



## Emergency Medical Response Section Newsletter

July 2014

### Committee Message

Hello all and welcome to the first Emergency Medical Response Section newsletter. This multidisciplinary section has been approved by the WADEM board of directors, many thanks to all the support, interest and input from members involved in this process. We encourage and look forward to input from the many professions engaged in this space, to start begin we'd like to introduce our inaugural section office bearers:

#### **Chairman**

Jerry Overton serves as the Chair of the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch, the organization charged with setting standards, establishing curriculum, and conducting research for public safety dispatch worldwide. Prior, he served as the President/CEO for Road Safety International, the leading company promoting emergency driving safety. Previously, he served as the Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA), Richmond, Virginia, for 18 years and had overall responsibility for the Richmond Emergency Medical Services system. Mr. Overton also served as the Chief Executive of the Kansas City, Missouri, EMS system. In addition, he has provided, and continues to provide, technical assistance throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, including the design of an implementation plan for an Emergency Medical Transport program in Central Bosnia – Herzegovina during the war.

He is the Past President of the American Ambulance Association, was a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the U. S. Health System, and is the Chief Financial Officer for the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine. He serves on the editorial boards of two leading prehospital care journals and has received numerous recognitions. As an expert in EMS system design and response deployment strategies, he was named one of the 20 most influential leaders in EMS by *JEMS* magazine.

#### **Deputy Chair**

Joe Cuthbertson is a Paramedic in Perth, Western Australia and has worked in the prehospital field for the last 14 years in clinical, governance and management roles. He is currently undertaking a PhD examining Disaster Health practice at Monash University,

and supports the further development of WADEM Oceania to advocate and promote the development and improvement of disaster and emergency health and to influence emergency management and health care policy, education, and practice.

### **Secretary**

Peter Aitken is an Emergency Physician who is currently State Medical Director of the Retrieval Services and Counter Disaster Unit in Queensland Health (Australia).

He is also an Associate Professor in the School for Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences at James Cook University, Chief Medical Officer for St John Australia National Office, Chair of the International Federation of Emergency Medicine Disaster Medicine Special Interest Group, Chair of the Oceania Chapter of WADEM, and a number of other disaster and research related committees and groups.

His main research interests and areas of expertise include disaster health, emergency health systems, aeromedical retrieval, and prehospital care.

## **Emergency Medical Response Section Area of Practice/Interest**

The Emergency Medical Response Section of WADEM exists to foster collaboration among scientists and practitioners with an interest in research, education, management and practice in prehospital, transport, emergency and / or disaster health care.

### *Goals:*

- Foster professional growth of members of the Emergency Medical Response Section
- Increase the profile of the WADEM Emergency Medical Response Section
- Promote the scientific investigation of Emergency Medical Response practice

### *Objectives:*

- Define and promote relevant Emergency Medical Response research (including disaster response)
- Promote the function and importance of Emergency Medical Response within disaster preparedness and response activities.
- Exchange scientific and professional information relevant to Emergency Medical Response practice
- Develop disaster health co-operation globally amongst Emergency Medical Response practitioners and organisations,
- Network and integrate Emergency Medical Response into WADEM activities and programs
- Inform and advise WADEM on matters related to Emergency Medical Response

## Section Terms of Reference and Strategic Planning

In preparation for WCDEM and our first section meeting, terms of reference and strategic plans are currently being developed for your reference and comment.

### 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine EMR Section Meeting 21-24 April 2015 - Cape Town, South Africa

We look forward to holding our first meeting at WCDEM in Cape Town. In the lead up to this a communication will be circulated to members of the new section regarding formal adoption, and information of upcoming activities including election of committee members, and future planning.

2015 is an important year in Disaster Health practice and we encourage as many section members to attend and participate as possible. We would also encourage members to submit abstracts to the conference and hope to see research in the prehospital field well represented within the program.

## Osteopathic Physician Section Collaboration

The WADEM Osteopathic Physician Section has expressed interest in supporting the development of the EMS & Civil-Military Cooperation Sections. We have had some early communication from the Osteopathic Physician Section enquiring as to the possibility of collaborative work in support of UNDOC mission and goals relating to drug prevention, care and treatment. If any EMR member is interested in participating in this please contact a Section representative for further details

## Feedback

As we develop our section we encourage input from our members to contribute their thoughts, ideas and suggestions. Your feedback will assist in shaping our strategic direction and planning, and will ensure that our section is effective in its purpose and intent.

Please send any feedback to - [joecuthbertson@hotmail.com](mailto:joecuthbertson@hotmail.com).

Joe Cuthbertson

WADEM Deputy Chair - Oceania Branch, Emergency Medical Response Section