



International Commission for Mountain Emergency Medicine ICAR MEDCOM

2014 ICAR MEDCOM REPORT

ACTIVITIES:

- 1. ICAR MEDCOM Spring meeting Bolzano, IT, 2**
- 2. ICAR MEDCOM Fall meeting Lake Tahoe, NV, USA 6-10 Oct. 2014**
- 3. X ISMM World Congress on High Altitude Medicine and Physiology & Mountain Emergency Medicine, Bolzano, IT 25 -31 May 2014**

1. Springmeeting Thursday May 29th. 2014

Location: EURAC Bolzano

Attendants: 30

Topics:

- Report by Dr. Pranav Koraila and Dr. Suzy Stokes about the disaster killing 16 Sherpa at Khumbu Icefall on the ascent to Mt. Everest. Issues discussed regarding preparedness included triage cards, incident management vests and crowd management. Causes of the accident included a wide variation in temperatures, and the fact that the track through the Ice Fall has moved under the North Face over the years. The rescue was made more complicated because it was very early in season and the radio net was not yet up.
- **PAPERS**
- Discussion of Modular First Aid Kit paper – Oliver Reisten.
- The paper will be simplified and should be available to comment on our web platform at least one month before the Fall meeting at Lake Tahoe in October 2014.
- Avalanche Victim Resuscitation Checklist – Alex Kottman
- Preliminary trials of the checklist were limited by a perception by rescuers that appeared to be too complex and by a very low snow year in the Alps. The authors have developed an internet training module, which will be available in several languages.
- ICAR General Assembly – joint session. The theme will be multi-casualty incidents. The preconference day (October 6, 2014) will be a joint meeting of the Avalanche, Terrestrial and Medical Commissions. The Medical Commission will organize scenarios for the 3 commissions. There was a discussion regarding how to organize the scenarios.
- A working group will meet with Manuel Genswein after this meeting in order to organize the activities of the joint session.

2. 2014 International Commission for Mountain Emergency Medicine (ICAR MEDCOM) Meeting at the ICAR-CISA Congress and General Assembly Lake Tahoe, NV, USA October 7th – 10th 2014

Attendants: 48

Topics:

- Report on the Pre-conference workshops with thanks to all members who have contributed. All workshops designed and organized by ICAR MEDCOM have been well accepted by all attendants and we got a very positive feedback. ICAR

MEDCOM is willing to contribute to pre-conference workshops in the future.

- Report of the Board Meetings
- UIAA MEDCOM membership of ICAR-CISA: Old cooperation contract dated October 15, 1982 found at ICAR office, should be replaced by reciprocal type C membership, Fidel Elsensohn shall clarify this with Dave Hillebrandt of UIAA, reciprocal approval of both boards mandatory. We plan to update this with a cooperative agreement and extend the agreement to the ISMM and the WMS.
- Papers:
 - Avalanche Victim Resuscitation Checklist.** M. Blancher, A. Kottman
Alex Kottman and Marc Blancher presented the paper. The authors have also developed a teaching 60-slide PowerPoint presentation that is an integral part of the training to use the checklist. The checklist has been translated into several languages. The teaching presentation has been translated from French into German and English, but the translations still need to be reviewed. The paper will be submitted to Resuscitation. We will explore sponsorship for bringing the paper out as an "Open Access" paper. The paper was formally accepted.
We discussed the expected outcomes from using the checklist. The largest European study showed that only half of patients who should have had attempted resuscitation according to ICAR MEDCOM guidelines had no attempted resuscitation, while resuscitation was attempted in about half of patients who had no chance of survival. Use of the checklist should decrease the numbers of patients who are treated incorrectly. It is unknown if this will increase the number of unsuccessful resuscitations in patients who meet criteria for resuscitation. On the other hand, use of the checklist should decrease the number of unsuccessful resuscitations of patients who do not meet the criteria for resuscitation. The effect of on overall survival is also unknown. We will monitor these results carefully.
 - Modular First Aid Kit for Alpinist, Rescuers, Guides and Physicians:** Reisten O, Blancher M, Soteras I, Watson D, Wiget U.
Oliver Reisten presented the paper briefly, touching on some of the controversial areas. We have already discussed the paper exhaustively over the course of several years. After brief further discussion, the commission formally approved the paper.
 - Multi Casualty Incidents in the Mountains:** There was a wide-ranging discussion concerning the content of this paper. The definition is standard, but we have to decide what we will cover. Areas for discussion: avalanche, trauma, lightning?
- Short communications

3. World Congress on High Altitude Medicine and Physiology and Mountain Emergency Medicine.
Congress organized by the Institute for Mountain Emergency Medicine at EURAC in Bolzano (Hermann Brugger and his team).
Numerous members of our commission were involved in the scientific committee and faculty, giving lectures and workshops. The congress was of great success not only scientifically but also from the spirit and friendship among the participants. Next congress will be held in Telluride, Colorado in 2016.

For detailed information see our minutes.

I personally was invited to give a keynote lecture at the 1st Intercontinental Congress on Emergency and Disaster Medicine in Antalya in May. Intensive connections are set up to the University and Medical Authorities in Kayseri in Turkey which could lead to an ICAR-CISA membership.

Fidel Elsensohn, MD
President of ICAR MEDCOM

