

BOOK REVIEW

Intensive Care and Critical Care Medicine

DCJJ Bergmans

Department of Intensive Care Medicine, Maastricht University Medical Centre, The Netherlands

Following the 9th World Congress of the WFSICCM (World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine) in Buenos Aires in 2005, the first book by the World Federation Council was published with a focus on education and standard of care (Reflections, Recommendations, and Perspectives). On the occasion of the 10th Congress in Florence last year this new book was published with a focus on four pillars: Partnership, Ethics, Professionalism, and Competence. Seventy-five contributors from all over the world, some of whom are leading experts in intensive care medicine and research, have written chapters for this book. Edited by, Antonino Gullo, José Besso, Philip D. Lumb and Ged F. Williams, all well-known members of the WFSICCM, the book of almost 600 pages contains 41 chapters, which are up to date, and references are as recent as 2009.

The book has been divided into 12 sections. Half of the sections deal with subjects in line with the chosen pillars of the book, for instance section II is entitled: Professionalism, Ethics and Evidence-Based Practise and section III: Clinical Governance. These sections are well written and informative for any medical specialist involved in intensive care medicine especially if part of the management or teaching staff of the department. Issues concerning patient safety, limited resources, scoring systems, quality of care and nursing workforce management are discussed, as well evidence-based medicine and professionalism.

The other half is on clinical syndromes in the critically ill patient. The book is neither a textbook nor a reference book; the editors did not attempt to give a complete overview of intensive care medicine. The clinical sections are divided into the well known subjects of interest within intensive care medicine, for instance, section IV- Respiratory System and Protective Ventilation or, section VIII - Sepsis, Organ Dysfunction and the Bundles. The chapters within these sections highlight some interesting aspects of the subject but lack the classical sequence with pathophysiology, epidemiology, aetiology, clinical syndrome, diagnosis and therapy. The subject or clinical syndrome is therefore not described in total and therefore incomplete. Moreover, not all aspects within the section are covered. In line with the above-mentioned pillars, most of the chapters within these clinical sections focus on management, organization or implementation however more on departmental level than on patient level. The information does not provide a practical, bedside approach for

the intensivist confronted with a critically ill patient. Hardly any practical guidelines are presented or discussed. Unfortunately, some chapters are written strongly from the personal viewpoint of a single author without a thorough evidence-based review of the literature on the subject.

In conclusion, this congress book is very informative for the intensive care physician with an interest in management, professionalism and organization. For residents or fellows in intensive care or the intensivist in need of a textbook or practical guidelines for the individual patient there are several other options.

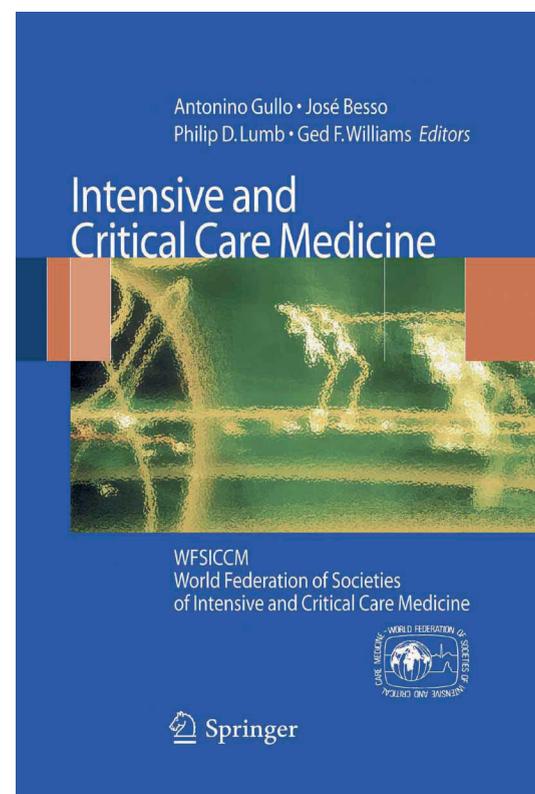
Intensive and Critical Care Medicine.

Edited by Gullo, Besso, Lumb and Williams.

WFSICCM – World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine.

Springer Verlag Italia 2009

ISBN 987-88-470-1435-0



Correspondence

DCJJ Bergmans

E-mail: d.bergmans@mumc.nl