



WADEM

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Insight - Newsletter of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine

December 2009

WELCOME FROM THE WADEM PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues,

One of the most important functions of any association is to bring its members closer together both scientifically, as well as socially. This is better described today with a single word: “networking!” We are hoping that *Insight* is just one tool towards achieving this goal of networking within the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. It is true that *Insight* has not been in electronic circulation for several months now. However, during this period we had our 16th

World Congress for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WCDEM) in Victoria, BC, Canada, which I hope you will agree is our main networking tool! You will find information regarding the 16th WCDEM in this issue of *Insight*, so those of you who could not attend can get a feel for our successful Congress.

It was mentioned numerous times during the 16th WCDEM, but I really need to repeat it here –the 16th WCDEM in Victoria was made possible mainly because of the relentless efforts



WADEM President,
Demetrios Pyrros

of Dr. Marvin Birnbaum and Dr. Judith Fisher. This is not to diminish the work of many others, but rather to emphasize the burden that those two carried until the closing ceremony was over! During the Congress the most important functions of our association in terms of governance took place, namely our Board of

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IPRED CONFERENCE 11-14 JANUARY 2010—ISRAEL

WADEM is co-sponsoring the upcoming [International Preparedness and Response to Emergencies and Disasters](#) (IPRED) conference in Tel Aviv, Israel from 11-14 January 2010. The goal of the IPRED conference is to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas, experi-

ences, and lessons learned about preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters. The conference will include workshops, presentations, round-table discussions and hands-on experiences based on advanced training tools. The keynote speakers include Dr.

Mohammed Al-Hadid, President of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society; Arjun Katoch, Chief of the Field Coordination Support Section of the OCHA Emergency Services Branch; and Dr. Kristi Koenig, Director of Public Health Preparedness at UC-Irvine.

CHECK OUT WADEM ON FACEBOOK!

In late August, WADEM set up a Facebook page. In its brief existence, the site already has more than 250 fans. The goal is to make the WADEM Facebook page a social networking tool for the disaster and emergency health community worldwide.



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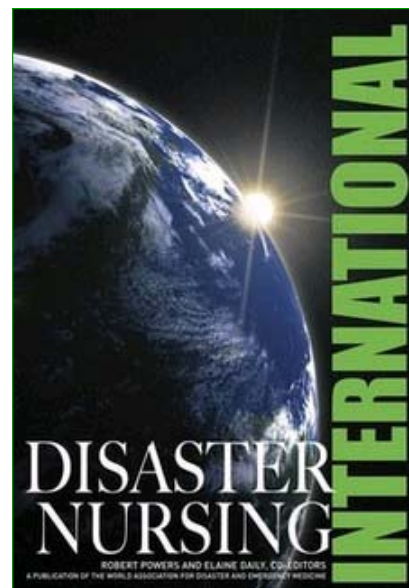
INTERNATIONAL DISASTER NURSING TEXTBOOK TO BE RELEASED IN APRIL 2010

The effects of a disaster on health care can range from conditions that immediately besiege the system with large numbers of patients, to catastrophes that strain its long-term sustainability. Nurses as frontline health professionals, must have an understanding of the situations they may face before, during and after a disaster and they must develop the skills and strategies to provide effective and immediate care. *International Disaster Nursing* is the first truly comprehensive and internationally focused resource to address the diversity of issues and myriad scenarios that nurses and other health personnel, could encounter during a disaster event.

This text defines the many roles of the nurse within a multidisci-

plinary team, and aids the implementation of the community's disaster plans in a crisis. International experts provide chapters on biological, chemical, natural, pandemic and explosive disasters. Others address disaster events and implications in the world's poorer countries; populations with special needs; ethical issues; and conducting disaster research. Important features include chapter objectives, real-world vignettes, and extensive references. With an alarming increase in the occurrence of disasters in the last decade, *International Disaster Nursing* is the hallmark text in the field.

International Disaster Nursing is co-edited by WADEM members, Elaine Daily and Robert Powers, with contributions from many members of the WADEM



International Nursing Section. The book is being published by [Cambridge University Press](#). It is currently in the production stages and is scheduled to be released in April 2010.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

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Directors meeting and our General Assembly. You will find some photos from the Congress on Page 3. But our quest for networking has just begun. The new Executive Committee and the new Board of Directors are already working hard. The planning for the 17th WCDEM in Beijing, China and it is promising to be a great Congress.

Please visit regularly our website at www.wadem.org as the site is constantly being updated and improved! Also, if you are

into the recent frenzy of “social networking” try to locate our WADEM pages on Facebook or at Linked-In, and make sure you let your friends know about them! Any network that wants to thrive should actively be on the lookout for possible new members, so I urge you to discuss WADEM with your colleagues at work and suggest to the ones that you see fit to join us!

As Dr. Judith Fischer, our dear Vice-President for Congresses, proclaimed in one of her latest communiqués regarding the next congress in Beijing, China:

“Onwards and Upwards!”

