

Preface

International Perspectives in Critical Care Medicine



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Guest Editor

This issue of *Critical Care Clinics* developed out of an initiative of Dr. Richard Carlson and Dr. Michael A. Geheb, Consulting Editors of Elsevier, and Dr. José Besso, President of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive Care and Critical Care Medicine, to provide an overview of critical care organization, practice, education, research, and diseases managed in ICUs in a number of countries and regions.

Critical care medicine has evolved into a dynamic specialty managing significant health care resources through the efforts of strong national and regional leaders, many of whom trained and worked together in the embryonic stages of critical care. Close contacts have been maintained through international scientific and consensus conferences, collaborative studies, and exchange of trainees and faculty. Globalization of critical care medicine offers new horizons of excellence to be achieved by sharing of expertise and resources between developed and emergent countries. The World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine should play an important role to achieve this globalization.

The World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine is an international organization composed of 42 member national societies of intensive and critical care medicine representing approximately 40,000 physicians and allied health professionals. The aim of this federation is to promote the highest standards of intensive and critical care medicine for humankind, without discrimination. In pursuit of this aim the federation

will establish a worldwide cooperation between national and multinational societies of intensive and critical care medicine; will assist and encourage the formation of new societies of intensive and critical care medicine; will sponsor world congress on intensive and critical care medicine at regular intervals, and support other congresses of this nature as requested; will promote activity, provide advice, and cooperate with relevant bodies in the field of intensive and critical care medicine, disseminate scientific and educational information, establish the highest standards in patient care, training, equipment design, and safety measures, also encourage research in this field; and finally will pursue by other lawful means all other activities that promote the objectives of the federation.

This issue reviews aspects related to development, organization, practice, and education in critical care and diseases management in ICUs in different countries and a global view of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine in relation to important aspects managed in the ICUs. From the articles in this issue, it is clear that many of the topics of concern to the critical care community cross national and international boundaries. I hope that increased international collaboration will further increase relevance and effectiveness of critical care medicine and that all together will find the best solutions to common problems.

The field of knowledge is an ever moving target, and I thank all the involved authors for their efforts in this respect. I dedicate this issue to Max Harry Weil, MD, father of critical care medicine all around the world, and my predecessors and councils of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine for their dedication and good work to achieve the objectives of the World Federation. Finally, I also thank the Consulting Editors, Dr. Carlson and Dr. Geheb, and Maria Lorusso from Elsevier for their support to myself and the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine.

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