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## **Global Operational and Tactical Medicine SIG Newsletter**

### **July 2026**

Dear friends, esteemed colleagues and WADEM members,

July has been a very exciting month for the organization, with the first WADEM Disaster Medicine Summer School envisioned and organized by the Students and Young Professionals SIG, notably Aidana Sissenberdiyeva, Andrew Shanes, and Jared D. Erb, with support from the senior WADEM leadership. The event was co-organized by and received support from the European Centre for Disaster Medicine (CEMEC) and Counter-Terrorism Medicine Europe (CTM-E). Together, the teams behind the Summer School have taken an important step in supporting the next generation of leaders in disaster and emergency medicine. While disaster medicine remains a highly complex field with many moving parts, the organizers welcomed the interest of the students from 25 countries in counter-terrorism medicine, tactical medicine, CBRNe, and the rise of targeted violence.

The new Global Operational and Tactical Medicine SIG (GoptMed) Special Interest Group (SIG) was established in April 2026 to strengthen the pre-existing structure of Counter-Terrorism Medicine and CBRNE SIGs, while also addressing the new challenges and opportunities in bridging Military and Civilian Medicine, benefiting both parties, strengthening security, integrating core functions, and creating more effective medical structures. Current evidence and recent events lead to the need for collective leadership focused on international cooperation and advancing research into medical components. The new SIG will address the existing gaps, from operational to strategic levels, from high-threat events to complex coordinated terrorist attacks and hybrid warfare signals.

In Europe, the latest EUROPOL Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (EU TE-SAT 2026) reveals a worrying online ecosystem fueling and reshaping terrorism. While the report recognizes that ideology-driven threats and radicalization remain present,

extreme violence is becoming prevalent and is used as a tool to project identity, recognition and belonging. The current evidence points towards a more fragmented landscape for terrorism, where lone actors, decentralized networks and hybrid threats are creating a grey area where extremism, criminality and violence co-exist and overlap.

Within this evolving landscape, fueled and often augmented by technology, medical systems must adapt dynamically to prepare for and respond to new threats. Considerations must also be taken for the current size of military medical facilities, which could become vastly overwhelmed in any large-scale combat operation (LSCO), requiring civilian medical support within days to weeks. This requires extensive consideration and planning amongst civilian health systems that are often already overwhelmed or understaffed.

Through our WADeM GoptMed SIG, we hope to provide the right platform to work together, exchange best practices and share innovation, while also preparing and responding to asymmetric attacks while promoting medical neutrality. The task is huge and comes with immense pressure, but at the same time, we will continue to promote the longstanding and outstanding work of our colleagues Dr. Derrick Tin, Dr. Ryan Hata, and Dr. Gregory Ciottone, who have pioneered the field of CTM.

Best Regards,

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Co-Chair GoptMed SIG

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<https://wadem.org/sigs/global-operational-and-tactical-medicine/>