



CTM-SIG Newsletter #3 - September 2022

Dear friends, colleagues, and fellow WADEM members,

The war in Ukraine has certainly given all of us much to think about. Many have deployed onto the frontlines, and as work continues in supporting those in need, conversations around warm zone deployments and the safety of first responders continue.

Whilst CTM is quite separate from battlefield and military medicine, there is nothing conventional about the current war: intentional, targeted attacks on civilians and civilian entities are much more synonymous with terrorism and hybrid warfare than war as we know it. The Geneva Convention which is supposed to offer a degree of protection to medical workers and infrastructures in times of war, is of little reassurance to frontline workers when the rules of engagement are no longer respected and/or intentionally breached.

The full extent of the healthcare impact of this war will likely take years to realize but many lessons learnt in CTM are extremely applicable today already: we have previously debated the need to harden hospital defences and rethink health care vulnerabilities; the use of drones, cyberattacks; and other emerging technologies in asymmetric attacks feature regularly in CTM discussions; and the need to upskill civilian first responders to better prioritize treatment algorithms based on the level of threat, an area of shared interest between CTM and tactical medicine, is most evidently needed on the frontlines today.

On a more positive note, we are seeing a lot of publications, commentaries, educational programs and projects related to CTM emerge all around the world. The University of Melbourne's [certificate courses in Disaster and Terror Medicine](#) provide great foundational knowledge and I recently had the opportunity to collaborate with law enforcement, security, industrial sector and emergency services colleagues from Harvard University's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative [to launch a pilot Community CTM project](#).

WADEM's 2023 Congress will have a CTM session, and I encourage you all to submit early abstracts for consideration and look forward to meeting many of you in Killarney, Ireland next May.



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