Dear friends,  

March 2, 2012

I am glad to have the opportunity to introduce to you the **European Society for Computing and Technology in Anesthesiology and Intensive Care (ESCTAIC)**, a small European organization with very prolific activity and a very energetic executive committee, of which I am proud to be member. The aim of this message is to ask you to encourage your physicians to become members of ESCTAIC and to actively contribute to our scientific activities.

ESCTAIC was founded 1989 in Glasgow and has members from all over Europe, and also from USA and Japan. Most of the members are physicians working in the fields of Anesthesiology, Critical Care, and related domains, but the membership also includes engineers, scientists from other disciplines, and business people. They share a common interest in technology and use ESCTAIC as a platform for communications and information exchange. ESCTAIC itself is member of the World Society for Technology in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care.

ESCTAIC has brought together an impressive group of dedicated people who are interested in promoting the technological development of our profession.

Our aims are:

* promotion of European scientific and practical activities and ideas in the domain of computing and technology in Anesthesiology and related fields

* initiation and promotion of co-operation between European institutions working in the field of medical computing and technology

* promotion of information transfer and co-operation between individuals, scientific institutions, commercial companies, and industry

* supply of information about computing and technology in the profession’s fields

* communication with other societies working in this field of medicine

* the promotion of teaching and training of people involved in the profession

We organize annual meetings, held in various European countries and usually attended by some 150 participants.

Recently we obtained affiliation with the European Society of Anesthesiology (ESA) as a sub-specialist society. Thus, every second year we will organize a joint meeting in the framework of the annual congress of ESA and in alternate years ESCTAIC will have its separate scientific gathering. Our 2012 annual congress will take place in Timisoara, Romania, 4–6 October 2012, but our next meeting will be held in Barcelona, in 2013, at the time of the ESA annual congress.
A short glance at the following list of topics, presented and discussed during our previous 23 annual congresses, offers a real opportunity to better understand the large variety of subjects presented and discussed over the years:

- patient data management
- simulation of anesthesia and intensive care
- standardization of data sets, e.g., for quality assurance
- ergonomics
- artificial intelligence
- decision support systems
- economic benefits of technology
- man-machine interfaces
- closed loop systems
- monitoring in the OR and ICU
- development of new sensor techniques
- target controlled infusion systems
- ergonomics, professional stress, equipment friendly use

We have a longtime tradition of publishing the abstracts of all presentations at our annual congresses in the Journal for Clinical Monitoring and Computing (JCMC). A number of invited full papers are also published in special issues of the JCMC.

I kindly ask you to bring this information to your Society members' attention and to encourage them to join us at ESCTAIC.

ESCTAIC members will have access to other members’ addresses in most European countries. This would represent a unique chance to meet experts in the same fields and topics each of your members are interested from the scientific and professional points of view.

For the annual meetings of ESCTAIC members pay a significantly reduced congress fee. Members of ESCTAIC have the right to vote in the annual general assembly and can become officers on the executive committee.

In order to become an ESCTAIC member, send an e-mail to the Treasurer of ESCTAIC who will provide you with all the needed information (see the enclosed membership form).

The annual membership fee is only €30/US$50 per calendar year payable on the 1st of January of every year. Membership cards and receipts (valid for tax purposes) will be mailed during the membership year.

There are several ways to pay the membership fee:
• Bank transfer to ESCTAIC's bank account (see below).
• Payment by PayPal (www.PayPal.com) to “Treasurer@ESCTAIC.org”.
• Payment (in cash) during the Annual General Meeting for the upcoming year(s).

ESCTAIC's bank account details are as follows:

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More information about us can be found by visiting our website: http://www.ESCTAIC.org

I sincerely hope that you personally and many of your Society members will soon become members of ESCTAIC. The benefit of a large professional organization with a technological profile in our field is evident. I hope that the new members of ESCTAIC will actively contribute to the development of Anesthesiology and related fields throughout the continent and benefit from a very efficient network of connections and professional relationships.

I would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and am looking forward to seeing you at one of our future meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Gabriel M. Gurman, MD
Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel
Member, Advisory Board of the ESCTAIC Executive Committee

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