



EXTRACORPOREAL LIFE SUPPORT LABORATORY

Dear John and Team ECMOCARD:

Greetings from Michigan where we watch with concern as the inevitable pandemic that is COVID-19 continues to accelerate.

We acknowledge the great work of our colleagues across China who are working so hard, while putting their own health at risk to treat their compatriots – but it is clear that this infection will continue to spread.

The World Health Organization predicts that the virus may infect as much as 60-70% of the world's population and, though current data is sparse, there are indications that significant numbers of patients will require intensive care, ventilation, and extracorporeal life support.

Our most important weapon in this crisis is data to predict and plan – on a global scale.

ELSO was created over 30 years ago to bring together likeminded people from across the world to collate data on how ECMO could be best utilized.

In this pandemic, it is essential that we imitate this success by coming together and pooling our data. Hospital-, state-, and country-specific data are important, but a global problem needs global collaboration. This is our only real chance to minimize mortality and morbidity.

I have watched with great pride the rapid growth of ECMOCARD from colleagues in the Asia Pacific region. These clinicians come together almost nightly to create a vehicle into which data can be analyzed and the world prepared. As the pandemic spreads from China to Korea to Italy, and beyond, I believe your efforts will have a huge impact.

I urge clinicians globally to work in the spirit of global collaboration with organizations such as ECMOCARD and assist your plight alongside ELSO. Congratulations on your work thus far, and be aware you have all the help that ELSO can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert H. Bartlett'.

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