



Who is Who in the EMDM Academy

(Academy of the European Master in Disaster Medicine)

Founding Institutions:

University of Geneva and University Hospitals of Geneva - UNIGE/HUG (Switzerland)

Vrije Universiteit Brussel – VUB (Belgium)

Università del Piemonte Orientale - UPO (Italy)

Schweizerische Akademie für Militär-und Katastrophenmedizin - SAMK (Switzerland)

Executive Board:

Executive Director (CC. Dr. Jacques Romand)

Research Director (Prof. Michel Debacker)

Education Director (Prof. Francesco Della Corte)

Board of Governors:

Prof. Benjamin Van Camp (Chair), Prof. Louis Loutan (Treasurer), Prof. Flavio Del Ponte (Secretary)

Members: Prof. Herman Delooz, Prof. Fabiola Sinigaglia, Prof. Mario Pirisi, Prof. Jean-Louis Carpentier, PD Dr. Sergei Bankoul, Dr. Pier-Luigi Ingrassia

General Assembly:

President : Major General Dr. Gianpiero Lupi

1. Vice-President: Prof. Ives Hubloue

2. Vice-President: Dr. Pier-Luigi Ingrassia.

Secretary: Prof. Flavio Del Ponte

Secretariat of the EMDM Academy:

Service des Soins Intensifs,

Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève

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...from the
EMDM
(European Master in Disaster Medicine)
to the

EMDM

ACADEMY



What the EMDM is

The project of the EMDM was launched during the First Congress of the European Society for Emergency Medicine in April 1998 in San Marino, as a pilot project to be implemented in the framework of a European interuniversity cooperation. The European Centre of Disaster Medicine (CEMEC) and the Eur-OPA project of the Council of Europe, decided to support the project. Consequently, an agreement for the organization of a European Certificate in Disaster Medicine, was signed by the University A. Avogadro Eastern Piedmont, Novara — Italy, the Free University of Brussels, the University of San Marino and CEMEC. Subsequent to the Bologna directives on higher education, the University of Eastern Piedmont and the Free University of Brussels decided in 2002 to raise the Certificate to a level - two Master in Disaster Medicine based on Italian legislation.

The Course initiators were:

- Prof. Michel Debacker (Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium)
- Prof. Francesco Della Corte (Università del Piemonte Orientale A. Avogadro, Novara - Italy)
- Prof. Herman Delooz (Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium)

Target group

The course is of interest to all those involved in the medical preparedness and response in disaster situations at local, national and international level. Applicants must hold an approved master degree in a subject of health care or health management. Practical experience in disaster preparedness or management is welcome.

Course aim and objectives

The Master is intended to provide participants with a clear picture of current concepts and developments in the medical preparedness and management of disasters. The EMDM will serve as a main contribution to the global development of disaster medicine as an academic discipline

At the end of the course we expect the participants to be able to:

- evaluate health risks in disaster situations and propose measures for primary prevention;
- participate in the medical disaster preparedness;
- direct the medical response
- organize and manage evaluation and debriefing sessions;
- organize education and training in medical disaster management;
- conduct research on the medical aspects of disasters.



Structure of the Academy

Board of Governors (BG)

The Governors are the representatives of the hosting institution(s) (the UPO, the VUB, the HUG, the SAMK and the Université de Genève). Sponsoring bodies can be represented, providing their commitment involves both the duration and the magnitude, to be rightfully concerned with the strategy and the management of the EMDM Academy.

The Board has elected its Chairman.

Mission: The strategy and supervision of the financial management of the Academy.

Tasks:

- Acquiring sponsorship for the Academy.
- Approving and/or amending the proposals of the Executive Director and his Management Team, for the activities to be scheduled within the Academy.
- Hearing and approving the bi-annual report of the Executive Director and his Management Team.

Education Committee (EC)

The Education Committee is composed by representatives of the collaborative universities and institutions, selected members of the Faculty of the EMDM, and a representative of the EMDM_A. Collaborating Institutions can be represented in the Education Committee, according to their input in the scientific educational activities of the Academy. The BG will approve membership of the Committee. The Director for Education has been appointed by the BG and acts as chairman of the EC.

Mission: to organise and coordinate the education projects of the Academy and manage the EMDM.

Tasks:

- To draft proposals for the scientific educational activities, to be programmed in the Academy for the coming year.
- To determine priorities, taking into account the scientific educational value of the project and of the researcher(s)/contributors, and the financial implications for the Academy.
- To define the requirements and objectives for the management of the European Master in Disaster Medicine
- To report bi-annually on the activities and achievements of the Academy, including the financial evolution.

Research Committee (RC)

The Research Committee is composed by representatives of the research groups of UPO and VUB and the collaborative universities and institutions, elected members of the Faculty of the EMDM, and a representative of the EMDM-A. The BG approves membership of the Committee. The Director for Research has been appointed by the BG and acts as chairman of the RC.

Mission: to organize and coordinate the research activities of the Academy.

Task:

- To draft proposals for the scientific research activities to be programmed in the Academy for the coming year.
- To determine priorities, taking into account the scientific value of the project and of the researcher(s) and the financial implications for the Academy.



EMDM Academy

In the perspective of the principles which motivated the EMDM, the most relevant issue in its professionalization process was the establishment of an institution which would have served as an instrument for addressing all EMDM activities and developments.

