU? and the ICU Specialist. The Task Force outcomes are expected to be published by the end of this year. Also, the General Assembly formally ratified the membership of 12 new societies and it was especially pleasing to see Central America so well represented.

So many achievements to report but still much more to do. Thank you all for your continuing support for the World Federation and its work program.

Professor Jean-Louis Vincent
President
The 12\textsuperscript{th} Congress of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine, in collaboration with the WFCCN and WFPICCS was held from August 29 (Sat) – September 1 (Tue), 2015 at the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX) in Seoul Korea.

3,444 critical care professionals from 83 Countries registered for and attended this Congress. Under the theme “\textbf{ONE STEP FURTHER: The Pursuit of Excellence in Critical Care}”, the scientific program offered great opportunities to discover the latest scientific advances and strengthen professional networks, as world-renowned specialists and professionals convened to promote the highest standards of intensive and critical care medicine. 332 speakers and chairs from 45 countries enhanced the content and caliber of the program and 51 supported presenters (doctors and nurses) from 26 developing countries shared their practice knowledge and experiences at the “Step-Up Sessions”.

\textbf{WFSICCM SEOUL 2015 STATISTICS (By Registration Categories)}

- Physician: 35%
- Nurse: 30%
- Others: 20%
- Waived: 15%
The World Critical Care Congress, led by Scientific Chairman Prof Younsuck Koh, proved to be a very successful event.

Among the many educational sessions, the Congress provided opportunities for networking, sharing, and celebrations.
Congress Highlights included the Opening Session, Exhibitor’s Reception, Faculty Dinner and Seoul Night, among others as showcased in these selected photographs.
The Congress events proved to be enjoyable, educational, as well as entertaining.
WFSICCM Taskforce Reports

Task Force on “End of life: Practices and options”  Chair: John Myburgh MD MB BCh PhD

The EOLC taskforce held a series of meetings at the recent WFSICCM Congress in Seoul in August 2015. These included a specific meeting where delegates from member Societies reviewed the progress and developments made since the inaugural meeting of the taskforce held at the ISICEM meeting in Brussels in February 2015. The following recommendations were made: That the WFSICCM invite and collate public documents outlined policies and processes regarding End of Life from respective societies, including associated regional and national statements. That a manuscript outlining areas of commonality and differences be prepared and circulated to member societies for comment and input. That this manuscript be submitted to the WFSICCM journal, Journal of Critical Care for publication by the end of 2015, hopefully resulting in co-publication of reports from the other WFSICCM taskforces.

Task Force on “What is an ICU Specialist”  Chair: Pravin Amin MD FCCM

The Update on Task Force – ICU Specialist is nearing completion, with valuable contributions from Alison Fox-Robichaud from Canada, Defne Altintas and Emel Eryüksel from Turkey, Jiggi Divatia and Yatin Mehta from India, Gee Young Suh from Korea and Norbert Weiler from Germany. A business meeting involving representation from Canada, Sri-Lanka, China, Africa, India, Japan, USA and Belgium was held on 30 August 2015 at the World congress in Seoul. We were fortunate to have two Presidents at this meeting both Jean Louis Vincent WFSICCM and SCCM president Craig Coopersmith actively participated and contributed to the proceedings. The hour long meeting culminated with valuable suggestions from representative members from different countries on how to build on the current draft. Hopefully the final document should be available before the New Year.

Task Force on triage Decisions for ICU Admission  Chair: Lluís Blanch Torra MD PhD

Triage task force document will be launch for final revision at the end of the year. This document is a product of several online and face to face discussions of a broad number of members from the different societies integrating the WFSICCM. The Task Force document of Principles for triage decisions for ICU admission would constitute a document broad enough to be useful for triage decisions in different geographic localizations and available resources. Members of the Task Force on Triage have discussed who will benefit from the ICU, who makes the decision to accept a patient in the ICU, what in-hospital factors limit ability to take a patient in the ICU, and what out-of-hospital factors have influence in the decision to admit a patient to the ICU. The Task Force on Triage document does not substitute abundant and excellent literature on that topic but should serve as a position frame of the WFSICCM.

Task Force on “What is an ICU”  Chair: John Marshall MD

The task force addressing the question, “What is an ICU?” met in Seoul; the first draft of its report will appear imminently. A key shift in focus has evolved during our discussions: the essence of an ICU is less a geographic locale than an integrated and interprofessional approach to the care of acutely ill patients. Viewed this way, the ICU is not primarily a place but rather a team with specialized skills and resources. We are categorizing these skills and resources in 10 to 12 domains, and combining them into an organizational model comprising three tiers using the precedent of the designation of trauma centers, a Level 1 ICU will be an ICU capable of providing a full complement of critical care services, and of serving as a referral service for other ICUs, while a Level 3 ICU will provide only a basic level of supportive care. We seek to obtain widespread input for the model which will appear as a draft document within the next few weeks. It has important implications for priority-setting in health care systems, and for optimizing the provision of care to the most vulnerable patients. We want to get it right.
Meeting of Spanish Speaking Members of WFSICCM

Chair: Lluís Blanch Torra MD PhD

Representatives from different societies of intensive care medicine from Latin America countries had the opportunity to meet together and discuss items of common interest. The meeting was very fruitful and the questions debated were about the reality of the intensivism across the different geographic locations and about the strategies to follow. Members agree to work in the near future on the following items: first, the importance of intensivism in the world and the need for a clear identification of what is an intensivist for the civil society. Second, the members gave full support to the four Task Forces of the WFSICCM in their effort to track and discuss problems transversal and common to deal with critically ill patients in the world. Third, WFSICCM could be an excellent body to counsel and advise governments on the need of a good intensive care medicine to fulfill patients needs and, possibly, to have influence on political decisions. Fourth, there is a general need to improve communication among professionals who attend intensive care patients around the globe. Members of the meeting encourage WFSICCM to expand, create, and facilitate tools to improve relations, communication, delegate’s online conferences among them and society members.

About WFSICCM

The World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (WFSICCM) was established in 1977 and is a membership organization comprised of National Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine. The principle objective of the World Federation is to promote the highest standards of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine for all mankind, without discrimination. The WFSICCM now has a membership of over 80 Societies with a combined individual membership of over 75,000 intensive and critical care practitioners throughout the world.

Newsletter Production: WFSICCM Communications Taskforce, Chair, John Marshall MD, Ruth Kleinpell PhD RN FCCM, Arzu Topeli MD, Edgar Jimenez MD FCCM, Lluis Blanch Torra MD PhD