



## **SANTANDER STATEMENT:**

### **INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE: PATIENT-CENTERED CARE FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL**

Intensive care medicine is the specialty that is responsible for the management of patients with acute life-threatening organ dysfunction. The vulnerability and complexity of these patients require immediate, continuous management. Only specifically trained professionals dedicated to intensive care medicine (intensivists) can develop the knowledge, skills, and perspective that will make them fully competent to take charge of critical patients.

Intensivists are committed to diagnosing and treating critical or potentially critical patients in multidisciplinary teams throughout the healthcare system to ensure optimal care, although the specialized care of critical patients usually takes place in intensive care units or in other areas managed directly by critical care departments.

Intensive care units must fulfill the structural, functional, and organizational requirements to guarantee the safety, quality, and efficiency of care for critical patients. Society has come to expect more sophisticated healthcare incorporating scientific advances and biotechnological innovations, and intensive care is often at the forefront of translating benchwork to the bedside.

The organizational scheme delineated in this proclamation has proven efficacious in reducing morbidity and mortality, efficient in maintaining healthcare costs, and effective in ensuring appropriate, sustainable, ethical patient-centered care.

WORLD FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF INTENSIVE AND CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE  
FEDERACIÓN PANAMERICANA E IBÉRICA DE SOCIEDADES DE MEDICINA CRÍTICA Y TERAPIA INTENSIVA  
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE  
SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE MEDICINA INTENSIVA, CRÍTICA Y UNIDADES CORONARIAS  
SOCIÉTÉ DE RÉANIMATION DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE