



# INSIGHT

Newsletter of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine

September 2011

## WELCOME FROM THE WADEM PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues:

My sincere thanks to President Demetrios Pyrros and the Officers of WADEM who have provided such strong leadership over the past two years. They have presided over a period of significant achievement under Demetri's presidency.

Principal among these are the establishment of a contract with Cambridge University Press for publication of the journal and the rapid development of the WADEM as an active member of the Global Health Cluster. We expect that the publication contract will result in increased circulation of the journal, lead to increased interest in membership and substantially improve

the impact factor of the journal. This will lead to an increase in high quality papers submitted to the journal and in the reputation of the journal within academic institutions.

Other notable developments have included the signing of a contract with International Conference Services to manage and administer the WCDEMs, the establishment of a well presented web presence with increased functionality for members and others using the site, and the significant steps forward in understanding and managing the finances of the Association.

These developments provide the basis for future growth in the capability, capacity, and impact of the



WADEM. Over the next two-year period, we expect to be focussed on improving the governance and resources of the Association, building key relationships, developing a process for standard setting, and continuing to grow our support for research, evaluation, and publications.

Regards,

Paul Arbon, AM, PhD  
WADEM President

## UPCOMING WADEM SPONSORED MEETINGS

IPRED II - International Preparedness & Response to International Disaster & Emergencies

15-19 January 2012  
Tel Aviv, Israel  
<http://www.ipred.co.il/>

APCEDM XI - Asia-Pacific Conference on Emergency and Disaster Medicine

26-29-September 2012  
Bali, Indonesia  
<http://11apcedm-bali.com/apcedm/>

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

17th WCDEM Recap	2
18th & 19th WCDEMs	2
New PDM Editor-in-Chief	3
Humanitarian Task Force	3
Call for Members	3
2011-13 WADEM Board & Officers List	4
WADEM Member Area	4

## WADEM BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION (2011-13)

In early July, WADEM conducted the first ever online election of its Board of Directors. In the past, the elections were only held at the General Assembly meetings at the WCDEMs. By moving to

an online system, the Executive Committee felt that the election process would be more inclusive and accessible to the entire WADEM membership. For the 2011-13 Board, 41 candidates ran for 21 open

positions. The membership was able to review the candidates' profiles through the Member Area of the WADEM website. The new members of the Board of Directors are listed on Page 4.



## 17TH WORLD CONGRESS ON DISASTER AND EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The very successful 17th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WCDEM) held in Beijing closed on 3 June. The Congress hosted more than 1,600 participants from 57 countries. The 17th WCDEM was held in conjunction with the 14th Annual Meeting of the Chinese Society for Emergency Medicine.

With the scale and frequency of disasters increasing, the 17th WCDEM was more relevant than ever. This year alone marks one of the worst in terms of disasters – the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear reactor issues in Japan; floods in Australia; earthquakes in New Zealand; and tornados in the southern United States. Research,

experiences, and lessons learned from these recent events, and many others, were presented by delegates at the Congress.

Some highlights of the 17th WCDEM included Frederick “Skip” Burkle’s keynote address, an Editor’s Summit, a meeting of the newly formed WADEM Osteopathic Physician Section, the addition of Veterinary Medicine Sessions, and a spectacular Gala Dinner and performance at the Summer Palace.

In keeping with tradition, the Closing Ceremony featured a “passing of the flag” from the current



WCDEM site to the upcoming one. Prof. Anthony Redmond, Dr. Judith Fisher, and Prof. Li Chengshung (*pictured above*) posed for a photo marking the transfer of the WCDEM from Beijing to Manchester in 2013.

## 18TH WCDEM - MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM, 28-31 MAY 2013

WADEM, in collaboration with UHSM (University Hospital of South Manchester) Academy Centre for Global Health, Emergency Medicine and Humanitarian Assistance (C-GHEMHA), respectfully ask to mark your calendars for the 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine! The 18<sup>th</sup> WCDEM will be convened from

28-31 May 2013 at the Manchester Central Convention Complex. The proposed theme of the 18th WCDEM is *International Development, Disaster Response & Humanitarian Assistance: Standards, Practice, & Assessment*.

The overall goal of the 18th WCDEM is to provide a forum for

the development of the science of Disaster and Emergency Health and Humanitarian Assistance and for the education of persons involved or who wish to become involved in Disaster and/or Emergency Health and Humanitarian Assistance. *We hope to see you in Manchester!*

## 19TH WCDEM - NEW DELHI, INDIA, 2015 - BY DR. NOBHOJIT ROY

A number of premier national organizations joined hands together in a bid to host the 19th WCDEM in India. These were the NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority), NIDM (National Institute of Disaster Management), AIIMS (All-India Institute of Medical Sciences), TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences), INDUS-EM (The Indo-US Emergency Medicine Initiative), NIMHANS

(the National Institute for Mental Health and Neurosciences), Post-Graduate Institute Chandigarh, among others. The World Congress is likely to be hosted in the capital city of New Delhi and hopes to bring together the best disaster experts from the SEARO Region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste).

