



## MINUTES OF ICAR MEDCOM SPRING MEETING 22-24 APRIL 2010

### MEMBERS AND ADDRESSES Update

Present: Fidel Elsensohn (President (A)), Gege Agazzi (I), Hermann Brugger (I), John Ellerton (E&W), Mario Milani (I), Peter Paal (A), Iztok Tomazin (SLO); Günther Sumann (A) on 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Apologies: Tore Dahlberg (N), Volker Lischke (D), Inigo Soteras (ES), Oliver Reisten (CH), Haris Sinifakoulis (GR), Urs Wiget (CH), Eveline Winterberger (CH), Ken Zafren (USA),

### MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Ellerton)

These were approved.

### OUTLINE OF THE MEETING'S PROGRAMME (Elsensohn)

Fidel outlined the demise of the much-anticipated Spitsbergen meeting. As no flights flew because of the volcanic ash cloud, the meeting had been cancelled. This was cruel particularly to Tore who had put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure the meeting would have been a memorable occasion. He had also been left with the biggest headache having to cancel the prior arrangements. We thank him for his work and hope that the outstanding issues can be resolved satisfactorily. Fidel arranged a shorter meeting at a delightful venue in Laterns, Austria. The area was quiet and we were blessed with lovely spring weather, good food and wine. It was very conducive to work and we thank Fidel for organizing the meeting at such short notice.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am very glad to chair my first meeting with you and I hope, we will travel home with satisfaction concerning the work and the time we spent together.

What has happened since Zermatt?

Executive Committee: We met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January near Zürich and worked through a huge agenda. I want to thank the organizers of the congress in Zermatt for this perfect meeting. For your information KWRO and the community of Zermatt covered a deficit of 40.000 Swiss Francs. I think we all enjoyed it there and we finished some papers and worked on some drafts.

Terrestrial Commission: A draft about Dyneema ropes and the special usage will be presented at the meeting in Slovakia.

Patrick Fauchere is member of the reviewing group of EASA and will point out the special situation of helicopter rescue in the mountains. When EASA's results are available he will inform us, and IKAR will define its position at the Congress in Slovakia.

Gebhard Barbisch will change the registration procedure so that every speaker at the congress can agree the copyright when registering.

The Slovenian Mountain Rescue Service express its gratitude to Air Zermatt for a high risk rescue operation on Langtang Lirung, Nepal for a Slovenian climber who called for help. A rescue team started from Switzerland and did the first long-line rescue in Nepal.

Unfortunately the climber was already dead. This led to a long discussion within the Executive board on whether or not ICAR should provide a rapid task force for evacuating climbers throughout the world.

Finances: the last year ended with a deficit of 8000.- SFR due to higher expenses of the

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commissions. Therefore the budgets of the commissions will be enhanced from 3000.-SFR to 3000 € per year.

HEMS Paper: The other commission remarked that they have not been involved extensively in establishing this paper. The discussion ended in the result, that if EASA comes to a decision in spring 2010, we would restrain the publication until the end of May. The terrestrial commission and the avalanche commission claimed to add their parts to the paper and would recommend the publication after the general assembly. They are still in the process of decision. I tried to explain the board the way of establishing joint papers and expressed our opinion that all other commissions were involved extensively. I proposed a faster way of decision making than usually performed by the terrestrial commission; using the current way, it takes 2 years. If we publish the paper in the name of ICAR MEDCOM, the title should be changed and everything concerning non-medical topics should be eliminated. As it looks now, EASA will not meet the target by the end of May. Iztok will explain the current status and we will have enough time to discuss this topic. A joint paper covering all issues of helicopter rescue will be worked out in Slovakia and then published by ICAR.

Published papers:

Rucksack paper has been submitted. I am still waiting for response.

Jeff Boyd's article: Prognostic factors in avalanche resuscitation: A systematic review has been published in Resuscitation. It is a very well performed review, please see the hardcopy in your folder. Congratulations to the authors for their great work.

