

Citation on behalf of Prof Walid Habre for Honorary Membership of the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland.

Given by Dr Nicola Disma, APAGBI ASM Cardiff, 12-13 May 2022

Walid Habre was born in Lebanon and studied medicine in Grenoble, where he obtained a doctorate in 1986. He then specialized in anaesthesia and intensive care before joining the Department of Anaesthesiology at the HUG in 1989. In 1994, after a fellowship in paediatric anaesthesia in Perth (Australia), he started a PhD program which he continued on his return to Geneva in 1996, in parallel to his clinical activity and in collaboration with the University of Szeged (Hungary). He obtained his PhD in 2003. At the HUG, he directed the Paediatric Anaesthesiology Unit until 2015 before taking over the responsibility of the Anaesthesiology Investigation Unit in 2016.

With the support of the Swiss postdoctoral fellowships (SNSF), his research is focussed on bronchial hyperreactivity and anaesthesia he is developing his research in the fields of anaesthesia and bronchial hyperreactivity as well as heart-lung interaction. Privat-docent of the Faculty of Medicine of the UNIGE in 2000, he was appointed Associate Professor in 2008 and promoted to full Professor in February 2016.

Walid Habre has been involved for many years in the board of international scientific societies: FEAPA (Federation of the European Associations of Paediatric Anaesthesia), ADARPEF (Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of French-speaking Language). However, it was at ESA (European Society of Anaesthesiology) where he developed most of his activities, as Swiss representative at the Council first, Chair of the scientific subcommittee for Paediatric Anaesthesia, and Board member, Industry Liaison Officer and member of the Media, and finally the Finance and Congress committee.

Walid Habre has a unique scientific track, with more than 160 indexed publications, plus chapters and books as editor. He developed most of his research on the field of paediatric airway and ventilation, and two of his important projects were published in the Lancet journals: the first on respiratory complications in 2010, and the second on critical events in paediatric anaesthesia in 2016. The majority of his publications were the results of large collaborative trials, such as the APRICOT study, a Clinical Trial Network funded by the ESA in which over than 260 hospital collaborated to collect data on 32,000 patients. Walid exported findings of his research on improving quality of care in paediatric anaesthesia, reinforcing networking, education, training and teaching.

It is a unique honour to deliver this citation for Walid Habre, a mentor in research and a sincere friend. I met Walid in Lucerne in 2008, when a congress was organised for the retirement of Isabel Murat. Since then, we started collaborating, but we also had the pleasure to spend fabulous times on vacation together. Walid has taught me the how to “enjoy” our discipline, discussing great projects during dinner with good food and wine. As a direct result of these mentorship, Walid and I published eight articles together and we collaborated closely for the APRICOT and NECTARINE studies. Walid is a true example of life from many aspects beyond research and education: the Mediterranean spirit and the love for family and life. Walid is Lebanese and I am Sicilian, he started his career within ESA exactly where I started from, and we share similar pleasures in life, like travelling. Together with our wives, we spent great times in Geneva and Genova. It is no coincidence that our chosen home cities differ by one letter only!

Thank you, Walid, for all your commitment in paediatric anaesthesia and for your friendship. I cannot imagine the day you will retire, but I am pretty sure your intellect will continue serving the international scientific community.