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Original work by women

In this special issue featuring women researchers as first and senior authors we highlight original work by renowned women scientists from across the world. As a first of such endeavors, we included peer reviewed original research from women researchers spanning North and South America as well as the United Kingdom. The senior authors in all these manuscripts are leaders in their areas of expertise. The work done by these researchers add new knowledge and understanding to global outcomes of critically ill patients. They also display a concerted effort by these accomplished senior academics of mentoring junior women authors on their path towards clinical research. Academic success is linked in our present system to publishing high quality manuscripts in peer reviewed journals. Previous literature has shown less than 30% of academic work in critical care to be authored by women first authors. Often these opportunities are linked with having women senior authors as mentors. We therefore see this as an opportunity to improve this dismal statistic and invite senior women researchers to produce and publish peer reviewed original work from across the world, whilst mentoring women as first authors. In this special issue, Estenssoro and Reina, et al. in a cohort study from Argentina, shared findings of COVID 19 ARDS patients and comorbidities linked with increased morbidity. Murali and Hua, et al. from the United States contributed a qualitative study describing factors associated with palliative

care consults and triggers, showing a need for streamlining such triggers to prevent consult fatigue. In a retrospective analysis of patients with hematologic malignancies Prower and Metaxa, et al. from the United Kingdom showed the performance of critical care outreach teams during COVID 19 surges. Hill and Wunsch, et al. from Canada shared work exploring outcomes associated with location of rehospitalizations following critical illness. Takaoka and Cook, et al. from Canada as well, studied the level of data integrity, protocol adherence and ethical conduct of randomized controlled trials. Finally, Rao and Walshe, et al. describe in a scoping review palliative and end of life care in the Intensive care units of low and middle-income countries. These understudied areas of research within critical care medicine add a nuanced and well-rounded perspective from the Americas and UK authored by women as first and senior authors. We hope that our initiative can add a new, much-needed dimension in diversity, equity and inclusion in global critical care academia.

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