

# MED Annual Report

20160923-MED Fidel Elsensohn, Commission President

Dear friends!

2016 was a very intensive year for our commission with 3 main events:

- 1) ICAR MEDCOM Spring meeting in Cape Town, South Africa on invitation of our friend and member Rik de Decker on behalf of the Mountain Club South Africa from May 2–7 16 members took the travel to this exciting city. The program was intense during the week. We started with a very interesting work shop linking issues from the newly founded scientific group of colleagues and our members. We worked 2 days on finishing the final drafts for our recommendations on “Multi Casualty Incidents in the Mountains” and on “Recommendations for Canyoning Accidents”. Both drafts are ready for approval at the 2016 Fall Meeting in Bulgaria. Another issue was the discussion on the International Avalanche Registry. This Registry will be aligned with the Alpine Trauma Registry. Both are hosted by Institute for Mountain Emergency Medicine at EURAC in Bolzano, Italy. We further elaborated the program for the WMS and High Altitude Medicine World Congress in Telluride, Colorado. Outdoor activities took place at Table Mountain and we faced the typical weather situation on that mountain with high winds. The meeting ended with the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of the Mountain Club of South Africa with a lot of interesting talks. Thanks to our South African friends for this great meeting and their outstanding hospitality.
- 2) The 2016 World Congress on High Altitude Medicine and Physiology and Wilderness Medicine was organized by the Wilderness Medical Society in Telluride, Colorado from July 31 to August 4. ICAR MEDCOM was invited for a full day of lectures on various issues concerning Mountain Emergency Medicine and workshops. 9 members of our commission were present at this event of excellent scientific lectures and practical workshops. Hermann Brugger was honored with the Paul Auerbach Award for outstanding scientific work in the field of mountain emergency medicine. The International Society for Mountain Medicine elected him to its President. The congress started with a workshop on a large number of issues concerning the Diploma in Mountain Medicine and Mountain Emergency Medicine. The program is very successful and courses are organized in Europe, North and South America and Asia.

3) The 2016 ICAR Fall Meeting and Convention in Bulgaria sees a great number of attendants to our commission. ICAR MEDCOM is present at the pre-conference workshop. The commission meeting is mainly dominated by the approval of 3 recommendations:

- Multi Casualty Incidents in the Mountains
- Cannoning Accidents
- Accidental Hypothermia – an Update

We will have a large number of presentations and 2 joint meetings with other commissions:

- “Scoop and Run” – Definition and impacts on terrestrial and air rescue work.
- “Avalanche Rescue” – new findings and strategies in avalanche rescue.

At the congress on Saturday members of our commission will present the new papers and other studies in the field of mountain emergency medicine. The congress was extended into the afternoon with 4 other talks on interesting topics for all attendants.

Other activities:

The “Avalanche Resuscitation Checklist” has been distributed to different organizations and has been already translated into the ICAR languages. We hope that the Checklist will be widely used during the next winter season.

ICAR MEDCOM currently consists of 65 members from all continents. Many of them are corresponding members on invitation of our commission. We appreciate the expertise and competence from emergency physicians from all continents with different aspects of mountain rescue. This guarantees a high quality of scientific work improving the medical aspects of mountain rescue and saving lives in accidents in the mountains.