International Member Communiqué  
June 2014

Welcome

This communiqué was introduced to keep members updated in an informal way of news related to WADEM Sections and Chapters, Board and Officer activity, and also to provide a forum for members to contribute ideas and information. It has been great to learn that following the first communiqué in April, there has been follow up and an approach was made to Gloria Leon regarding a research project that required some assistance.

A feature of this issue is a report from those involved in the trial student mentorship program, an initiative launched by the WADEM VP for Congresses, Erin Downey. The glowing report highlights one of the great benefits of WADEM, the sharing of knowledge and expertise. The sharing of experience and expertise through mentoring is positive development for the future of WADEM.

All the above is about contributing to the future of WADEM, both in giving and receiving. WADEM is far more than listing “Member of WADEM” on a CV to look good. Our organization is only as strong as the contributions our members make. Contributing either in a giving or receiving role maintains the value and adds to the vitality of WADEM. My role as VP for Communities of Practice has developed into linking our members and even other organizations together to share and develop knowledge. That has given me great satisfaction. Should we all be seeking such satisfaction from our contributions to WADEM?

Please send any feedback and/or contributions to - gmcoll@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

WADEM is working hard to improve the experience of members making your continued membership more valuable and impactful. If you have visited our website in recent months you will have seen significant changes to the information
available, especially through our social media feeds. Please consider joining one of these information streams. We provide updates from key partners in the fields of disaster and humanitarian relief, links to news and new reports, and guidance that I am sure you will find useful. The goal is to ensure that, in this information rich world, you can access relevant information easily. If you would like to contribute to the information flow please email your items to - alavelle@wadem.org.

This edition of the WADEM communiqué also provides an opportunity to remind members that we are now less than 12 months from the next World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WCDEM). The 19th WCDEM in Cape Town next April promises to be our best yet, focusing on the most recent developments in the science of disaster and emergency health. Please consider submitting an abstract, and of course let your colleagues know about the opportunity to participate.

Paul Arbon, PhD
WADEM President
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Osteopathic Physicians Section

Tony Dekker, DO, Greg Lande, DO, and Bill Bograkos, DO met with Ms. Christina Teichert, the founder of "Homemind.dk" from 21-23 May 2014.

The Danish "Homemind" welcomed their Soldiers & Marines back from deployment. The American "Battlemind" prepares Soldiers for deployment. "Lessons learned" and "best practices" were shared between the NATO colleagues.

The following article below should be of interest to Nursing & Psychosocial Sections.


Our Osteopathic Physician Section remains interested in supporting the development of the EMS & Civil-Military Cooperation Sections. Excellence in EMS is followed by a surge of survivors and our nations should address the rehabilitation of their citizens.

The Osteopathic Physician Section continues to explore opportunities in international medicine for students. Many thanks to - www.cdham.org - for their support and to our osteopathic - www.amops.org - medical students.

Nursing Section

Facebook
We have set up a Nursing Section Facebook Group page - https://www.facebook.com/groups/749200571786965/.

We wish to use this webpage to let you know what is happening in the world of Disaster Nursing. However, it will be up to all members to contribute to this page and to let us know what is happening in your part of the world. Please send links, conference information, or anything you wish to share with the group to Odeda Benin-Goren - odedab@gmail.com - or Karen Hammad - karen.hammad@flinders.edu.au.

19th WCDEM - Cape Town, 21-24 April 2015
As you all know the World Congress will be held in Cape Town in April next year. For this conference the Nursing Section will meet as always, and we are in negotiations to host a nursing workshop if possible. We also have interest from the
Emergency Nurses Society of South Africa to come to the conference or join us in a workshop, so watch this space, and we will update you on what we are planning.

Newsletter
The nursing section newsletter is available to those interested, contact - Alison.hutton@flinders.edu.au - to be placed on the email distribution list.

Membership Committee

Here we Grow!

Have you visited our improved WADEM website? The Membership Committee has been working with Andrew Lavelle, WADEM’s Executive Officer to improve membership experiences and connection with events. Improvements include the addition of “International News and Reports” via RSS (Rich Site Summary) data feeds from multiple disaster-related sources. These reports intermittently scroll and pause to provide a more dynamic and informative website for WADEM members. More improvements are to come.

Other updates
The WADEM Membership Committee participated in a quarterly WebEx call 1 May. Topics included our coordination with the WADEM Operational Framework, current membership status, ongoing promotional activities including a WADEM flyer development, development of a standardized Power Point slide overview, and introductory promotional offers for potential new members. Also provided were updates on discussions with the International Federation of Medical School Associations, WADEM website development, membership data analysis, Nursing Section membership activities, 19th WCDEM membership activities, and conference visit coordination.

On 26 April, WADEM and the upcoming 19th WCDEM were presented to nursing faculty and students at the Research Symposium, of Southern University, College of Nursing, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA.

Vital Signs

- Membership - We continue to grow. As of May 2014, WADEM membership included 578 members from 55 countries.
- “E” Report - For April 2014, our WADEM website had 1,339 website visits. Approximately 65% were new user visits. We have 105 followers on Twitter, 2040 total “likes” on Facebook, and 1711 members in the WADEM LinkedIn Discussion group.