Even though these are countries most commonly affected by disasters and conflict, the SEARO countries will be hosting the WCDEM for the first time in their region. This event will provide the impetus to the various disaster preparedness and mitigation programs, at the national and the community level, by attracting multidisciplinary disaster workers onto a common platform for discussion. *Namaste!*

## PREHOSPITAL AND DISASTER MEDICINE'S NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Stratton is a Professor in the UCLA School of Public Health and is a faculty member of the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. He practices Emergency Medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center where he is Clinical Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

He is also the Medical Director of the Orange County California Health Care Agency Health Disas-



ter Management / Emergency Medical Services Division. Dr. Stratton is U.S. American Board of Medical Specialties certified in both

Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine. From 2001 to 2009 he served as a member of the Board of Directors for the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine and during the past decade has been a member of the Editorial Board of *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*. Dr. Stratton has strong interest in disaster research methodology and teaches this subject as an International Faculty Member of the European Master in Disaster Medicine (EMDM) program.

## FORMATION OF A WADEM HUMANITARIAN TASKFORCE

At the recent 17th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine in Beijing, the WADEM Board of Directors approved the formation of a new Task Force to be convened by Frederick "Skip" Burkle. WADEM Task Forces are formed to undertake specific tasks in a specified timeframe and to report back to the Board with recommendations for consideration.

Recent discussions hosted by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative have highlighted the need for improved workforce development for humanitarian response. Key issues

include the need for consensus on minimum standards, endorsement of training programs, and accreditation of humanitarian workers. These are complex issues that will require careful assessment and detailed discussion if any proposed strategy is to succeed.

WADEM will take a leadership role in this work and a Task Force has been established to develop recommendations for the Board. The taskforce will assist WADEM to consider its role and contribution to the development of humanitarian practice and workforce and assist

the many organizations and individuals with an interest in these questions to clarify issues and reach consensus on a way forward.

The Task Force is charged with the following responsibilities:

- To consult broadly to identify the issues and possible solutions;
- Circulate a draft position paper and modify in response to feedback;
- Develop recommendations for the WADEM Board.

*The Taskforce will provide its final report in six months.*

## REFER YOUR COLLEAGUES TO WADEM!

WADEM needs your assistance attracting new members to the Association! WADEM currently has members in over 55 countries worldwide! WADEM members represent a broad range of health care professionals including doctors, nurses, paramedics, EMTs, professors, dentists, and veterinari-

ans. Members of WADEM pay annual dues based on the individual's income. Benefits of membership in WADEM include:

- 12-month subscription to *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*;
- Access to the entire digital archive of *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*

(26 Volumes) through Cambridge Journals Online;

- Discounts on WADEM educational products and workshops;
- Registration discounts for the WCDEMs;
- Voting privileges for WADEM Board of Directors.

## 2011-13 WADEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee

Paul Arbon, *President*

Darren Walter, *Secretary*

Marvin Birnbaum, *Vice President for  
Humanitarian Partnerships*

Sam Stratton, *Editor-in-Chief;  
Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*

Judith Fisher, *Vice President for Congresses*

Demetrios Pyrros, *Immediate Past President*

Jerry Overton, *Chief Financial Officer*

### Board of Directors

Michael Allswede

Elaine Daily

Kobi Peleg

Knox Andress

Paul Farrell

Nobhojit Roy

David Baker

Kristine Gebbie

James Shultz

Marvin Birnbaum (*Chair*)

Pinchas Halpern

Takashi Ukai

David Bradt

Kristi Koenig

Johan von Schreeb

Frederick "Skip" Burkle

Gloria Leon

Darren Walter

Felipe Cruz Vega

Joanne McGlown

Andreas Ziegler

### WEBSITE MEMBER LOGIN - ACCESSING PDM ONLINE

As many of you are aware, Cambridge University Press began publishing *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* (PDM) on behalf of WADEM in January 2011. At the same time, a Member Area was created on the WADEM website to facilitate electronic access to PDM on Cambridge Journals Online (CJO).

In order to view the most recent issues of PDM, members will need to login to the website by entering your email address and password. The Member Login is located on the left-hand side of the navigation bar (*pictured to the right*).

Once in the Member Area, click on the PDM graphic and you will be taken to PDM's page on CJO.

Please note that this is the only way to access PDM electronically. The Cambridge server recognizes the link from the WADEM website and allows access. If the URL is copied and pasted into a web browser, it will not work.

By the end of 2011, Cambridge University Press will have completed digitizing and archiving the complete *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* catalogue. It will be possible to electronically access PDM going back to Volume 1, Issue 1. In the interim, back issues through Volume 17 are remain available on the old PDM website - <http://pdm.medicine.wisc.edu>.

Also included in the Members Area are minutes of previous Board

meetings, the recent bids for the 18th and 19th WCDEMs, and the candidate profiles for the recent Board of Directors election. It is planned to have a Membership Directory on the Member Area of the website. There is also the possibility of some form of a WADEM Forum or Message Board being integrated into the website. Lastly, please note the new feature to change/update your email address or password on file and the option to retrieve a forgotten password.

