

## EDITORIAL

# Forty years of intensive care medicine in the Netherlands – back to the future

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This year the Dutch Society of Intensive Care (NVIC) celebrates its 40th anniversary and for this special occasion the annual congress will take place in the Beurs van Berlage in Amsterdam.

### History of annual meetings

It is unknown to the current NVIC administration where the first Dutch intensive care meeting took place 40 years ago. Since then many annual meetings have been organised. One of the first locations was Papendal in Arnhem. The meetings in 'de Reehorst' in Ede will be remembered by many, not in the least because of the bar decorated with red plush. More important, the inspiring energy and leadership of Professor Johan Groeneveld resulted in three day meetings, including an international speaker day. Due to his extensive network, many internationally renowned speakers contributed to these meetings.

In recent years some changes have been made to the 'Intensivistendagen'. Due to the growing number of congresses and symposia, the program had to be reconsidered to remain attractive. As a result the venue has moved to Den Bosch and the format was adjusted, now covering only two days at the beginning of the year. Established program elements such as the 'year in review' and the abstract and poster presentations by young colleagues remained key elements. In addition to the best abstract, poster and thesis awards, the ceremony of the 'NVIC erepenning' was introduced. In 2014 the first 'NVIC erepenning' was awarded to Professor Johan Groeneveld, followed by Professor Durk Zandstra and Professor Chris Stoutenbeek (posthumous) in 2015 and Professor Dinis dos Reis Miranda in 2016.

The autumn congress cycle has also changed. The traditional two-year cycle of thematic days (mechanical ventilation, circulation and neurology, trauma & acute care, infection and nephrology & metabolism days), which were less often visited by intensivists, have been replaced by a one-day meeting in the autumn. These meetings focused on the dilemmas the intensivist meets in daily practice. Topics beyond the boundaries of intensive care medicine were discussed, often in connection with other medical specialties. This has resulted in increasing numbers of participants and growing appreciation by the attendees.

### Current edition

In 2017, intensive care medicine has developed into a mature medical profession. For the anniversary edition, a diverse plenary program has been compiled including focus on physiology, pathophysiology and ethical topics. On the occasion of our anniversary, we asked top researchers and opinion leaders in the field of intensive care medicine to reflect on their historic scientific results and to give us a perspective on the future in their field. We are glad to announce that, for instance, Greet van den Berghe, Mervin Singer, Didier Payen, Tom van der Poll and Emmanuel Rivers have agreed to do so.

In addition, the classical year in review sessions and presentations by young colleagues will still be included in the program. The abstracts are published in the current issue of the journal. For the first time a prize will be awarded for the best article published in the Netherlands Journal of Critical Care in the past year. Lastly, although a plush-covered bar is lacking, an anniversary is the ultimate occasion to have a drink and catch up with colleagues and old friends, and the social program on Thursday is not to be missed.

### Future of our national congress

For the coming years, the NVIC congress committee aims to build further on the mission of creating a scientific platform on which state-of-the-art lectures are given on topics related to intensive care. The field of ICU research is diverse and is developing rapidly worldwide. European subcommittees have been formed on specific subjects, making it possible to conduct international multicentre trials. As a result, there is an increase in large-scale studies which have included thousands of patients, and which answer important questions that we face in daily ICU care. Also, experimental research is developing, using complex multiple hit models that may mimic the complex disease model of the ICU patient. Dutch researchers importantly contribute to both clinical and preclinical scientific output. Our aim is to create a national stage for these colleagues in order to provide you with an update of relevant and recent scientific insights during the NVIC days.

Another aim of the NVIC congress is to contribute to the debate regarding the position of the intensivist in the Netherlands. Evolving changes in the Dutch healthcare landscape, as well as in society, urge us to reconsider the classical position of intensivist. The NVIC plays a pivotal role in this process and the NVIC congress can be a forum for its members on the way

to recognition as a scientific society. Finally, the NVIC congress should be a stimulating annual social event, which participants look forward to. It is the perfect occasion to come and catch up with former fellows or current colleagues and enjoy life. We hope to welcome you in Amsterdam, and on all future editions of the 'Intensivistendagen'!



**CURSUS**

## Consolidatiecursus echografie

Vrijdag 10 maart 2017    Vrijdag 8 september 2017  
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[www.nvic.nl](http://www.nvic.nl)