



WADEM AND THE EMERGING FIELD OF DISASTER MEDICINE

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Why Disaster Medicine?

- For all its beauty...
- The world can be a brutal place



Earthquakes



Contributor: © puckillustrations/Adobe.Stock.com

Floods



Wildfires



Accidents



More Accidents



Our Education, Training, and Practice



- Medicine is primarily a 1:1 affair
- We spare no effort to save life and limb
- We will work tirelessly on a single patient

- *But...*



What if...

- There are tens or hundreds of injured?
- The hospital or clinic is damaged or destroyed?
- The antagonist is atypical: chemical, biological, radiological, kinetic?

**Imagine the
Unimaginable**



An Expanding Definition...



What is a disaster?

Disasters are serious disruptions to the functioning of a community that exceed its capacity to cope using its own resources. Disasters can be caused by natural, man-made and technological hazards, as well as various factors that influence the exposure and vulnerability of a community.

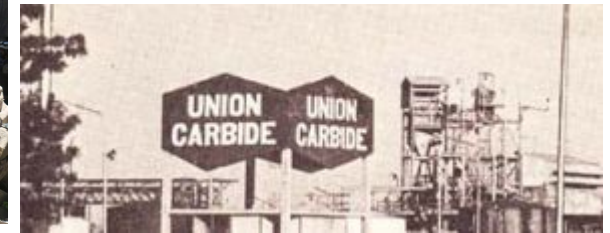
With significant impacts

- Ebola, MERS, COVID...
- Work stress
- Burnout
- Survivor Guilt
- Could have done more Syndrome
- Moral Injury and PTSD



The Added Human Dimension

- Malevolence
 - War
 - Terrorism
 - Despotism
- Fallibility
 - Industrial Accident
- Communicable disease sequelae



A crisis hiding in plain sight



- 110 million people dislocated
- If these were their own, single nation it would be the 14th most populous on earth
- 40% under age 18
- 62.5 million internally displaced



Addressing Vexing Phenomena



- Disaster Tourism
 - *The morbidly curious*
 - *The suspect provider*
- Immediate Responders
- PTSD
- Systems Failures
- Logistics Constraints
- Too Much of a Good Thing
- Vulnerability of Technology
- HCW Safety



NOT A DOCTOR:



DEFINITELY A DOCTOR:

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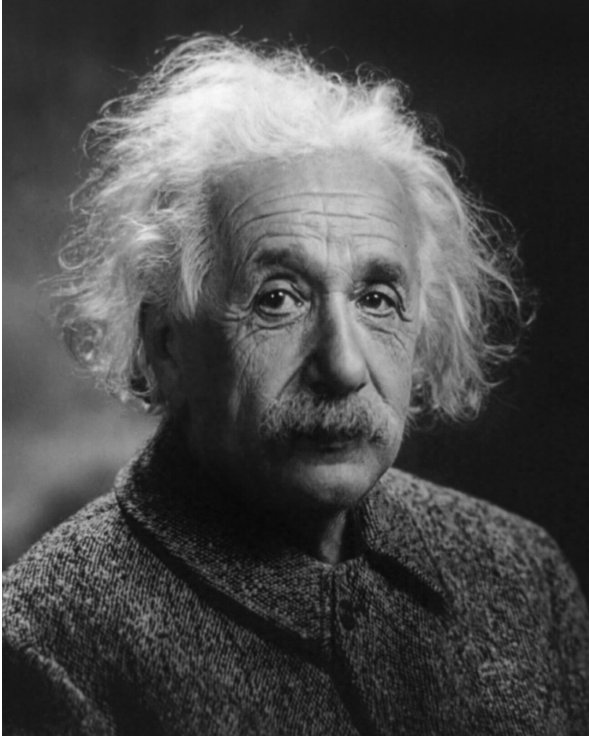


Stethoscope

White coat



Imagine the Unimaginable



“Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

-- Albert Einstein

For Disaster Medicine, this points to the need for Professional Pessimists...



Tuesday Morning, 9 September 2001



- What no one expected
- But for which they were prepared



The Why of Disaster Medicine

- A Discrete Body of Knowledge
- Prepares us for the unexpected
- The convergence of healthcare and emergency management
- Saves lives
- Including your own
- Enhances skills

