

## EDITORIAL

### XLVIII National Congress of the Sociedad Española de Enfermería Intensiva y Unidades Coronarias



### XLVIII Congreso Nacional de la Sociedad Española de Enfermería Intensiva y Unidades Coronarias

The 48th National Conference of the Spanish Society of Intensive Care Nursing and Coronary Units (SEEIUC) brought together more than 450 nurses in Malaga this past June. It was held jointly with the 58th National Conference of the Spanish Society of Intensive Care Medicine and Coronary Units (SEMICYUC). The slogan chosen for the conference was “Reinventing the future”.

The conference was opened by the civic authorities of the city of Malaga, the presidents of the professional associations and the chairpersons of the two societies, to welcome all attendees, and kicked off with a brilliant presentation by Professor of Algebra, Mercedes Siles Molina, a pioneer in the fields of science and social development, who encouraged both our professional colleges to combine university teaching and healthcare.

The conference was a success and the sum of efforts and synergies of the two societies that make us stronger. One of the round tables on the last day discussed the possibility of tackling a new project that we are working on, together with the H-ICU Foundation, as was explained, and that is being constructed by all professionals together for the best attention and care of patients, families, environment and intensive care professionals.

During the three days of the SEEIUC conference, joint sessions were also shared with the physiotherapists, professionals who are so necessary in Intensive Care Units (ICU). Also dealt with were other essential issues such as the need to have regulated and approved specialisation in intensive care nursing to train nurses who work in the ICU. Different research and cutting-edge topics were explored in depth and moved forward, as was demonstrated in the programme consisting of more than 350 papers, presented in the form of oral communications and posters.

This year, the conference featured national experts who participated in the joint SEEIUC–SEMICYUC sessions on the quality and safety of our ICUs and the management of secretions in invasive and non-invasive mechanical ventilation.

Seven specific round tables on intensive nursing were held, all of them very well received, given the interest of the subject matter and the quality of the speakers, with one international speaker, Leanne Aitken, standing out particularly as an expert in the area of analgesation.

The round tables shared with other professionals were also very well attended with broad-based participation, highlighting particularly the physiotherapists’ round table and another shared with different professionals from SEMICYUC and SECPAL to discuss dignified death in intensive care units. In addition, there were two symposia presented by the industry on renal replacement therapies, as well as a monographic session on improvements in the PREVEMED project from the nurse’s viewpoint.

Twelve workshops were held on different topics, some of them split into two sessions due to the level of interest. The subjects of the workshops were: communication of bad news related to a transplant situation, bioethics, renal replacement therapies, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), ultrasound-guided venous puncture, hygiene and infection prevention in the ICU, inhalation sedation and simulation.

From my own personal perspective, I feel that the balance of this conference was very positive. A conference is more than a scientific exchange: it is the meeting together of colleagues, professionals, friends and acquaintances. It is an opportunity to collaborate in new ways, share knowledge, grow and exchange experiences and sensations. It is also an opportunity to establish contacts, devise new projects, get to know other ways of working and face the challenges we encounter on a daily basis when caring for patients and their families. It is a process of enrichment and growth, both personal and professional, and this is possible thanks

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to the involvement of everyone: members, conference participants, industry, SEEIUC working groups, technical admin. departments, and different people who make these professional meetings possible every year. For all these reasons, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to making this 48th National Conference of the Spanish Society of Intensive Care Nursing and Coronary Units possible. I would also like to apologise for any mistakes or errors that may have been made and assure you that we will be delighted to receive your suggestions for improvement, which we will carefully analyse and take into account when preparing the next conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the next conference, in 2024, as we announced in Malaga, will be held in Barcelona from 12 to 15 May and that the Board of Directors, the SEEIUC Scientific Committee and the Working Groups are already involved in preparing it with great enthusiasm. We are open and eager to receive new contributions and suggestions.

At the closing ceremony we awarded 5 prizes: 3 for the best oral communications; one for the best article published in *Enfermería Intensiva*, a journal that is increasingly better positioned in terms of article quality and citations, thanks to the work of its editors and reviewers; another prize was for the "Investiga SEEIUC" grant that promotes and encourages the nursing research that is so necessary for our profession to continue advancing and growing; and finally the prize for the best poster. The prize for the best Master's student paper remained vacant.

Finally, I would like to encourage you all to continue strengthening your ties and collaboration in making your contributions, and to give our patients and families the care they deserve.

Thank you very much to all of you for such professional work that you have always demonstrated, especially during these years, a period in which we nurses in intensive care and coronary units have faced new challenges and commitments that we have been overcoming, while adapting to new realities.

The professionalism, teamwork, commitment, social responsibility and humanity demonstrated over the years has highlighted the true meaning of our profession.

I am sure that after what we have shared at this 48th SEEIUC Conference, we have all come out stronger as health-care professionals and are proud to be nurses.

This process has led to a greater awareness, on the part of both society and our leaders, of the importance of the nursing profession in the field of critical care. The need for specific competencies to work in this field came to the fore. This has prompted us to take up the path towards the recognition of the need for specialisation in intensive care nursing, to guarantee comprehensive care for all critical patients and their families. As we said, we are working hard on this in SEEIUC.

Thank you all very much and we hope to meet again in May in Barcelona at the 49th National Congress of the SEEIUC.

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye as President of SEEIUC, as my term of office is coming to an end, since in the society, after two years of service to it, and very intensive work, we have planned to pass the baton on to a great colleague, Doctor of Nursing Miguel Ángel Giménez Lajara, who I am sure will do a great job and who I warmly welcome to this new professional stage.

Thank you very much to each and every one of you.

M. del Barrio Linares  
President of the S.E.E.I.U.C