UIAA and ISMM are interested in establishing a training program for Nepal. The goal is to encourage local doctors to organize these courses together with local teams, e.g. HRA for rescue. I declared that ICAR MEDCOM is very interested to support this and that this will be the main topic at the joint meeting. There will be a fact finding mission by Dr. Suzy Stokes (UK), who will travel to Nepal and talk to the different organizations. Buddha Basnyat will take care of her and arrange the contacts.

There is an ongoing discussion about the diploma and whether or not the courses should be extended or the schedule should be changed.

Events:

At the "Internationale Bergrettungsärztertagung" in Innsbruck, some of us represented ICAR MEDCOM by giving lectures. This meeting is largest Congress in Mountain Medicine in German speaking countries.

The inauguration of EURAC Institute for Mountain Emergency Medicine was the highlight of this spring. We meet many important people and maintain good contacts to other organizations dealing in Mountain Medicine. Hermann will give an extensive report

### **FINANCIAL REPORT & BANK ACCOUNT (Vogt/Elsensohn)**

Our new treasurer, Nadine Vogt was not able to attend this meeting. So Fidel gave a short financial report. The transfer of the money to Liechtenstein is on the way; the account will be accessible to the treasurer and Fidel. Currently we have €9356,15 on our account. There is some outstanding money from DVD sales, as we have not had any money from Mr. Costabiei in the last few months.

### **REPORT OF THE TRIPLE-H AVALANCHE STUDY IN AUSTRIA (Brugger/Paal)**

Hermann and Peter reported the circumstances of the well-publicized early cessation of the study.

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### REPORT OF THE ANAGURATION OF EURAC (Brugger)

Hermann reported on the progress of the Institute for Mountain Emergency Medicine

### NEW PAPERS PUBLISHED, SUBMITTED OR IN PRESS

- Elsensohn F, Zenruffinen G, Ellerton J, Sumann G, Zafren K, Nerin MA, Brugger H. Assessment of casualties in the mountains – ongoing.
- Elsensohn F, Soteras I, Reisten O, Paal P, Ellerton J, Brugger H. Medical rucksacks in mountain rescue – submitted to HAMB

### CURRENT PAPERS

- Tomazin I, Reisten O, Ellerton J. Recommended Standards in Helicopter Emergency Medical Services in Mountain Rescue

The paper was finalized, taking into account the points raised by the Executive committee; target journal is Resuscitation.

- Reisten O, Soteras I, Wiget U. A Modular First Aid Kit for Alpinists, Mountain Guides and Alpinist Physicians (draft)

Oliver is suggesting dividing the paper into 2 parts. The first is general conditions and issues – providing first aid in mountaineering and improvised rescue - and then a second paper on specific lists (update of current paper). We discussed finishing part 2 first and then moving on to part 1 in cooperation with UIAA Medcom as this is not a primary organised rescue paper. Could the authors send out a draft of part 2 before fall meeting?

- Brugger H, Boyd J. Statement on the process in developing papers (draft)

To pilot with the next new paper and then finalise. Internal document rather than targeted for publication

- Teale S. Diagnosis of death in a mountain rescue situation by medical and non-medical personnel (draft)

The draft was discussed in detail. A final version will be presented in Slovaki.

### Application of ICAR MEDCOM Logo (Elsensohn)

Proposed use of ICAR MEDCOM Logo

- a) "Certified by ICAR MEDCOM" for courses certified by ICAR/UIAA-ISMM
- b) "In cooperation with ICAR MEDCOM", for courses not certified by ICAR/UIAA/ISMM but organized or accomplished or supported by members of ICAR MEDCOM (lecturers, instructors and/or co-financed)
- c) "Patronage ICAR MEDCOM" ("under the patronage") meaning ICAR MEDCOM accepts the course; only the Logo is used without support or co-operation of ICAR MEDCOM (acceptance by ICAR MEDCOM president) - no certification implied

For discussion and approval at fall meeting

### UIAA/ICAR/ISMM Courses (Ellerton)

The draft Diploma regulations were discussed - generally agreed but more generic list for mountaineering skills was favoured by some and need for developing assessment was thought to be difficult but required to maintain the good name of the Diploma. Our views will be reflected at the joint meeting in Peru.

