Subject: Call for critical care and infectious disease specialists to assist with management of Ebola outbreak in Guinea

Dear Colleagues,

I am contacting you on behalf of our colleagues at the World Health Organization (WHO) with a urgent call regarding the recent Ebola viral haemorrhagic fever outbreak in Guinea and neighbouring Sierra Leone and Liberia. To date, there are 112 suspected cases, 70 deaths and the numbers of infected patients have been increasing over the past week.

As you know, Ebola is transmitted from animal-to-person or person-to-person through direct contact with bodily fluids or secretions, and so it is key to prevent transmission through meticulous infection prevention and control precautions. After infection, there is no specific treatment for patients outside of supportive care and fatality rates are high.

Unfortunately, Guinea has little experience with viral haemorrhagic fever and providing supportive acute and critical care to infected patients has been challenged by the lack of resources and support available.

WHO is providing a coordinating role and supplying technical and clinical support. In the coming weeks and months, a limited number of critical care and infectious diseases specialists will be needed.

For more details, please see the call for specialists here.

I urge those of you who meet these criteria, and have a desire to assist in a resource-challenged setting to consider extending your expertise to meet this imperative global call.

Thank you for your consideration,

Prof. Jean-Daniel Chiche
ESICM President