The Road Ahead

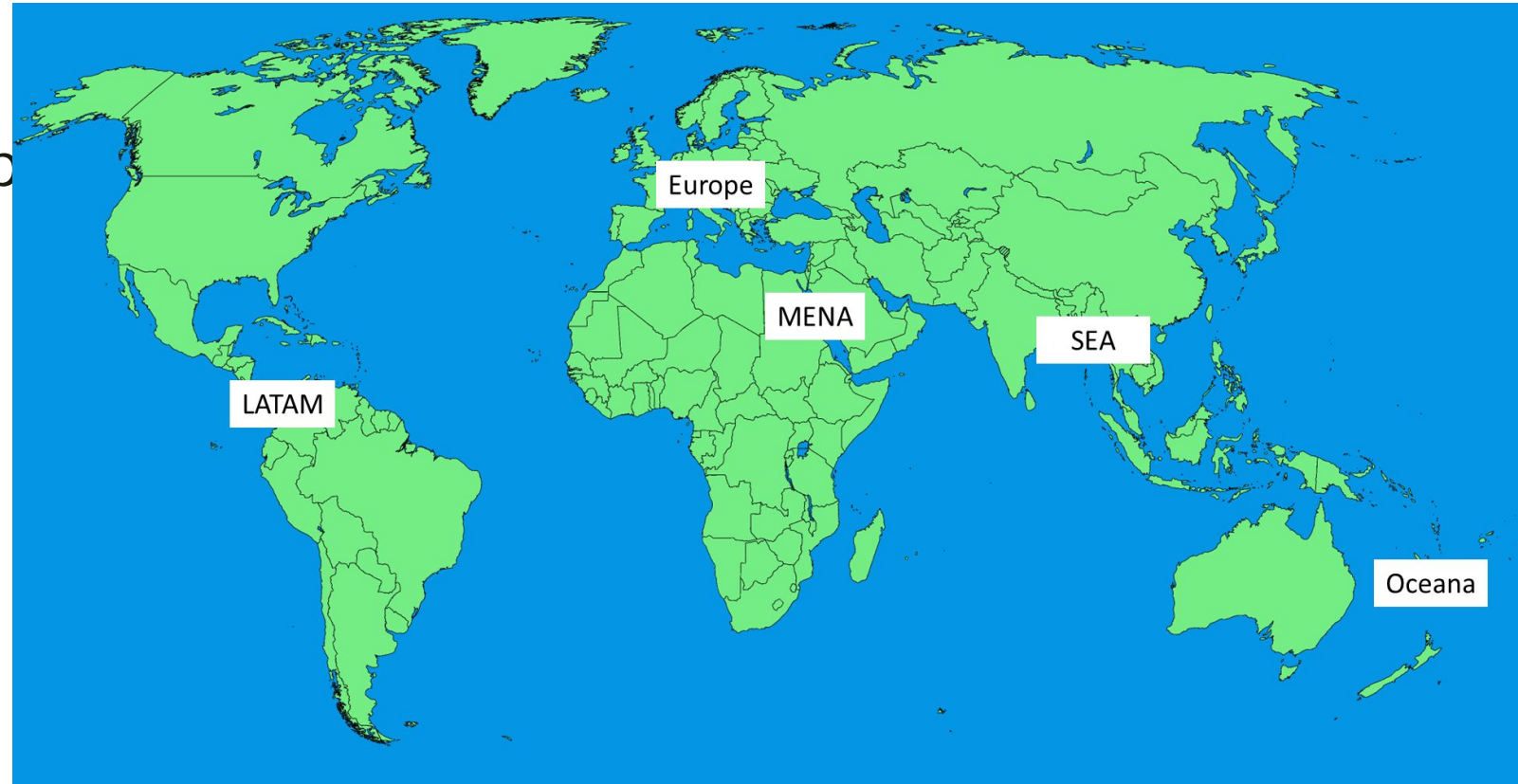


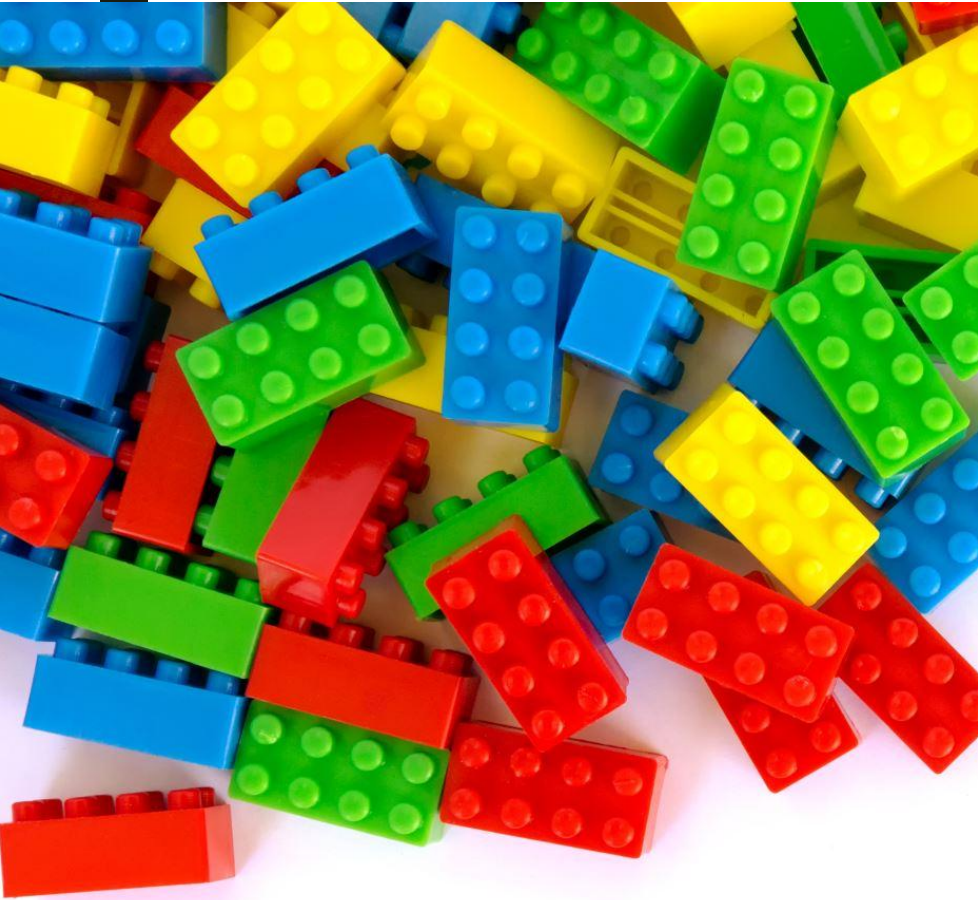
- Imagine
- Investigate
- Innovate
- Initiate
- Integrate

Promoting Global Integration



- Regional Chapters
- Special Interest Groups
- Coordination and Collaboration
- Educational Events
- Information Sharing
- Advocacy





Building Blocks



- Increase inter-organizational collaborations
- More inclusive representation
- Enhanced outreach
- Create a preferred source for research, resources, and dissemination





Recent Collaborations

- Abu Dhabi International Disaster Medicine Conference 2023 (8 - 9 February)
- WHO special Regional Meeting to Establish and Strengthen Emergency Medical Teams in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (13-15 June), Hammamet, Tunisia
- 5th International Congress of Emergency Medicine and Emergency 2023, Asociación Colombiana de Especialistas en Medicina se Urgencia y Emergencias (ACEM), Bogotá (20 - 22 July).
- Second ASEAN Academic Conference on Disaster Health Management – Phase 2 (ARCH Project – Phase 2), Yogyakarta, Indonesia (7 - 19 October)
- 5th International Conference for Mass Gathering Medicine (29 - 31 October), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 14th International Health and Hospital Management Conference (1 - 4 November), Kemer, Antalya, Türkiye
- 1st International UNITAR Research Conference (23 - 24 November), UN Campus Bonn, Germany

Select Pending Engagements



Dates	Event
25 March 2024	Enhancing European Preparedness in Pre-Hospital and Disaster Medicine, Brussels
