

## **Vienna Declaration puts emphasis on patient safety Industry to pledge greater openness on life-saving products**

The aim of ‘Patient Safety in the ICU: the Vienna Declaration’, to be signed next month in Austria’s capital, is to bring safety issues affecting the growing number of intensive care unit (ICU) patients ‘to the front page’, according to the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine’s (ESICM) president, Rui Moreno.

The Declaration will be signed on 11 October in Vienna prior to the society’s 22<sup>nd</sup> annual congress and will bring together the thoughts and pledges of not only ICU professionals but, crucially, members of the pharmaceutical and equipment industries too.

Moreno and the society he heads are adamant that patient safety must be improved using ‘local solutions to global problems’. Meanwhile, according to congress committee chairman Jean-Daniel Chiche, less than 2% of Europe’s ICUs have the fully computerised systems that they should ideally possess.

Key to the Declaration is the pledge by pharmaceutical, biotech and biomedical companies to “engage in efforts to improve the safety profile of their products, provide resources to facilitate the safe use of their products [and] release, as soon as they become available, any information related to safety concerns of their products to healthcare professionals and regulatory agencies.”

Europe has an ever-present and growing need for efficient and safe ICUs using the best practices, equipment and medicines thus, adds Moreno: “Clearly, there has never been a better time for such a Declaration to be made”.

“Much more still needs to be done, of course, but by pledging to the spirit of this Declaration, those that have signed have taken an invaluable step forward in improving safety for our patients now and in the future.”

### **Note to editors:**

**To arrange interviews, or obtain tailored features and latest updates on the Declaration, please contact our media partner Tony Mallett on +32 (0)472 280 878. Email [tony.mallett@gmail.com](mailto:tony.mallett@gmail.com)**