



ESICM at a glance

- 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 at the WHO offices in Geneva and with an initial membership of 100 from 12 European countries, ESICM now boasts more than **5,000 members from 113 countries** worldwide, with most members in Europe, yet many based in places such as **Australia, Brazil, India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and various African states**
- The society has **close ties** with organisations such as Nurses and Allied Healthcare Professionals, the European Society of Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care, HOPE, CPME, EUCOMED, EFPIA and others
- The society organises a **congress** each year – **Vienna will play host in 2009** from 11-14 October. The congress has always placed a strong emphasis on research and, added to that, this year, leaders of the Societies representing the medical specialty of Intensive Care Medicine shall sign the first ever declaration from ESICM on patient safety, to be known as **‘Patient Safety in the ICU: The Vienna Declaration’**. [See separate factsheet for further details]
- ESICM **launched its research committee** in 2004 and has provided members with new projects, numerous awards and a highly valuable network. Projects have included CORTICUS, SAPSIII and CoBaTrICE – the latter successfully concluded in 2006. It received **the highest possible rating from the European Commission**, which identified it as a European model of ‘best practice’
- Campaigns, meanwhile, have included the **Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC)**, an initiative of ESICM, the International Sepsis Forum and the Society of Critical Care Medicine, to improve the treatment of sepsis. Launched in 2002, the campaign pledged to demonstrate a measurable reduction in severe sepsis mortality by 2008
- **Training** is seen as crucial by ESICM: its European Diploma in Intensive Care Medicine (EDIC) exam is becoming accepted and copied in more and more countries each year. Meanwhile, PACT, the **Patient-Centred Acute Care Training**, is ESICM’s distance-learning programme, produced to improve and harmonize the quality of intensive care medicine. Trainers use this in conjunction with EDIC training
- The society publishes **its own journal, entitled ‘Intensive Care Medicine’**
- Finally, ESICM will move into new offices in central Brussels in the coming months – with a view to housing its staff and expanding capacity for meetings, conferences and educational activities
- **More information** on the society is available at www.esicm.org