11-13 April 2024	SPSim, the Portuguese Society of Simulation, University of Algarve Simulation Center of the Faculty of Medicine
24-26 April 2024	2 nd International Meeting on Disaster Response, Conference and Simulation Centre Dedication, Toulouse
16-19 June 2024	International Preparedness & Response to Emergencies & Disasters (IPRED) VII, Tel Aviv
19-23 June 2024	International Conference on Emergency Medicine 2024 (ICEM 2024), Taipei
4-7 November 2024	6 th EMT Global Meeting, Abu Dhabi
TBD	2 nd International UNITAR Research Conference
2-6 May 2025	WADEM 23 rd Congress, Tokyo

Research Laboratory



Improving global prehospital and emergency medicine, public health, and disaster health care and preparedness



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RESEARCH LABORATORY

WADEM is launching a new initiative to share information and useful tips about conducting research in disaster medicine.



Advocacy Agenda



Core Curriculum
Common Lexicon

Expanded and Enhanced Education, Training, and Planning:

- **Multi-Disciplinary**
- **Interdisciplinary**
- **Trans-Disciplinary**

Greater Information Sharing

Expanded Medical Intelligence Capabilities

Increased Inter-Organizational Collaboration

Promote Research and Publication



WADEM Educational Channels

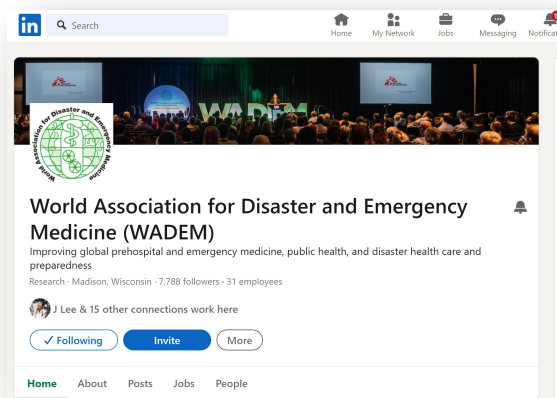


- *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* (PDM);
 - A biennial international Congress;
 - Regional and subject specific convenings;
 - Podcasts featuring subject matter experts and authors of articles published in PDM;
 - Webinars;
 - Fireside chats; and
 - Social media.
-
- Academic and Professional Society Linkages

