



The Facts about ESICM's Patient Safety in the ICU: The Vienna Declaration

- The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) is an international non profit-making association of doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and other allied healthcare professionals devoted to the advancement and promotion of knowledge in intensive care medicine, through education, research, and professional development
- Founded in 1982, ESICM boasts more than 5,000 members from 113 countries worldwide, most to be found in Europe, yet many based in places such as Australia, Brazil, India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and various African states, thus achieving representation across the globe
- At this year's annual congress, Leaders of the Societies representing the medical field of Intensive Care Medicine, shall be signing and launching the groundbreaking **Vienna Declaration**, of which the key elements shall include:
 - a recognition that patient and healthcare team safety is of paramount importance to every practicing health professional and represents one of the major challenges in modern day medicine
 - that without a safe environment it is impossible to provide the quality of care that healthcare specialists aspire to, especially in the case of Intensive Care Medicine

The society believes that improving levels of safety for critically ill patients is achievable across all countries, irrespective of the available resources – and that this will also improve the quality of care. The society aims to achieve its aims by, among other means:

- increasing knowledge of the causes and reasons for failures to provide a safe environment in intensive care units (ICU)
- improving understanding of the consequences of failure to provide a safe environment for critically ill adults and children and the health care professionals caring for these patients
- developing and promoting criteria that can assess safety in ICUs
- better translating knowledge of safety into improving quality of care to patients

By designing and promoting the use of safer and more efficient devices and drugs, industrial partners have a pivotal role to play in improving patient safety. Manufacturers of biomedical, pharmaceutical and biotech products and equipment signing the Declaration will, among other things, pledge to:

- try to improve the safety profile of their products
- provide resources to facilitate their safe use
- swiftly release any information related to safety concerns to healthcare professionals and regulatory agencies

It is hoped that the ESICM Vienna Declaration will act as a statement of intent, while augmenting and even improving the professional, industrial and political possibilities for increasing patient safety on a European and global scale

More information on the society is available at www.esicm.org