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### VIII Congress in High Altitude Medicine and Physiology, Arequipa, Peru. (8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August 2010)

The current ICAR Medcom party looks like this:

		8 <sup>th</sup> (Joint)	11 <sup>th</sup> (Lectures)	12 <sup>th</sup> (Workshops)	13 <sup>th</sup> (Field day)
Fidel	29 <sup>th</sup> July - 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	√	Assessment	Training/risk management/ medical equipment	On-site trauma
Hermann	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug - 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	√	Avalanche	Avalanche	Transport & hypothermia
Ken	29 <sup>th</sup> July - ?	√	Frostbite		Splinting and Immobilisation
John	30 <sup>th</sup> July - 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	√	Immobilisation	General organisation	Splinting and Immobilisation
Herbert	unknown	√	Fractures	Trauma	Reductions
Xavier	unknown	√		Special	Life saving
Ramon	Congress only	?			On-site trauma
Inigo	30 <sup>th</sup> July - 14 <sup>th</sup> August	√		Special	Reductions
Haris	Definitely treking	√			Life saving
			Volume replacement		Transport & hypothermia

UIAA Medcom/ICAR Medcom/ISMM Joint meeting:

Topics are: Diploma update; Nepal-noting our experience re. Mountain skills; Joint papers and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Consensus guidelines – finance/sponsors; future congresses –participation.

Lectures, workshops & Field day:

The lectures are given above. Günther's lecture will need to allocated or subject changed with the organizers. **Fidel will discuss with the organizers.**

Workshops and Field day:

There is very limited equipment available and it has been indicated that only two guides are available. The 'bombers' seem to be in discussion over the equipment and venue. This is being hampered by their lack of English. **Could Inigo** (in Spanish) become directly involved? – we need to know numbers, type of participants. The type of venue is unclear – vertical cliff – how big etc.

Trekking:

A number of members are going before the Congress and it appears that a week in the Canyon area near Arequipa would be the most efficient plan. Can members joining this group **contact John** with knowledge, wishes, arrival times etc.

### NEW PAPERS

Fidel will ask the Executive about developing a new paper (suggested by John) on the epidemiology of rescuer injury/death (cause, number). Would they support such a paper? How would they like to do it?

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### ICAR

- October 2010 ICAR MEDCOM fall meeting & general assembly (Slovakia)  
(Suggested Congress presentations: EURAC (Hermann); avalanche study (Peter); helicopter paper (Iztok). ICAR Medcom work: Final of terminating resuscitation (Teale); developing papers (Boyd, Brugger); logo (Elsensohn); 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kits pt2-draft (Reisten); Lana Djonlagic: case report of rescue on Everest; a few more cases (contact Fidel)
- 2011 ICAR MEDCOM spring meeting – decision in 4 weeks but likely that Spitzbergen will be the venue again (depending on current deposit being carried over. Thank you Inigo and Herbert for their understanding and Tore for wanting us again!
- 2011 ICAR MEDCOM fall meeting & general assembly (Sweden)
- 2012 Spring – Spain/Germany

#### Others

- 2010 1<sup>st</sup> May Trento Italian SSM National congress (in Italian)
- 2010 Nov 2-7 International Mountain Summit spotlight (3 languages) 1 week Südtirol. Medical day on Friday organized by Hermann.
- 2011 24-25<sup>th</sup> March Bolzan, Italy. European Science Forum on ‘Towards science in mountain emergency medicine’. Many ICAR Medcom members will support this – watch for conflict with spring meeting.
- 2012 August WMS congress Whistler, Canada - ICAR involvement early stage
- 2012 ? Nepal SMM Diploma support. ICAR Medcom could only part finance a specialty rescue module at this stage.

Minutes taken by John Ellerton  
April 27, 2010