

Press information.
For immediate release
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Declaration paves the way for better patient safety

Healthcare professionals, industry groups and patient safety organisations last night came together to make a landmark pledge on patient safety: **the Declaration of Vienna**.

The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM), which focuses on intensive care units (ICUs), brought together industry players, such as GE Healthcare, Covidien, Nestle, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), AdvaMed and Cheetah Medical, with stakeholders such as the World Health Organization and the European Patients' Forum as well as physicians and nurses groups, to push the envelope on patient safety in the coming months and years.

Industry signatories, for instance, have pledged to make information available at the first opportunity on any of their products that could impact negatively on patient welfare. Doctors, meanwhile, have promised to work towards implementing stricter controls over hygiene, plus the sharing of information through data collection and networking, while also pledging to hold more round-table discussions with patient groups.

Rui Moreno, president of ESICM and one of the prime movers behind the Declaration, said: 'Today we have brought patient safety in ICUs to the front page. Europe and beyond has an ever-growing need for efficient and safe ICUs using the best practices, equipment, medicines and up-to-the-minute training.'

'Patient safety is a huge issue. We need local solutions to a global problem and, by signing the Declaration, the parties here today have taken an invaluable step forward in improving safety for our patients now and in the future.'

Speaking on the day of the signing, **German MEP and European Parliament health committee doyenne Dagmar Roth-Behrendt** said: 'Sharing of data is clearly an idea from open-minded doctors. Often, EU member state health services are reluctant to do this. There are always barriers as health is a touchy issue. Also, it often seems to be money first and the patient later.'

'The fact, for instance, that only 5% of ICUs in Europe are fully equipped to run at their maximum efficiency is an astonishing figure. Politicians should be forced to know these numbers. Meanwhile, the huge amount of hospital infections is outrageous. We clearly need networks, information and the sharing of best practice [to improve patient safety].'

ESICM president-elect Andrew Rhodes said: 'We also need funding, for research, training and equipment, but the funding needs a different emphasis. Over the past decade, the political focus has been on performance targets. But what is more important for the patient is quality.'

'Patient safety and quality are interlinked - and the best way to look after our patients is to make sure we don't do anything wrong to start with - so clearly there is no better time for this Declaration.'

ENDS



Jean-Daniel Chiche (LEFT), **Rui Moreno** (CENTRE) and **Andrew Rhodes** hold the three signed copies of the Declaration of Vienna, which brought a pledge on Patient Safety from healthcare professionals, industry representatives and patient safety groups



ESICM president Rui Moreno is the first to sign the Declaration

**ESICM 22nd Congress - Press Conference,
Tuesday 13th October 2009, 14h – 15h
Austria Center Vienna (ACV). Bruno-Kreisley-Platz 1 - 1220 Vienna, Austria**

To be discussed

**The H1 N1 Pandemic – Are We Prepared?
Patient Safety & Quality of Care in Intensive Care Units - From the
Patients' Perspective
'Patient Safety in the ICU: The Declaration of Vienna'**

To coincide with The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine's 22nd Annual Congress, a press conference will take place on Tuesday 13th October 2009 from 14-15.00h. This has been organised in order that journalists may hear, first hand, from internationally renowned experts engaged in intensive care medicine about the preparedness of the profession for a possible '**H1 N1 Pandemic**'.

This will follow the launch of an international initiative to increase patient safety in intensive care units (ICUs), including the Round Table on Patient Safety, a special "Patient Safety" track in the Congress programme and the publication of an ESICM book outlining what '**Patient Safety & Quality of Care in Intensive Care Units**' means for patients and the public alike.

There will also be the opportunity to ask questions on the groundbreaking **Declaration of Vienna**, to be signed prior to the congress.

H1 N1 Pandemic issues to be discussed shall include:-

- The current state of the H1 N1 pandemic
- Understanding what [if anything], makes this virus special
- Issues related to patient flow and workload in intensive care
- Life-support strategies to be used in H1N1 patients
- Antiviral treatment options available and the pros/cons of large scale vaccination policies
- Preparation for H1N1 pandemic and the ESICM H1N1 registry explained

And on Patient Safety & Quality of Healthcare in ICU:-

- Are patient safety issues the same across different regions and countries?
- What can ESICM and others engaged in providing intensive care medicine do to change the safety culture?
- How will the Declaration of Vienna impact upon patient safety?
- What is the extent of industry's commitment to the Declaration?
- What are the positive implications of the above?
- How could the Declaration affect, for example, EU thinking at Parliament and Commission level?
- How could any changes affect national-level decisions?
- To what degree do funding, research and training affect the safety of patients?
- How can these be maximized?



The Expert Panel - Biographies



Rui Moreno, MD, PhD, President ESICM

Rui Moreno was born in Cascais, Portugal, in 1961. Rui Moreno gained a grade in medicine in 1985 from the Faculdade de Ciências Médicas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa. He became a specialist in internal medicine in 1993, has been a consultant in that field since 1994 and a senior consultant since 1999. In 2008 he became a Chefe de Serviço de Medicina Interna.

Mr Moreno has been based in the Intensive Care Unit of the Hospital de Santo António dos Capuchos (Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Central, E.P.E.) since 1991, and has been ICU coordinator there since 2003.



