

Report of the Scientific Activities of the ICMM 2007-2009

Report presented by the Scientific Council of the ICMM.

SUMMARY	pages
1- GOAL AND MEANS OF THE ICMM	2
2- WORLD CONGRESSES OF MILITARY MEDICINE	2
3 - REGIONAL CONGRESSES OF MILITARY MEDICINE	6
4 - PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CONGRESSES OF MILITARY MEDICINE	8
5 – INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES	8
6 – TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS	10
7 – RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	12
8 – EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES	13
9 – INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP	20
CONCLUSION	20

1- GOAL AND MEANS OF THE ICMM

1.1 - The main goal of the ICMM is to be a point of convergence so as to share scientific knowledge and expertise. By this way, the competence of each one is benefiting to everyone.

1.2 - Available means to reach this goal

World Congresses, organized with the support of a host country.

Regional Congresses organized with the support of Regional Working Groups.

International Review of the Armed Forces Medical Services.

International Courses,

- under the aegis of the ICMM;
- recommended by the ICMM;
- identified by the ICMM.

Support provided by the International Working Group (think tank comprising representatives of several Member States).

The running of these different means is possible thanks to the support of several Member States. During the period 2007-2009, these Member States have been: Algeria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Cyprus, France, Greece, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Serbia, Sudan, Tunisia, USA.

1.3 - The Scientific Council, till to October 2009, comprised:

- one Chairman,
- five Chairmen of Technical Commissions,
- the Editorial Board of the Review,
- the Coordinators of International Courses,
- the Directors of Congresses Organizing Committees (World and Regional Congresses),
- the Secretaries of Congresses Scientific Committees (World and Regional Congresses).

2- WORLD CONGRESSES OF MILITARY MEDICINE

2.1- Preparing the 38th World Congress on Military Medicine (WCMM)

During the preparation of the World Congress, the Scientific Council of the ICMM uses to cooperate in close contact with the Director General of the Congress and the Secretary of the Congress Scientific Committee. For the 38th WCMM, the scientific preparation was done in cooperation with Brig.Gen. Dato' (Dr) Mohd Zin Bin Bidin and with Lt Col (Dr) Mohamed Hatta Hj Manis assisted by Lt Col (Dr) Lt Col (Dr) Rozali Ahmad.

Two visits have been organized in Kuala Lumpur, on December 2006 and June 2009, concerning scientific topics and the running of scientific sessions in the KL Convention Center.

Meetings have been held in Tunis on May 2007 and in Brussels on October 2008, preparing scientific purposes of the 2009 World Congress

Two scientific novelties have been adopted for this World Congress.

- The first is a Round Table of the Technical Commission on Education, completing the 4 others yet existing.
- The second is the creation of a Round Table of the Heads of Delegation, which is not a third session of the General Assembly; which has to be participative, interactive; which deals only with scientific and technological topics;

and which allows exchanges of views between peers and with guest specialists.

2.2- Running of the 38th World Congress on Military Medicine

2.2.1- Background

The 38th World Congress on Military Medicine (WCMM) was hosted by the Ministry of Defense of Malaysia and was organized by the Health Services Division, Malaysian Armed Forces, under the aegis of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM). It was held in the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 4 to 9 October 2009.

The congress has been attended by over 500 participants from 72 countries.

Apart from scientific events (Plenary Sessions, Concurrent Sessions, Round Table Discussions and Poster Presentation), two sessions of the ICMM General Assembly have been held on 5 and 7 October 2009.

2.2.2- Venue

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) was chosen as the congress venue, as it was providing world classed convention facilities very close to accommodation facilities.

2.2.3- Participants

Total numbers of registered participants is 532, consisting of 388 international participants and 144 local participants.

2.2.4- Opening Ceremony

The opening of the congress was held on Monday 5 October 2009 from 08h00 till 11h00 at Plenary Hall, Level 3, KLCC. It involved the trooping of member's state flags, speeches by outgoing ICMM Chairman Brig Gen Mohamed Kamel Chebbi, by new ICMM Chairman Lt Gen Dato' Seri (Dr) Sulaiman Abdullah, by ICMM Secretary General Dr Jacques Sanabria and followed by opening speech and official opening/launching of the congress by the Defense Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi. The Defense Minister also did opening of World Military Medicine Exposition, at Exhibition Hall, Level 3, after the Congress's opening ceremony.

2.2.5- Scientific Sessions

The Scientific Committee of the Congress proposed 3 channels for abstract submission, through which the authors could submit their abstracts:

- *EasyChair* Conference Management System.
- Scientific Paper Email database.
- Personal Email submission through Scientific Secretary email address.

