

Annual Report - 2020

On behalf of the WFICC Council¹, the Executive Committee presents our Annual Report to our member societies and federations. The current Council was inaugurated in Melbourne, Australia in October 2019. This is the third Annual Report to be published by the World Federation and is consistent with the commitment we made in 2018 to publish a formal review of our activities each year. This is part of Council's determination to ensure our organisation is fit-for-purpose, modern, transparent and keeping you better informed about what we do and how we do it.



Executive highlights

- using a dedicated section of the WFICC website to create online depository of COVID-19² resources and links to network and share information globally;
- continuing with the implementation of our modernisation agenda and completing the process of establishing our legal status in Belgium as an international, not-for-profit organisation;
- launching our strategic projects initiative and inviting applications to fund projects which contribute to our global mission;
- building on our commitment to foster diversity and gender equity across related activities and starting to acquire diversity data from new membership applications;
- working in partnership with the Canadian Critical Care Society (CCCS) and the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses (CACCN). Firstly, to assess the impact of the global pandemic on hosting the 15th World Congress. Secondly, to deliver an inclusive, diverse and memorable experience in a virtual environment. Thirdly, to ensure the WFICC business agenda for 2021 can be successfully completed using a virtual platform.

New members 2020

In 2020 membership applications were received and approved by Council and they will be submitted to the next General Assembly for ratification. We welcome members from the following societies to our global family;

Sociedad Paraguaya de Medicina Critica y Cuidados Intensivos (SPMCYCI);
Croatian Society of Anaesthesiology, Reanimatology and Intensive Care Medicine;
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Anästhesiologie, Reanimatologie und Intensivmedizin (OGARI) - application to restore membership.

During 2020 we've also started to acquire data on diversity and gender as part of the application process from new member societies. Over time, and as the database builds, we hope to publish reports and to track the growth of diversity in the membership of applicant societies.

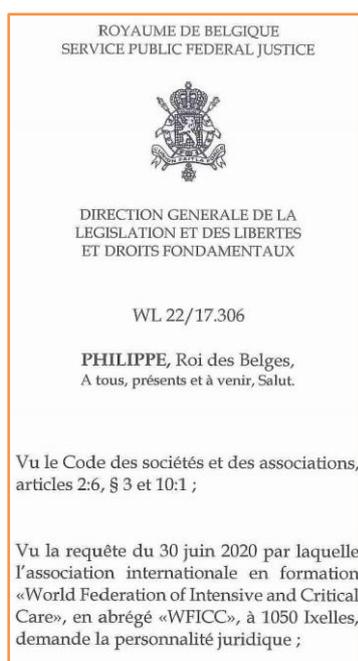
15th World Congress – Vancouver, Canada – September 11th to 15th 2021

Our hosts for the 15th World Congress will be the Canadian Critical Care Society (CCCS) and the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses (CACCN). Given the impact of COVID-19 on travel and congress viability, the Local Organising Team (LOC), working in collaboration with the WFICC Council and the MCI Group (Congress PCO) have been very closely monitoring the global environment. At a recent meeting where all the realistic hosting options were assessed, the decision was taken to host the 15th World Congress as an exclusively virtual event this year. The LOC have re-stated their commitment to hosting an



inclusive, diverse and memorable experience for all virtual participants and the WFICC plans to mobilize all its resources to assist in extending the reach of this World Congress to all corners of the world. Please reserve the dates in your calendar and keep up-to-date by maintaining regular visits the congress website (www.worldcriticalcarecongress21.com/welcome). Plan to join us in “virtual Vancouver” for this celebration of our specialty.

Modernising, Endorsing and Supporting



A modernisation highlight of 2020 was issue of the Royal Decree which formally and legally incorporated the WFICC as an international not-for-profit association in Belgium (*Association internationale sans but lucratif*). The updated WFICC constitution was adopted as the governing document of the new international association. This means that the governance rules for the new organisation are essentially unchanged from its predecessor organisation, the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (WFSICCM). Following incorporation further work is now being completed on the administrative implications of the transfer of domicile to Belgium. These including the transfer of assets and liabilities from the old organisation to the new, the appointment of an Accountant, a Tax Adviser and a review of the banking arrangements. The legal responsibilities of incorporation in Belgium also include the requirement to approve and publish an annual operating budget (please refer to the Summary Financial Report below) and other annual reporting and compliance requirements.

