

Annual report of HKSCCM 2023

After three years of battling the COVID-19 pandemic, we are witnessing the signs of recovery within global healthcare systems. By early this year, countries reported reduced disruptions in the delivery of routine health services. However, we must remain vigilant and emphasize the need to invest in recovery and build stronger resilience for the future.

The demand for critical care has remained strong during and after the pandemic, with over 20,000 annual admissions and an annual increment of 3-4%. Our critical care colleagues have faced great challenges, including high attrition rates and limited availability of healthcare resources. Yet, their unwavering dedication to upholding treatment quality and caring standards has been truly commendable. I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your professionalism and compassionate attitudes towards our critically ill patients.

As we move beyond the era of social distancing, we are witnessing a resurgence of physical meetings, conferences, and seminars, while online meetings have become an integral part of our new norm. Despite the circumstances, our connection with local members and other healthcare professionals has remained strong throughout 2023. Notably, we organized virtual inter-hospital grand rounds once every two months, attracting over 400 online participants.

In collaboration with Baxter, we successfully organized two on-site conferences that gained excellent feedback from the audience. The "ECCO2R in ICU Practice" seminar in August and the "New Frontier in Blood Purification Beyond CRRT" seminar in September witnessed the participation of over 300 attendees, including healthcare professionals from overseas.

Our commitment to international collaborations remains strong. In support of the Chinese Society of Critical Care Medicine (CSCCM), the Taiwan Society of Critical Care Medicine (TSCCM), and the Taiwan Society of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine (TSECCM), our society sent representatives to their Annual Congress held in May and October. Additionally, we proudly extended our endorsement to the World Sepsis Congress and the Emirates Critical Care Conference, further strengthening our ties within the global critical care community.

I must acknowledge the tremendous effort and contributions of Dr. Wong Wai Tat, whose dedication resulted in the renewal and approval of the "Guidelines on Certification of Death Following the Irreversible Cessation of Brainstem Function" by the Hospital Authority Critical Care Central Organizing Committee. I am confident that these new guidelines will greatly benefit your clinical practice.

Furthermore, it brings me great pleasure to announce the forthcoming second edition of "Critical Care Respiratory Medicine." This comprehensive and invaluable book, covering a wide range of essential topics in the field of critical care respiratory, will be published next year. With the collaborative efforts of our esteemed editorial teams, this book will serve as a trusted reference, enriching the understanding of healthcare professionals involved in the care of critically ill patients.

In conclusion, on behalf of our society, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our members for their support. I would like to acknowledge the great contributions of the council members and the organizing committee members of the Annual Scientific Meeting. Together, we will overcome the challenges and hurdles that lie ahead. Thank you.



Dr Shum Hoi Ping, Chairman of Hong Kong Society of Critical Care Medicine