International Member Communiqué

August 2014

Welcome

The international communiqué was introduced to keep members updated in an informal way of news related to WADEM Sections and Chapters, Board and Officer activities, and also to provide a forum for members to contribute ideas and information. This issue features news about 19th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine, WADEM Bylaws Revisions, a collaborative study titled “Identifying Health Deficiencies in Education and Training: A Field Operations Survey Tool,” and upcoming WADEM-Endorsed conferences and events.

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 October!

Collaborative Research Survey

WADEM has collaborated with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), the Research Center in Emergency and Disaster Medicine and Computer Science applied to Medical Practice (CRIMEDIM), and the Massachusetts General Hospital to develop a survey tool, “Identifying Health Deficiencies in Education and Training: A Field Operations Survey Tool,” to assess areas of deficiency in competency preparedness among humanitarian responders to crises and disasters.

All WADEM members are encouraged to participate in this survey and provide information needed to identify necessary competencies and, thus, appropriately direct humanitarian aid education and training. The survey is available to all members on the Member Area of WADEM website - http://wadem.org/member_area.php.

19th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine Update

21-24 April 2015 - Cape Town, South Africa

The Call for Abstracts and Registration are Now Open!
WADEM and EMSSA are calling for abstracts for the 19th World Congress for Disaster Emergency Medicine (WCDEM), 21-24 May 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa.

This year’s theme Creating Capacity, Building Resilience includes topics within the spectrum of humanitarian disaster impacts to global health systems and prehospital and crisis response. Presentation content will extend from South Africa to regional and global challenges, having applicability to all communities that are vulnerable to disaster.

Transferring knowledge to the next generation of crisis response leaders is a long-term commitment of WADEM. Training, education, and knowledge sharing are crucial components. All abstracts submissions are encouraged to consider the transferability of their work to attendees of differing geographic contexts of humanitarian response.

Confirmed Congress Keynote Speakers

**J/P Haitian Relief Organization (Haiti)**

J/P Haitian Relief Organization, a non-profit organization founded by the American actor Sean Penn in response to the 12 January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, has confirmed that a senior representative will give a keynote address at the Congress. J/P HRO's mission is simple: to save lives and build sustainable programs with the Haitian people quickly and effectively. J/P HRO supports residents in the marginalized, high-density Port-au-Prince neighborhood of Delmas 32 and the surrounding areas affected by the earthquake transition to resilient, sustainable, and prosperous communities. Current J/P HRO partners include: UNDP, UNHCR, World Bank, International Labour Organization, and local Haitian organizations, making extraordinary commitments to Haitian recovery and resilience.

For more about J/P Haitian Relief Organization, please visit - [http://jphro.org](http://jphro.org).

**Dr. Ilya Kovar (United Kingdom)**

Dr. Kovar trained in Australia, United States (NIH-Fellow), Canada, and United Kingdom. He is a semi-retired senior London-based Consultant Paediatrician and Neonatologist. He is a retired Lt Colonel RAMC (V) with 20 years of service. Additionally, Dr. Kovar is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in Perinatal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College, London. During the course of his career Dr. Kovar has been published widely. He has been an invited advisor to NHS, UK government departments (DOH, FCO, MOD), the United Nations (Bosnia), and international governments (DOH in China; parliamentary committee NSW, Australia).

He has advised on strategic health service configuration, hospital development, change-management, UK Major Incident planning, and the operational policy and training of military on the needs of women and children caught in war and conflict. Dr. Kovar has been a Visiting Consultant to the British Military Hospital in Hong Kong and Gibraltar and a Visiting Professor in Serbia and Montenegro, Sudan, and Libya. He has a medical-legal practice with experience in United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada, Australia, and Hong Kong.

His interest is in post-conflict reconstruction and the practical realities of care and mitigation of conflict on women and children, both individual and group.
Professor Mooli Lahad, PhD (Israel)

Professor Mooli Lahad has two PhDs, one in Psychology and the other in Human and Life Science. Prof. Lahad is a Senior Medical and Education Psychologist and a Professor of Psychology and Dramatherapy at Tel Hai College in the Upper Galilee in Israel and formerly at Roehampton University in England. He is the founder and president of the Community Stress Prevention Centre (CSPC), a non-governmental organization he established 35 years ago. The centre has over 40 professional staff and has given over 750,000 hours of training and over 75,000 hours of treatment to patients since its inception.

Professor Lahad is considered one of the world's leading experts on community and public behavior and coping with disasters. He served as a consultant to the Israeli National Security Council and to the Ministries of Health, Education, Welfare, Housing, Interior Security, and Defense, IDF, and the Home Front. Abroad, he served as a consultant to UNICEF during and after the Yugoslav War and the Turkish government after the 1999 earthquake. He was a member of the NATO Committee on Psychosocial Preparedness to Disasters.

Professor Lahad has authored or co-authored 33 books and many articles on the topics of communities under stress, community recovery and rehabilitation following disasters, coping with life-threatening situations, resiliency, and the integration of the art therapies in post-disaster treatment.

Professor Lahad is the recipient of three professional prizes: The Israeli Psychology Association - Bonner Prize for Outstanding Contributions to Education in Israel, The Adler Institute for the Welfare of the Child Prize - Tel Aviv University, and the Israeli Lottery Prize for Innovations in Medicine for developing telepsychology services.

For more about the Community Stress Prevention Centre (CSPC), please visit - http://www.eng.icspc.org/About.html.

For further information about the Congress, please visit - www.wcdem2015.org.

WADEM Bylaws Revision

The WADEM Board of Directors has been working diligently on reviewing and updating the organization’s Bylaws. The revised Bylaws will be sent to all current WADEM members for review and approval before being adopted. Please provide the time needed to carefully review them upon receipt.

WADEM-Endorsed Meetings

Below is a list of upcoming conferences in which WADEM is an endorsing partner.

The 12th Asia Pacific Conference on Disaster Medicine
12th Asia Pacific Conference on Disaster Medicine (12th APCDM)

17-19 September 2014
Tokyo, Japan

The purposes of the 12th APCDM include a wide array of activities that range from the handling of a large number of sick and injured people in times of disaster to the establishment of interdisciplinary "disaster medicine" as an area of medical science, to further responses to disasters including medical services and international humanitarian assistance, to address both natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and flood and human-caused disasters such as conflict, terrorism, and radiological disasters, and to further still the evaluation thereof.

Visit the 12th APCDM Website

3rd GRF One Health Summit 2014

5-8 October 2014
Geneva, Switzerland

The 3rd GRF One Health Summit will further develop and strengthen the One Health paradigm and its global movement. In particular, this 3rd global gathering will focus on the added value of a global One Health approach and a stronger involvement of the private sector and policy.

Visit the 3rd GRF One Health Summit 2014 Website

PEOPLE in DISASTER RESPONSE RECOVERY RESILIENCE: 24-26 FEBRUARY 2016
People in Disasters: Response, Recovery, Resilience

24-26 February 2016
Christchurch, New Zealand

This conference is scheduled to coincide with the five year anniversary of the traumatic events of 2010 - 2011 which occurred across the Asia-Pacific region. These included earthquake and tsunami events affecting New Zealand, Pacific nations, and Japan, bush fires in Australia, and floods in Thailand, China, Indonesia and Australia. Typhoons affected the Philippines and other adverse weather effects such as hurricanes, cyclones and super storms have been felt within the Pacific Rim and more widely.

Visit the People in Disasters Website