Please visit our website - www.wadem.org - and share the value of WADEM membership with your colleagues.

Knox Andress, RN, BA, AND, FAEN
WADEM Membership Chair
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19th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine Update
21-24 April 2015 - Cape Town, South Africa

The Call for Abstracts is 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 pre-hospital 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.

For further information please visit - [www.wcdem2015.org](http://www.wcdem2015.org).

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### Emergency Medical Response Section

The Emergency Medical Response Section application was approved by the WADEM Board of Directors in May.

We look forward to holding our first meeting at 19th WCDEM in Cape Town. In the lead up to this, a communication will be circulated to members of the new section regarding formal adoption, information of upcoming activities including election of office bearers, nomination of representatives in each of the WHO regions, and section meeting at 19th WCDEM.

Joe Cuthbertson, MPH
joecuthbertson@hotmail.com

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### Mass Gathering Section

**Getting International Consensus on a Minimum Data Set for Mass Gathering Health (MGH)**

A group of researchers from Australia, Canada, and United Kingdom is about to get the ball rolling on an international consensus process to develop a conceptual framework with a recommended MGH minimum data set (MDS). The proposed MDS will be suitable for collecting MGH data across the broad spectrum of mass gathering events. The project is part of work by the *WHO Collaborating Centre for Mass Gatherings and High Consequence/ High Visibility Events* at Flinders University, South Australia.

It addresses the need for international agreement on key MGH concepts and data variables to aid in creating a robust MGH evidence-base for governments, researchers, clinicians, and event planners. The international consensus process will entail the roll-out of at least three web-based surveys, with the first due to be online by the end of June. This first round is aimed at establishing consensus around key definitions and concepts that underpin MGH data collection, as well as a proposed data matrix for organizing MGH data variables. The second and third rounds will take in-depth looks at the content within the data matrix.

The team who have worked on this thus far includes: (Australia) Paul Arbon, Alison Hutton, Jamie Ranse, Malinda Steenkamp and Olga Anikeeva; (Canada) Ron Bowles, Adam Lund, Sheila Turris; and (United Kingdom) Mark Salter and Katherine Arbuthnott. Please contact Malinda Steenkamp - [malinda.steenkamp@flinders.edu.au](mailto:malinda.steenkamp@flinders.edu.au) - if you have any questions about the consensus process or would like more information.

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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. Professor Leon is the WADEM Science and Research Goal Lead and can be contacted at - leonx003@umn.edu. She will facilitate the connection of individuals or groups with the appropriate consultants.

Gloria reports that she had an approach for research assistance following the April WADEM International Communique and was able to use the WADEM “Network” to obtain assistance.

Student Mentoring Program

WADEM Pilot Mentorship Program Has a Successful Launch

During Spring 2014, WADEM made its inaugural effort to mentor young professionals who are aiming to become future leaders in the field of disaster and emergency medicine. Erin Downey, MPH, ScD, WADEM VP for Congresses, shepherded the partnership with the Global Disaster Nursing graduate program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (USA), and issued a call for mentors. Dr. Judith Fisher from Carnival Cruise Lines, Matthew Brearley of the National Critical Care & Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC) in Australia, Nicholas Coatsworth, Director of the NCCTRC in Australia, and Laurie Mazurik from the CBRNE Collaborative for Health Care in Canada, used the mentoring opportunity to advance projects in their areas of interest. Students in turn committed to give a minimum of 125 hours to the mentorship, working on projects in clinical research, publication, and practice.

In reflecting on their mentorship experiences, University of Tennessee students highlighted the significant aspects of their interaction with WADEM mentors:

Deborah Beaver commented, “Before we were paired with our mentors, I worried about whether or not I had the skills necessary to participate in the project. As it turned out, as a result of the research I did and the mentoring I received, I learned what I needed to know in order to produce the desired product. That’s the beauty of mentorship.”

Jacqueline Schrubb noted, “As a result of this project, I feel as though I can confidently and quickly develop rapport with new colleagues who live at a far distance. This is a benefit that will help me work with others on short notice in the future.”

Emily Stewart, who travelled to Canada for a simulation exercise observed, “This mentorship project has been a major highlight of my graduate school experience.”

Finally, Stasia Ruskie, doctoral candidate, summed it best: “By participating in this WADEM mentorship pilot program, I gained an international colleague, and a greater awareness of the contributions of disaster preparedness centers in other nations. I felt that my education was validated and valuable because a researcher at a major international disaster center wanted to work with me, and I participated on a project that held mutual interest, but which also helped him in his work. This mentorship was not just a requirement for a class. It was a launching point into international disaster community.”

WADEM-Endorsed Meetings

Below is a list of upcoming conferences in which WADEM is an endorsing partner.
IDRC Davos 2014 attempts to find solutions to today’s challenges by managing risks, reducing disasters and adapting to climate change. Focussing on a multi-sectors, multi-stakeholders and multi-disciplines approach IDRC helps to build stronger ties with adequate public-private partnership models among risk management communities and sectors, enabling a move towards a truly integrative way of thinking about disasters and risks. The outcomes will be presented at the UN World Conference WCDRR in Sendai, Japan in March 2015 and aim to influence the post 2015 agenda such as the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the successor of the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol.

Visit the 5th IDRC Website

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 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