Further evidence of modernisation and our commitment to fostering diversity and gender equality was provided by the adoption and website publication of a WFICC Diversity Policy. The intent of this policy is to explicitly address diversity in the practices of the WFICC and further ensure that processes to address diversity are transparent, visible, and measurable. As a global organization, the WFICC is firmly committed to embracing the diversity of our member societies and the communities they serve. We recognize that it is within our best interests to promote diversity and to eliminate discrimination in our activities and those of our society members to optimize creativity, innovation, decision-making, and effectiveness of the WFICC in fulfilling its mission. Our common humanity matters more than our interesting differences and we want our organisation and our member societies to make an expression of those differences possible.



To provide further encouragement and assistance to our society members to develop and adopt a Diversity Policy for their own organisation a policy template was developed. This was published on our website and introduced to our members via an email in October 2020. The template is not intended to be prescriptive but rather to be a useful resource to encourage societies to have a higher regard for the role which greater diversity can play in fulfilling our collective global mission.

We modernised our web-presence by migrating our website to the www.wficc.com URL and further website enhancements are under development to launch in 2021. These enhancements will feature a new “Members Portal” to host a dedicated area for each society and federation member. Using this portal, members will be able to access new functionality including the payment of annual membership dues (including a credit card payment option), access to online General Assemblies and electronic voting to elect new Council members.

In 2020 Council maintained its adherence to the policy introduced in 2018 for endorsing and supporting initiatives which are consistent with the objectives of the WFICC. The aims and purposes of the WFICC are defined in the Constitution, specifically *promoting the highest standards of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine for all humankind, without discrimination*. The pursuit of these aims includes the establishment of world-wide co-operation between international societies and the promotion of educational and research activities. The endorsement policy has been effective in ensuring compliance with the things we value and greater consistency in our approach to endorsing and supporting initiatives. A summary of endorsed and supported events in 2020 is as follows:

Meetings and events:

- CRITICON 2020 – Bangladesh Society of Critical Care Medicine;
- World Restart-a-Heart Day 2020;
- 4th Annual World Day of the Critical Lung;
- COVID-19 educational webinars in Central America and the Caribbean region;
- International webinar iWIN (International Women in Intensive Care) – Innovation, Support and Leadership during COVID-19;
- World Sepsis Meeting (virtual) September 2020;
- World Sepsis Congress Spotlight;
- The first edition of Virtual Critical Care Trauma Management;
- 47th National Congress of the Colegio Mexicano de Medicina Critica (COMMEC), Scientific session - "COVID-19 Pandemic - Points of view from the five continents;
- XVI Congreso Boliviano de Medicina y Terapia Intensiva.

Publications and initiatives:

- World Brain Death Statement;
- Family-centred Care Patient;
- Adoption of Diversity Policy and launch of Diversity Policy template;
- Letter to the Sociedad Espanola de Medicina Intensiva, Critica y Unidades Coronarias (SEMICYUC) supporting their position that Anaesthesiology training programs in Spain do not provide adequate training in Intensive and Critical Care and they do not meet EBA-UEMS requirements for training in Intensive and Critical Care;
- Letter to support an application by the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group for CIHR COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding;

- Disseminating an international survey on ICU Hypotension conducted among Physicians and Nurses regarding Used Definitions, Incidence, Current Treatment Strategies and Perceived Outcome of Hypotension in Intensive Care Patient;
- Disseminating information about the ISIIC Study, an international study by the Japanese Society of Intensive Care Medicine (JSICM) on the implementation of ICU daily care for COVID-19 patients;
- Disseminating a global survey to acquire inputs into the “essential elements” of care for a project on the Components of Essential and Emergency Critical Care;
- Representation on the Surviving Sepsis Guideline Revision Committee;
- Representation on the Global Sepsis Alliance with Ignacio Martin-Loeches serving on the Board;
- WFICC Task Force on electronic voting and Council representation;
- Representation on the Council of ESICM with Assem Abdel Razek elected as the International Representative from Africa.

Strategic Projects

In April 2020 we announced initiation of financial support for strategic projects that promote the mission and values of the organization. The WFICC Council established the following priorities for projects:

- Projects that benefit the intensive and critical care community in low and middle-income areas;
- Projects addressing nursing education and training needs in low and middle-income areas;
- Projects that can be translated to other countries or reach larger numbers of clinicians if successful;
- Projects that accomplish goals in the most cost-efficient manner.

