

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**16 October 2014**

**Study funded by Foundation receives international recognition**

The prestigious *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* is set to publish the findings of an important study funded by the Intensive Care Foundation and led by Professor Yahya Shehabi, Director Intensive Care Research Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW.

The study investigated antibiotic use in systemic infections and sepsis which are leading causes of mortality in critically ill patients in Australia.

Supported by an ICF Research Grant of $109,000, the study commenced in 2010 and its findings were presented at the 2013 Canadian Critical Care Forum in Toronto and the 2014 International Symposium on Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine in Brussels.

Sepsis and bacterial infections account for more than 50% of intensive care (ICU) admissions. However, the diagnosis of sepsis and related infections is clinically challenging and more than 70% of all ICU patients receive antibiotics. Procalcitonin (PCT), a substance produced in the body, can be detected in the blood of people with an infection and levels increase when an infection becomes severe. Professor Shehabi’s study evaluated the practice of using PCT levels to guide antibiotic treatment in intensive care.

‘We are proud that the Foundation funded Professor Shehabi and his team in carrying out this important study. Inappropriate use of antibiotics in intensive care can lead to significant negative effects including uncontrolled sepsis, increased length of stay, emergence of resistant organisms and overall increase in the cost of care. The findings of this study will guide antibiotic practice in sepsis in ICUs around the world,’ said Dr Gill Hood, Foundation Chair.

‘Our granting program is the largest single component of the work we do at the Foundation. Since 2000 we have made grants totalling more than $2.8 million available for Australian and New Zealand pilot studies, medical trials and world-class projects. We are really pleased at the outcomes achieved over the years.’

The funds for the research grants are achieved through a combination of public donation and corporate sponsorship.

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