Welcome

Is WADEM a living and developing organization?

This is a question that we should be asking ourselves, as well as what are we doing as an individual or group to keep WADEM active and developing. There are many opportunities within the organization for those who want to participate rather than sit back and be content with listing “member of WADEM” on their CV.

Key existing opportunities in WADEM include:

- Joining and contributing to the various WADEM sections.
- Becoming a mentor to new student members. Share your knowledge and experience!
- Requesting advice from experienced members. Be a member on the receiving end of the mentorship program.
- Establishing a chapter in your region or contributing to same.
- Encouraging others to join the WADEM.
- Contributing to this communiqué.

Make a New Year resolution on any of the above and be part of the exciting future of WADEM.

Graeme McColl

WADEM Vice President - Communities of Practice

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

Osteopathic Physician Section

A meeting is planned between Jerry Overton, WADEM’s CFO and Chair of the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch, and the Osteopathic Physician Section in Seattle (USA). Jerry attended the American College of Osteopathic
Family Physicians Public Health Committee meeting on 26 October 2014. Additionally, he has been invited to speak at the University of New England - College of Osteopathic Medicine in January 2015, and will meet with our Global Health Club on the Biddeford Campus (Maine, USA).

Nursing Section

Engaging with Membership - Survey Results
In June, the Nursing Section conducted a survey of its members. The results indicate that 26% of Nursing Section members do not attend the Congresses for various reasons; however, the principal reason cited was that it is too expensive. Nursing Section members also highlighted that they joined the section for networking purposes. The journal was not cited as a motivating factor among this group. With regard to forms of communication, webinars and newsletters via email were the most favorable medium in corresponding with members. Thank you to all members who participated in the survey.

Potential Webinars
Discussion was had around filming ourselves when conducting presentations at the 19th WCDEM. We should conduct a 1min synopsis of the presenters and put this up on the WADEM YouTube Channel to promote research activities, etc. Suggestions were made for Jamie Ranse to pilot this aspect by filming his presentation on his research at the next Emergency Conference in Perth, Australia, post it on YouTube, and evaluate the response. Odeda Benin-Goren was also asked to do the same regarding her presentation in Japan.

Jamie Ranse discussed that WADEM Nursing Section at the next Congress should conduct one minute short snapshot videos from those presenting abstracts on i.e. nursing research and ask three broad questions –

- What is your research?
- What are your key findings?
- How does this related to disaster nursing?

Nominations for the Nursing Section Executive Committee
Nursing Section members can nominate to be a member of the Nursing Section Executive Committee. If you are interested in nominating yourself, please email an Expression of Interest to - alison.hutton@flinders.edu.au - before the end of November. Once these are received, a notice will be sent out to those who have registered their interest to submit a brief biographical sketch and digital photo.

ICN Nursing Competencies
The review of how the ICN Disaster Nursing Competencies are used around the world has commenced. Please note this is not a revision of the competencies but rather a scoping exercise to see how and where the competencies are being used. Expectations are that this may lead to the revision of the competencies and to demonstrate that this is relevant to the organisation on the international stage. This work will be presented in Seoul, South Korea in June 2015 by Allison Hutton. To move this project along, we are seeking names of disaster emergency organizations worldwide, the contact person, and their email address.

Facebook Page
We have set up a WADEM Nursing Section Facebook page. Our original Facebook group will be redirected to this page. The aim of this page is to enhance networking among nursing members worldwide and to keep you up-to-date with the activities that WADEM and the Nursing Section, in
particular, are engaged in. If you would like to add anything to our Facebook page, please use the message function on Facebook to contact the administrators.

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Jamie Ranse suggested that Facebook should be open to members and non-members of WADEM and that the content should be on past and future events with linkages encouraging people to join WADEM, and that the emailed newsletter only distributed to current members of WADEM Nursing section. It was stated that Facebook often provides too much information overload and that newsletters directly emailed to members was more of a professional correspondence technique.

19th WCDEM in Cape Town
A Nursing Section business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 22 April at 08:00 (room to be determined). This time has been set so that we can meet before the first keynote address of the day. We look forward to meeting many of you there. Alison Hutton has asked the Torrens Resilience Institute/Flinders University to sponsor the meeting breakfast.

Submitted nursing abstracts are to be reviewed by Executive Nursing Section of WADEM. Executive committee members are able to submit their own abstracts just reviewed by other members of the committee.

Nursing Section Newsletter
The Nursing Section newsletter is available to those interested, contact alison.hutton@flinders.edu.au to be placed on the distribution list.

Membership Committee

Here We Grow

New WADEM Membership Resources
How do you share WADEM’s opportunities with potential new members at a meeting or conference? Two new products to assist you include a single-page, multi-color “flyer” and a tri-fold, color brochure both highlighting the benefits and opportunities of WADEM membership.

The single-page flyer is great for posting in a high-visibility, high-traffic location, bulletin board or other announcement center. The flyer can also be used as a meeting handout. The trifold brochure will best be used in a conference setting. Both the flyer and brochure will be made available for download on the WADEM website in a developing WADEM “Membership Kit.” The promotional materials are available on the Member Area of the website. Additionally, Andrew Lavelle can also assist with your needs at alavelle@wadem.org.

