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CONFÉRENCES DE CONSENSUS

Purpose and Organization of the International Consensus Conferences in Intensive Care Medicine

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The International Consensus Conferences (ICC) in intensive care medicine are organized jointly by the American Thoracic Society (ATS), European Respiratory Society (ERS), European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM), Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), and the Société de Réanimation de Langue Française (SRLF). Each society organizes in turn the yearly conference. The ICCs are chaired by an international consensus long range committee (ICLG) gathering the presidents of the five societies. The ICC committee (ICCC) coordinates the scientific organization with the help of the administrative officers of the societies.

The purpose of a Consensus Conference is to produce an informed debate on a focused topic presented in the form of five main questions, with the aim of evaluating available scientific information and advancing the understanding of the issues addressed. It consists of a 2-day Conference, during which experts from different disciplines and/or from different schools make short presentations, aimed at answering the five questions previously defined by the Scientific Advisors. Prior to the Conference, the jury, made up of 11 non-experts in the field, is provided with background documentation about the presentations to be made by the experts. After attending the Conference, the jury meets over 2 days, in order to prepare a Consensus statement on the issues raised, and to make recommendations based on grading the evidence provided by the experts (see below a brief description of the GRADE system). The Consensus text is published in the journal of the organizing society and may also be published simultaneously by the other four Societies as they wish.

The Eight International Consensus Conference was organized in Paris, France, by the Société de Réanimation de Langue Française (SRLF), with the following participants:

Members of the ICLG

Peter Wagner (ATS); Andrea Rossi (ERS); Marco Ranieri (ESICM); Peter Angood (SSCM); François Fourrier (SRLF)

ICCC members

Amal Jubran (ATS); Constantin Manthous (ATS); Tobias Welte (ERS); Mark Zelter (ERS); Julian Bion (ESICM); Andrew Rhodes (ESICM); Mitchell Levy (SCCM); Antoinette Spevetz (SCCM); Christian Brun-Buisson (SRLF); Jean Chastre (SRLF)

Staff members

Graham Nelan (ATS); Archie Turnbull (ERS); Suzanne Smitz-De Smet (ESICM); David J. Martin (SCCM); Chantal Sevens (SRLF)

Scientific Advisors

Steve Hollenberg (Camden, NJ, USA) and Andrew Rhodes (London, UK)

Scientific Experts

Jan Bakker, Rotterdam, NL; Richard Beale, London, UK; David Bennett, London, UK; Jason Christie, Philadelphia, PA, USA; Daniel de Backer, Brussels, Be; Luciano Gattinoni, Milan, IT; Stephen Heard, Worcester, MA, USA; Steve Hollenberg, Camden, NJ, USA; Can Ince, Amsterdam, NL; Sheldon Magder, Montreal, PQ, Canada; Claude Martin, Marseille, Fr; Alexandre Mebazza, Paris, Fr; Azrel Perel, TelHashomer, Israel; Michael Pinsky, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; Konrad Reinhart, Jena, De; Andrew Rhodes, London, UK; Christian Richard, Paris, Fr; Mervyn Singer, London, UK; Pierre Squara, Neuilly, Fr; Anthony Suffredini, Bethesda, MD, USA; Jean-Louis Teboul, Paris, Fr; Benoit Vallet, Lille, Fr; Jean-Louis Vincent, Brussels, Be; Sergio Zanotti, Camden, NJ, USA

Jury members

Massimo Antonelli, *Chair* (Roma, It), P. Andrews, J. Chastre, L. Hudson, M. Levy, C. Manthous, GU. Meduri, R. Moreno, C. Putensen, T. Stewart, and A. Torres