International Member Communiqué

April 2014

Welcome

The purpose of this news sheet is to provide informal communication to WADEM members on Board of Directors meetings, Officers meetings, Section updates, and other work being undertaken by groups and committees. It can also be used to request contacts and assistance with any programs or research. In simple terms, networking is a strength of our organization.

This is a trial and continuation will depend on feedback from members on the usefulness of such communication.

Please send any feedback and/or contributions to - gmccoll@wadem.org - or - alavelle@wadem.org.

Graeme McColl
WADEM, Vice President for Communities of Practice

The next issue will be in August!

President’s Message

Welcome to our new international newsletter. We hope that this communication stream will provide you with a regular summary of the activities of your organization and complement the social media sources that provide more focused information such as conference announcements or new reports, available on our website. If you have not subscribed to a social media stream please do so by following the links at - www.wadem.org. In this brief introduction, I want to mention some of the most recent activities, issues and events within WADEM.

In mid-2013, WADEM adopted a new strategic plan including the identification of key goals and the appointment of Goal Leads for each of these important areas. The Board and the Executive Committee regularly receive reports from each lead and we intend to bring you summaries of the work in progress through this newsletter. Several of these areas are presented in this edition of the newsletter. I did however want to highlight two aspects.
Improved engagement of members is essential to ensure that membership is worthwhile and provides the information and professional growth that we all expect from our membership. My assessment is that we are now engaging members better and providing more information including reports and commentary that would otherwise be difficult to access. We need help in obtaining useful content from all members for our social networking feeds. Please send suitable materials directly to Andrew Lavelle in our International Office in Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Andrew is our "Gate Keeper."

A second important priority in building the impact of WADEM within the disaster and emergency medicine world is the development of high level relationships with key partners such as our fellow members of the Global Health Cluster. In this context our ability to produce written consensus-based WADEM policy papers and responses to draft international guidelines and standards is important. To date we have relied heavily on senior members representing WADEM at working meetings with our partners. As we mature WADEM needs to be able to receive, consider, and respond in a timely way when approached by partners. To date, we are not performing this role particularly well, and the Executive will be working to develop and trial a better process for member consultation and drafting of reports in the future.

I wish you all the very best in your efforts to improve disaster and emergency medicine. Please do not hesitate to email me directly with any comments and suggestions and of course your feedback on this new newsletter!

Paul Arbon, PhD
WADEM President
paul.arbon@flinders.edu.au

Osteopathic Physicians Section

Members of the "Osteopathic Physician Section" of the WADEM will meet during the Emergency Medicine Spring meeting - [http://www.acoep.org](http://www.acoep.org) - in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA (April 2014) and during the Military Medicine meeting - [http://www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org) - in Chicago, IL, USA (May 2014). Our short and long term goals focus on the mentoring of the next generation of WADEM members. Our young medical scholars are interested in global medicine and humanitarian assistance. Progress has been slow but we are recruiting and mentoring students through the cooperation of agencies outside of our - [http://www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org) - universities. We are currently discussing the development of a "Civil-Military Cooperation Section."

W. Bograkos, MA, DO, FACOEP, FACOFP
COL, MC, FS, USA (retired)

Nursing Section

Nursing Section has established a Facebook page for member information. Everyone is welcome to join the WADEM - Nursing Group on Facebook - [https://www.facebook.com/groups/749200571786965/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/749200571786965/).

Please send any feedback to Odeda Benin-Goren - odedab@gmail.com.

The Section have also appointed a representative for each of the WHO Regions, they are:

- Africa - Wendy McKenzie
- Europe - Emmanuel Rohrbacher
- Americas - Wendy McKenzie
- South East Asia - Virginia Plummer
- Western Pacific - Jamie Ranse
Here we Grow!

We are new and blazing a path! The charter WADEM Membership Committee is putting subtasks of the 2013-2017 WADEM Operational Plan into action and building upon the results. Our goal is - “expanding and engaging the WADEM membership.”

Committee members/champions are: Peter Aitken, Lidia Mayner, Gaston Costa, Karen Hammad, Graeme McColl, Erin Downey, and Andrew Lavelle. These passionate people include WADEM general membership, the board, various section liaisons and the WADEM office.

Strategies already employed or on the horizon include membership email promotions, demographic and satisfaction surveys, visibility and web improvements (including social media), organization affiliations, WADEM section engagement, and product development. All this, with the upcoming 19th WCDEM promising to offer the absolute best experience for membership yet.

Vital Signs:

- Countries - As of February 2014, WADEM membership included 569 professionals from 55 countries around the world and we are growing.

- Professions - Physician, nurse, pharmacist, lawyer, paramedic, professor, researcher, psychologist, statistician, and veterinarian are just a few of the many professions represented by WADEM membership.

- Website hits - As of March 2014, our WADEM website had 1,333 visits. 70% were new visitors – potentially new members or those seeking additional information about WADEM. We had 1,958 “Likes” on the WADEM Facebook site. If you are on Facebook, please “Like” us.

Thank you for your suggestions and for referring a friend/colleague/organization to WADEM.

Knox Andress, RN, BA, AND, FAEN
WADEM Membership Chair
Wandr1@lsuhsc.edu

19th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine Update
21-24 April 2015 - Cape Town, South Africa

The Call for Abstracts is Now Open!

The Congress Scientific Committee is currently focused on:

- Identifying sub-themes for the Scientific Program in South Africa. It's an exciting time; we're working closely with our Local Organizing Committee partners in South Africa (EMSSA) and hope to release the sub-themes very soon so people can plan to submit abstracts and attend the Congress.

- The WADEM mentorship pilot is well underway. Our four University of Tennessee at Knoxville (USA) students are having amazing experiences and building amazing mentor relationships. Their enthusiasm is infectious and we have begun tapping into a value-add for WADEM membership: it feels good to be a mentor and it’s the right
thing to do. (Don't underestimate this - it's very powerful!) Stand by: much more to follow here.

- Once the program themes are released, we will move into the marketing, fund raising, and advertising by using our program as the substance and raison d'etre for WADEM / WCDEM. Always looking for those that may be interested in helping in this endeavor. Contact stats below if anyone reading is interested in joining this effort.

Thanks for the opportunity to weigh-in. My best to all.

Erin Downey, MPH, ScD
WADEM Vice President - Congresses
edowney@wadem.org

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**Emergency Medical Response Section**

Recent discussions and efforts of WADEM members have culminated in the development, and submission of an application to form an Emergency Medical Response Section. The primary focus of the Emergency Medical Response (EMR) Section is care provided ‘out of hospital’ encompassing pre-hospital and transport based care provided either domestically or internationally. The purpose of the EMR section will be to foster collaboration among scientists and practitioners with an interest in research, education, management and practice in pre-hospital, transport, emergency and / or disaster health care.

In accordance with the WADEM bylaws initial sponsors from the development working group will seek to establish an election for office bearers if the application is deemed successful.

Many thanks to all whom contributed to this project,

Joe Cuthbertson, MPH
joe@cuthbertson@hotmail.com

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**Research Design Consultation**

The opportunity exists for WADEM members who would like consultation on research design to avail themselves of the expertise of a diverse range of research professionals within WADEM. This can be easily accomplished by contacting via email Professor Gloria Leon, University of Minnesota, USA, WADEM Science and Research goal lead, leonx003@umn.edu. She will facilitate the connection of individuals or groups with the appropriate consultants.