International Federation of Medical Student Associations
Students are our future! Liaisons of the International Federation of Medical School Associations (IFMSA) and WADEM participated in conference calls August 14th and Sept 24th, and reviewed a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) between WADEM and the IFMSA. The final MOU will facilitate a potential WADEM membership relationship for IFMSA-affiliated medical school students. The IFMSA currently maintains 108 national member organizations representing 1.2 million students in over 100 countries.
WADEM Welcomes Members from the Chinese Society of Disaster Medicine

We heartily welcome the 27 new WADEM members from the Chinese Society of Disaster Medicine (CSDM) who joined last month. Chinese Society of Disaster Medicine, established in 2011, is a chapter of Chinese Medical Association. CSDM provides support for emergency and disaster management, aims to improve the level of disaster medical rescue in China and the broader Asia-Pacific region, to protect people's health and safety, maintaining social harmony and stability.

Outreach
To assist WADEM membership responding to Ebola in West Africa, and following the intent of WADEM as a “multidisciplinary professional association whose mission is the global improvement of prehospital and emergency health care, public health, and disaster health and preparedness,” a resource link from the National Library of Medicine’s Emergency Access Initiative for Ebola responders was shared including free online access to over 4,000 reference books, 450 journals, and multiple databases. Resources were shared with West African WADEM members, later “tweeted” and posted on the WADEM website for all.

Please visit our website - [www.wadem.org](http://www.wadem.org) - and share the value of WADEM membership with your colleagues.

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

19th WCDEM Program - Fast Facts:

- People from over 20 countries have submitted abstracts for the 19th WCDEM.
- Disaster Risk Management, as a new topic, has been added to reflect regional interests and align with the UNISDR initiatives (complete list of abstract submission topics is listed: [www.wadem.org](http://www.wadem.org))
- WCDEM Workshops will be finalized in the next 30 days
- Continuing education credits plan to be offered

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

Mass Gathering Section

The Flinders University WHO Collaborating Centre for Mass Gatherings and High Consequence/High Visibility Events works directly within a small network of WHO Centres focussed on the public health and emergency medicine aspects of mass gatherings and other issues in health security.

Currently the Flinders Centre is leading the urgent development of guidance for the conduct of mass gathering events with a particular focus on providing advice to those countries in Africa where sporting and other events are scheduled
and there may be concern about the transmission of the disease. For more information, please contact Dr Olga Anikeeva: olga.anikeva@flinders.edu.au.

**Emergency Medical Response Section**

Work is progressing on developing an Emergency Medical Response webpage on the WADEM website. The section intends to have draft TORs for Section Officers by the end of 2015. Additionally, the Section is exploring collaborative opportunities with the Osteopathic Physician Section and UNODC.

For more information, please contact: jocuthbertson@hotmail.com.

**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.

Gloria recently made use of WADEM connections herself to gain information to present to a WADEM endorsed health conference in Greece.

**12th Asia Pacific Conference on Disaster and Emergency Medicine**

The 12th Asia-Pacific Conference on Disaster and Emergency Medicine was convened in Tokyo, Japan on 17-19 September 2014. A two-day Workshop on Disaster Research using the Frameworks was provided by Professor Marvin Birnbaum and Elaine Daily on 20-21 September at Nippon University.

A special lecture, *The Development of Professionalization among Humanitarian Healthcare Providers* authored by Dr. Skip Burkle, was presented by Professor Frank Archer. Professor Archer and Diana Wong presented a keynote address titled, *Disaster Metrics: Advancing Disaster Evaluation Methodologies - the Next Great Challenge for Disaster Health*. Dr. Birnbaum also presented a keynote address titled, *Research and Evaluations of the Health Aspects of Disasters: An Overview*.

Other special lectures were provided by WADEM members Bill Gunn (Past President), Yashiro Yamamoto, and Norifumi Ninomiya. The 13th APCDM will be convened in Thailand in 2016.

**Student Mentoring Program**

For those interested, a WADEM Mentorship Project includes about 125 hours, students remain in their home country, and there is no stipend. The basic requirements for a Mentor/Mentor organization is to identify a project, realistically designed for the hour requirements, and identify a single point of contact for the student to communicate with throughout their project (via email, Skype, etc. as convenient/realistic to the mentor/mentee).

Students have been advised to be self-starters, take initiative, and be responsible for the reporting necessary to fulfil their academic requirements (single page summaries of the requirements and the first pilot are available from Erin). Students are currently out of the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) Disaster Nursing Program, but the vision is to
expand into non-US-based universities. Participating organizations will be highlighted at the World Congress for Disaster Emergency Medicine.

WADEM Mentorship Contact: Erin Downey - VP Congresses, edowney@wadem.org.

**Note:** I have just joined this programme as a mentor and am working with a student interested in preparedness and planning for major incidents in rural communities. I consider programs such as mentoring to be the future of WADEM as we share knowledge and experiences with others. I too will be learning from this. *Graeme McColl*

### WADEM-Endorsed Meetings

**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](#)