



Recovering after Critical Illness: The ICU Environment, Patient Experience, and Post ICU Outcomes

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Message from the Guest Editor

Progressive clinical research and technological innovation in intensive care have allowed more people to survive critical illness than ever before, with up to 90% of patients now surviving to discharge (Zimmerman et al. 2013). As more people survive, it has become increasingly clear that recovery post ICU is often complex and partial. Longitudinal studies have shown high rates of physical, cognitive, and psychiatric morbidity, collectively known as post-intensive care syndrome (PICS), which can affect both the patient and their loved ones (Needham et al. 2012). The personal, economic, and societal impact of PICS is immense (Griffiths et al. 2013), and the challenges posed by post-intensive care recovery are stimulating interest across disciplines internationally (Rawal et al. 2017). The aim of this Special Issue is to address recent calls for a nuanced and multidisciplinary approach to this complex problem. This requires an exploration of the physical, social, and economic environments in which patients with critical illness are being treated both in hospital, as well as following discharge.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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