Dr Andrew Rhodes. President Elect ESICM

Dr Andrew Rhodes underwent his medical training at St George's University of London, qualifying in 1989. He subsequently became a member of the Royal College of Physicians (UK) in 1993 and a Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (UK) in 1994. Since 1999 he has been a Consultant and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust and St George's University of London. In 2004 he was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (UK). Dr Rhodes was the Director of the General Intensive Care Unit at St George's from 2006 to 2008 and has been the Clinical Director of Critical Care across the hospital since 2008.

Dr Rhodes is an elected Council member of the UK Intensive Care Society and currently chairs their Education and Training committee. He was the chair of the Cardiovascular Dynamics section of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) from 1999 to 2005. From 2005 to 2008 he chaired the ESICM Congress Committee and Division of Scientific Affairs and is currently their President-elect



Jean-Daniel Chiche, MD PhD. ESICM, Chair of the Division of Scientific Affairs & Congress Committee. Professor of Critical Care Medicine. Paris Descartes University, Paris-F.

Jean-Daniel Chiche trained at Paris and Liège Universities, where he specialised in anesthesia and intensive care medicine, and obtained a PhD after a 3-year research fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital (Harvard Medical School) in Boston. He is currently Professor of Critical Care Medicine at the Cochin Hospital in Paris. His clinical interest lies in the field of acute respiratory failure and sepsis. He also holds an appointment as Research Director at the Cochin Institute (INSERM U567) where he develops an independent research program spanning various aspects of the biology of Toll-like receptors, innate immunity and variability of the inflammatory response.



His studies on genetic predisposition to severe infections (including pneumonia) as well as his expertise in the management of acute respiratory distress syndrome have recently led him to collaborate with WHO on management guidelines for patients with avian influenza infection.



Dr Wolfgang Graninger, MD, Professor and Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine in the Department of Medicine I at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria.

Univ. Prof. **DDr. Wolfgang Graninger** studied Medicine, Biology, Philosophy and Psychology at the University in Vienna, holding 3 doctorates from his studies. In 1985 he completed his PhD on the topic of diagnosis and therapies concerning Infections and Tumors.

Since 2007 he heads the Division of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine at the Department of Medicine I at the same hospital. Focus areas of the division include: antibiotic therapy, fever of unknown origin, sepsis, pneumonia, blood stream infections, tropical diseases, fungal infections, immunizations, infections of the immunocompromized host, fever syndromes (such as familial Mediterranean fever), postsurgical infections and travel associated diseases.

Prof. Graninger is involved in research and teaching and has published numerous articles on subjects like antibodies, hereditary characteristics, twin research and sepsis parameters as well as infections in the area of tropical medicine. His studies on the antibiotic Clindamycin in malaria therapy has led the WHO to recommend this form of therapy with Malaria tropica.

He is a member of the American Society of Microbiology, the International Society of Infectious diseases, the Austrian Society for Internal Medicine and the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine. As a doctor he is very much in demand and is flown in for secret treatments of heads of state.



Dr Robert A. Fowler. MDCM (Montreal) , FRCP(C), MSc (Stanford) Assistant Professor, Associate SGS Member - Department of Medicine, University of Toronto

Dr Robert Fowler is also Associate Scientist and Medical Staff at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto. Amongst his professional interests are the areas of critical care, health research methods (clinical trials), clinical effectiveness, clinical economics, technology assessment, drug utilization and patient safety,

Mr Fowler is engaged in ongoing research projects, some of which include: 'Access and equity of critical care resource delivery in Ontario', 'Blood conservation and restrictive diagnostic phlebotomy for critically ill patients', 'Economic evaluation of therapies for critically ill patients' and 'Patient safety in critical illness'. He is also author of a number of publications and articles including 'Sex and critical illness' that reviews and speculates on potential mechanisms underlying sex-related differences in admission patterns, care delivery and outcome of critical illness.



Dr Albert Osterhaus. Head of Department of Virology, Erasmus MC, University of Rotterdam

Journalists are invited to present questions to Dr Albert Osterhaus, **who regrets that he is unable to attend this press conference in person**, but shall be delighted to respond to any questions via an interview pre-recorded by our retained journalist Tony Mallett, prior to the press conference.

Dr. Albert Osterhaus is one of the world's leading virologists and his group was the first to identify human infection with the avian influenza strain H5N1. Over the last 20 years, Dr. Osterhaus has identified more than a dozen "new" viral pathogens and has authored more than 650 scientific papers. He is a member of numerous professional societies, holds editorial positions for scientific publications, is the winner of scientific awards, holds several patents and has been the supervisor and mentor of more than 30 PhD students.

Press Conference Details

Media Requests

For press and media enquiries about the declaration and the planned **press conference on 'H1 N1' and 'Patient Safety in the ICU'**, to take place on Tuesday 13th October [14h/Vienna], or, to arrange interviews with ESICM specialists, please contact our media partner Tony Mallett on +43 6763 199381 –

Email tony.mallett@gmail.com. Tony has also prepared tailored features on the background to the Vienna Declaration, industry and patient group reactions to the Vienna initiative, the views of a senior ICU professional on patient safety and the work and we are hoping to have an insight on the European Parliament Health Committee through the eyes of a high-level committee MEP.

For more information on **ESICM activities**, please go to: www.esicm.org

For specific information on **'Patient Safety in the ICU: The Vienna Declaration'**, please go to <http://patientsafety.esicm.org/info.asp>