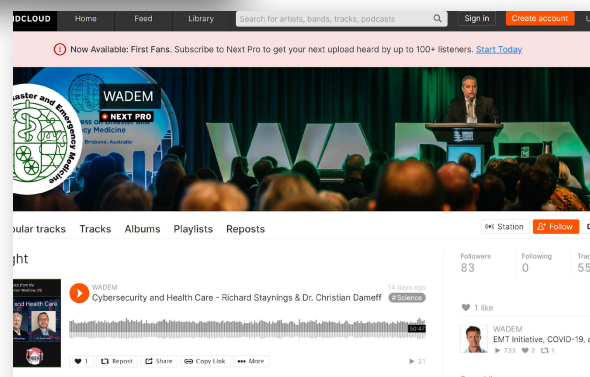




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7,000+ followers



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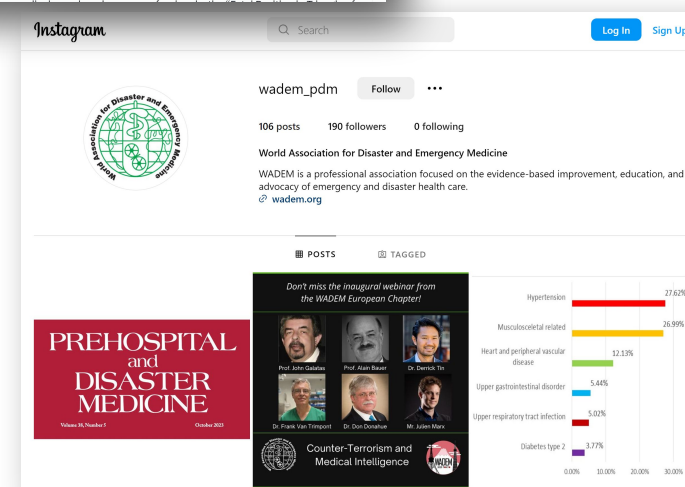
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190 followers



Expanding the Reach



Acute Care Action Network



International Federation
for Emergency Medicine



INSTITUTE FOR
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MEDICINE

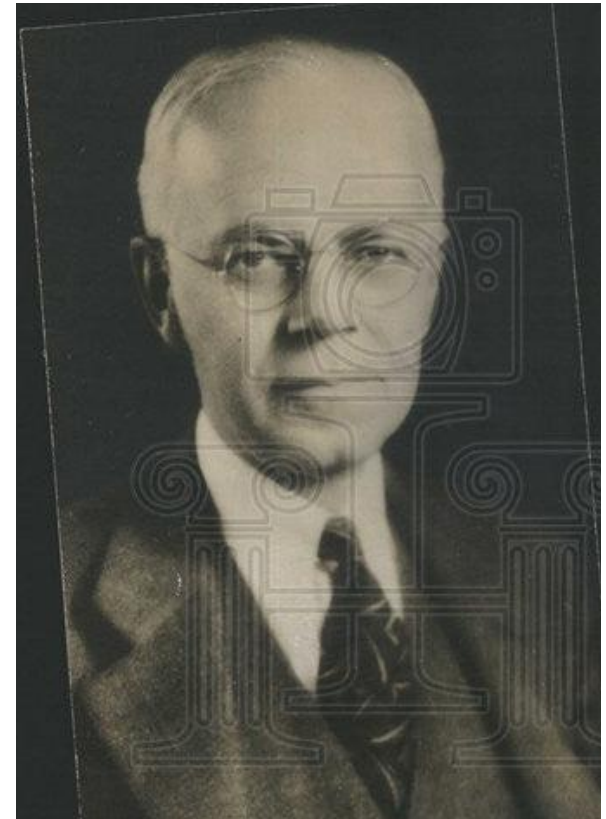
Making Music, Together



"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it."

- H.E. Luccock, (1885–1960)

Yale Divinity School



Complexity and Continuity:

**Caring, Coping, and Overcoming
in an Increasingly Challenging World**



**Annual Report of the
World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine
2023**



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Thank You



**Hope to see you at the 23rd
biennial Congress on
Disaster and Emergency
Medicine**

2 – 6 May 2025