Season's greetings and all the best!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Demetrios G. Pyrros'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Demetrios G. Pyrros,
MD, EMDM

President, World Association for
Disaster and Emergency Medicine

16TH WORLD CONGRESS ON DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE

WADDEM would like to thank the nearly 600 delegates who participated in the 16th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine in Victoria,



Nan Buzard receiving the WADDEM Award for Global Leadership in Emergency Public Health from Dr. Marvin Birnbaum

British Columbia, Canada from 12-15 May 2009. Delegates from over 60 countries, representing a board cross section of medical professionals dedicated to improving disaster and emergency health, participated in the 16th WCDEM.

The Congress covered a broad range of themes within disaster



Dr. Debarati Guha-Sapir receiving the Safar Award from Dr. Judith Fisher

and emergency health such as mass gatherings, pandemics, climate change and public health, civilian-military coordination, migrating and displaced populations, children and disasters, and psychosocial aspects of disasters.

In addition to scientific program, the 16th WCDEM featured several social and entertainment events including an Opening Ceremony with a Native American hoop dance performance, a Welcome Reception hosted inside of the Royal British Columbia Museum, and a Gala Dinner

at the historic Fairmont Empress Hotel. Congress delegates were treated to un-

seasonably warm and sunny weather in Victoria allowing many to take ad-



Cheers from the Welcome Reception at Royal BC Museum

vantage of Victoria's numerous tourist attractions. **Thank you to everyone who participated!**

We hope to see you in Beijing, China in June 2011!

GUIDELINES WORKSHOP 5-6 MARCH 2010—WASHINGTON DC

After upcoming the [4th Annual Emergency Management Summit](#) in Washington DC from 5-6 March 2010, WADDEM Vice President, Dr. Marvin Birnbaum, and WADDEM Board Member, Elaine Daily, will conduct a post-conference workshop on "Health Disaster Management: Guidelines for Evaluation."

This workshop will introduce participants to the theory and

applications of the conceptual, operational, and evaluation-research frameworks for use in the study of disaster preparedness and responses. The conceptual framework stresses the use of the most appropriate terminology of hazards, risks, damage, disaster, function, absorbing, buffering, and response capacities. The operational framework describes the longitudinal and transactional components of

disasters and their use in assessing disasters and the progress made towards recovery. The evaluation-research framework outlines the phases to be used for the evaluation and study of disasters. When combined, these frameworks provide the terminology and structure to be used for evaluations and research of all aspects of disasters.

WADDEM members will receive a registration discount.

WADEM & PDM ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Prehospital and Disaster Medicine website

In November a new website for *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* was launched. While the design and functionality of the website has changed, the web address remains the same: <http://pdm.medicine.wisc.edu>. The new website is intended to be easier to navigate and includes a Google Custom Search Engine feature for easy searching of the articles available on the PDM website.

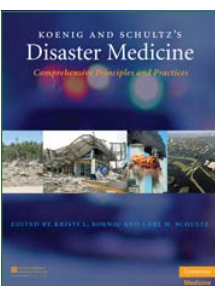
PREHOSPITAL AND DISASTER MEDICINE

ICS set to be WADEM Core PCO

WADEM is in final negotiations to contract [International Conference Services](#) (ICS) of Vancouver, Canada to work as the organization's Core PCO (Professional Congress Organizer) for the upcoming 17th WCDEM in Beijing and beyond. ICS worked as the Local PCO for the 16th WCDEM in Victoria and greatly contributed to success of the Congress. ICS has tremendous experience managing medical and scientific conferences worldwide.



International Conference Services Ltd.



Koenig and Schultz's Disaster Medicine Textbook Released

WADEM members, Kristi Koenig and Carl Schultz, co-edited the recently released *Koenig and Schultz's Disaster Medicine: Comprehensive Principles and Practices*, published by [Cambridge University Press](#). The book is a coherent and comprehensive collection of scientific observations and evidence-based recommendations from expert contributors worldwide. It identifies essential subject matter, clarifies nomenclature, and outlines necessary areas of proficiency for healthcare professionals handling mass casualty crises. The book was released on 30 September 2009.

WADEM PAYPAL WEBPAGE

WADEM recently established a PayPal webpage for payment of annual membership dues, donations, and subscriptions to *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*. PayPal is the leader in online

payments with over 193 million accounts worldwide. Your transactions are quick and secure with PayPal. Please be advised that you DO NOT need a PayPal account in order to remit pay-

ment. You are able to simply enter your credit card information and remit payment without establishing a PayPal account.



ROME MASS GATHERING MEETING - OCTOBER 2009

The World Health Organization Interdisciplinary Group on Mass Gatherings and Pandemics met in Rome in October 2009. The meeting discussed strategies to address the growing concern in many countries about the public health risks associated with holding large major events such as the Olympic Games and World Cup football.

WADEM was represented by its President-Elect, Professor Paul Arbon who presented on the current state of the science of mass gatherings. Additionally, Prof. Arbon presented members of the group with a draft of *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine's* "Compendium on Mass Gathering Medicine."

Prehospital and Disaster Medicine has published more papers on mass gatherings than any other journal. The compendium will contain the vast majority of those papers and will likely be an electronic publication available on the PDM website. The compendium is planned to be finished in early 2010.