This has been embodied in the foundation of the **EMDM Academy**, as a physical entity, situated in the vicinity of international institutions and agencies with interest in disaster and humanitarian medicine.

The choice of Switzerland as hosting country, and Geneva as location, was considered the best option.

The EMDM Academy:

- Is dedicated to research and education in Disaster and Humanitarian Medicine
- Is international and host the highest level of international expertise
- Is managed by professional staff and provide the meeting point of the Board and Committees;

Mission

- To support the development of Disaster Medicine as an academic discipline involving a with specific interest to Humanitarian Medicine in disaster settings.
- To improve the quality of health response in disaster situations, basing skills and knowledge of health providers on scientific evidence acquired from research and field experience.

Objectives

- The development, evaluation and validation of new paradigms for education and research (basic and applied, epidemiology, methodology, data gathering and analysis) in Disaster Medicine. Existing paradigms traditionally used in medicine, such as bed-side teaching and randomised trials, are of no use for the education and research in Disaster Medicine.
- To provide a stimulating environment for researchers from all countries and all disciplines, concerned with Disaster Medicine as an academic discipline.
- To promote academic and non-academic careers in Disaster Medicine through welcoming Master and PhD students.
- To answer specific requests for consultancies and advices, from partners and institutions in view of the development of educational, research and organisational projects.
- To develop networking for interaction among the Alumni, the Faculty, the students and all people, interested to become possible partners in the program of the Academy; development of libraries; valorisation of new knowledge in the different disciplines (medical and extra-medical); information transfer (website).
- To take care of the organizational management of the EMDM.

Organising Universities/Institutions

The EMDM is organized by the two master diploma delivering universities, in collaboration with the following Universities/Institutions:

- Centre for Teaching & Research in Disaster Medicine and Traumatology, Link ping, Sweden.
- University of California, Irvine, CA, USA
- Université de Genève, Faculté de Médecine (UNIGE) and the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG)
- Schweizerische Akademie für Militär und Katastrophenmedizin, Bern, Switzerland

The EMDM is supported by international and scientific organizations with interest in disaster medicine and disaster management:

- the European Society for Emergency Medicine (EuSEM).
- the World Health Organization (WHO)
- the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The faculty members of the EMDM are qualified professionals in disaster medicine and disaster management coming from European and extra-European countries, affiliated with academic and worldwide renowned institutions.



EMDM: real size exercise Saint Christophe (AO). May 2006
Classe 2006-07



EMDM: farewell picture Class 2007-08



Class of the IX edition—Vercelli 2009



Complimentary Course on Disaster Medicine to teach students to act as intelligent victims in the real size exercise



EMDM-A: delivery of Diplomas .. Sorrento, September 2007

Educational format

The founding universities have final responsibility for the scientific content and the format of the EMDM, the quality of the educational methodology, the evaluation procedures, and the awarding of the Master Degree. The EMDM is a Master after Master, a 60 credit units programme, and lasts one academic year. The maximum number of students is limited to 35 due to the educational format of the EMDM.

The EMDM consists of different parts that must be completed successfully by the students:

1. A structured, self-directed study under faculty guidance on competence-based didactic activities, integrated in an e-learning curriculum and provided on the website of the Master (39 credits).
2. A live-in session, during which the students meet the faculty and interact in debates and exercises, assessing the student's ability to recall and apply an integrated knowledge base meant for solving problems in disaster situations (6 credits 4 units or 100 hours).
3. A thesis related to a topic of disaster medicine or disaster management, under the supervision of two promoter tutors (15 credits min 10 units or 250 hours).
4. A final on-line examination provided on the Internet, composed of an electronic simulation exercise of a disaster presenting medico-organizational and medical care problems and a multiple choice questionnaire on the content of the electronic textbook.

The Master Degree is awarded by the two Master Diploma Delivering Universities after the successful completion of the course required and appropriate assessment of the learning outcomes achieved

EMDM – Alumni Association

The Association was founded in 2005 and is committed to the promotion of excellence in the study and practice of disaster medicine and to serve the alumni members.

The decision to create an Alumni Association came from the common desire to bring together dynamic forces and to create an international network of experts in Disaster Medicine.

One of the key elements of the Association is the constant attention paid to all its members, maintaining their professional skills and establishing national and international relations and the public diffusion of a culture of disaster prevention and preparedness.

The Association offers various services, such as continuing education, exchange sessions between alumni, the elaboration of joint projects, participation in topical forums through its website and the distribution of its news bulletin.

The main purpose of the Association is to serve the medical community by supporting the development of disaster medicine and disaster management, in order to reduce the effect of disasters on the health of affected populations. The objectives include:

- a. to establish a network of qualified professionals;
- b. to provide a forum for research in all aspects of disaster medicine;
- c. to provide effective communication between the EMDM and its Alumni, by keeping Members informed on EMDM matters and to assist in maintaining the educational tradition and spirit of the EMDM;
- d. to provide information on the achievements and activities of the Alumni of the EMDM and assist Alumni in their professional endeavours;
- e. to organize meetings and conferences to bring together the EMDM graduates and others devoted to disaster medicine.

The Association now counts more than 215 members from the five continents, who meet annually in a General Assembly. Three Assemblies have been already organized on the occasion of international congresses or conferences in the field of disaster medicine. At national level vocational workshops and satellite courses were promoted and run by association's local representatives, in order to stimulate interest and to foster cooperation among health providers.