Proposals can be submitted by WFICC member societies and individuals associated with member societies using resources available on the website [Strategic Projects \(wficc.com\)](https://www.wficc.com/strategic-projects). Multi-professional involvement and collaboration between organizations is valued and project funding up to \$30,000 USD may be available for approved projects.

International Education Opportunities

The WFICC website now includes a dedicated resource section to showcase international education opportunities in intensive and critical care. Please visit [International Education Opportunities \(wficc.com\)](https://www.wficc.com/international-education-opportunities) to access the section. If you are aware of any education opportunities which could be listed in the resource section please get in touch so we can ensure that prospective candidates have access to the most up-to-date information.

Summary financial report for 2020

Total income	\$388345 USD	Total expenditure	\$62815 USD
(14 th World Congress)	\$361035 USD		
(Membership fees)	\$26380 USD	(CEO)	\$33370 USD
Total assets	\$908525	(December 31st 2020)	

Our sources of income are from the payment of annual membership fees from societies and a share of the profits from our biennial World Congress. During the year under review total assets were \$908525 an increase of 58.3% over the previous year and driven by the WFICC share of profits from the hugely successful 14th World Congress in Melbourne. In April 2020 and in response to the burden imposed on society members by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council decided to defer and postpone the collection of 2020 annual membership dues. However, and in recognition that many society members had included a provision to pay WFICC membership dues in their 2020 operating budgets, requests for payment of dues were distributed on December 1st 2020. Member societies were given the option to pay their 2020 membership dues or to combine their 2020 and 2021 dues and make a joint payment in 2021.

This strategy has resulted in 2020 due payments being lower than forecasted in 2020. Expenditure increased by 36% in the reporting period. This was due to legal fees and the costs associated with incorporating as a not-for-profit organisation in Belgium and an increase in CEO salary, the first review since 2005. In compliance with our status in Belgium, Council have now implemented a 3-year rolling financial operating budget of income and expenditure.

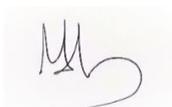
In summary, the organisation is financially stable and robust. We plan to reinforce this stability by establishing a reserve fund to protect against any future adverse financial event. We are also evaluating the potential impact of the relocation to Belgium on our investment fund strategy which will safeguard our assets and mitigate against the effects of inflation.

Our collective commitment to our members

As the current custodians of the mission of the WFICC we re-state our collective commitment to *promoting the highest standards of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine for all humankind, without discrimination*. Standing still is not an option and so we will continue to embrace change, to modernise and to move forward into an exciting future. In 2021, we look forward to another year of supporting our existing members and welcoming new members, investing in new strategic projects and initiatives and maintaining our focus on what matters and what works.



Janice Zimmerman
President



Gene Sung
President-Elect



Jorge Hidalgo
Secretary General



Mary White
Treasurer

¹ Janice Zimmerman (*USA*); Jorge Hidalgo (*Belize*); Mary White (*Australia*); Elisa Estenssoro (*Argentina*); Fernando Suparregui Dias (*Brazil*); Assem Abdel Razek (*Egypt*); Kapil Zirpe (*India*); Ignacio Martin-Loeches (*Ireland*); Jose Elizalde (*Mexico*); Shigeki Fujitani (*Japan*); Chae-Man Lim (*Korea*); Obashina Ogunbiyi (*Nigeria*); Chong-Jen Yu (*Taiwan*); Gene Sung (*Neurocritical Care*) and Ruth Kleinpell (*WFCCN*)

² COVID-19 and its impact on the personal and professional lives of our societies, federations and their individual members has been the dominant theme in 2020. From the initial reports of the virus early in the year, to the global spread and escalation to pandemic status and the more recent emergence of new variants, COVID-19 has touched all of us. It continues to affect us and what we do and how we do it. We know that intensive and critical care physicians, critical care nurses and others have been at the forefront of delivering care to those in need and continue to do so. They have also been required to cope with unprecedented levels of morbidity and mortality. We pay tribute to everyone who has played their part in responding to this global threat to life. As a global organisation, we commit to making sure our members are connected, are informed and are supported in their responses to COVID-19.