A total of 200 submissions were received through an Internet program "*EasyChair* conference management system". The scientific committee received another 4 abstracts directly via the scientific paper email and 63 abstracts via personal email. Therefore, the total number of received abstracts through all channels was 267 papers.

The breakdown of submissions for Oral and Poster presentations were as follows:

- Oral: 247 abstracts.
- Poster: 20 abstracts.

100 oral abstracts were not selected and offered to be presented as a poster presentation.

A total of 166 papers were selected for the 16 plenary presentation and 150 concurrent session slots.

A total of 10 papers were withdrawn before the abstract book was printed.

Total numbers of accepted papers then, were 156 papers broken down as follows:

- Plenary: 16 presenters.
- Concurrent: 140 presenters.

2.2.5.1- Scientific Program.

Based on the final list of presenters, the Congress Scientific Committee proceeded with preparing the Scientific Presentations starting with the first plenary session (PL I) on Monday, 5 October 2009 until the last session (Plenary V) on Friday, 9 October 2009, and the concurrent sessions.

The topics of the plenary sessions were:

Medical support in operations
Disaster, humanitarian and stability operations
Public health crisis in urban setting
HIV and AIDS; issues and challenges
Military threat: Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases
Technological advances, training and education in military medicine

The topics of the concurrent sessions were:

On Monday 5 October

Combat medicine and traumatology
Force health protection
Aviation and aerospace medicine
Medical support in combat environment
Diving and altitude medicine
Military education and training
Military surgery

On Tuesday 6 October

Military occupational health
Infectious diseases of military importance (1)
HIV and malaria
Environmental health and preventive medicine
Veterinary medicine

On Wednesday 7 October

Technological advances in military medicine
General military medicine
Behavioural sciences, human performance and rehabilitation medicine
Medical logistics and operational planning
Humanitarian and disaster medicine (1)
Military psychiatry and psychology
Infectious diseases of military importance (2)
Humanitarian and disaster medicine (2)
Dental health and maxillofacial surgery

2.2.5.2- Round Tables of Technical Commissions

14 presentations from 5 countries spread over the 5 commissions

- Technical Commission for Dentistry
- Technical Commission for Education
- Technical Commission for Military Medical Administration and Logistics
- Technical Commission for Pharmacy
- Technical Commission for Veterinary Sciences

The topics of the 5 round tables of Technical Commissions are listed in paragraph 6.2 with the activities of the Technical Commissions

2.2.5.1- Round Table of the Heads of Delegation

For the first time since the creation of the World Congresses of ICMM, held round table of Heads of Delegation, dealing with scientific and technical topics.

For this first round table, three topics were addressed:

1. - World Health Organization and Military Medicine: “how”, “where” and “when” communication, coordination and cooperation could be developed between WHO and military health services, which represent, around the world, a community of unique skills and resources.

2. - Would it be relevant to organize periodically, under the aegis of ICMM, symposiums meant for General and Surgeon Generals, professionals of the LOAC and representatives of the ICRC, designed to address questions that cause problems for medical personnel during active military or peace keeping missions, to discuss questions that have not properly addressed or clarified in the Geneva Conventions or the International Law of Armed Conflict. Out of threes discussion on highest levels of specialists, the purpose is to find solutions or suggestions that could be issued as guidelines for future behaviour of leaders and troops.

3. - In 2000, AIDS was the first health issue ever brought to the attention of the UN Security Council, Conflict situations were identified as contributing to the spread oh HIV, AIDS. Although significant progress has been made with regards to addressing AIDS among national militaries and international peacekeepers since then, the mobilization of military leadership remains uneven and the potential of uniformed services to contribute to national AIDS programs underutilized.

The topics, the spirit and the atmosphere of this round table, made it completely different from the sessions of the General Assembly. The participants appreciated discussion and exchange of ideas and experiences, on the technical aspects of these very important issues.

2.2.6 – Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was organized in the presence of the Deputy Chief of Malaysian Air Force, on Friday 9 October 2009 from 10h00 to 12h00.

Speeches were delivered by the Chairman of the Congress Scientific Committee, the Chairman of the ICMM Scientific Council, the Secretary General of the ICMM, and the Upcoming Host Country Delegate (Nigeria).

Certificates of Appreciation were ceremoniously awarded to the retiring members of the ICMM Scientific Council.

The Jules Voncken Prizes for the best article in the *International Review of the Armed Forces Medical Services* during the past two years, and for the best poster presented during the congress, have been respectively awarded to an Indian and a French winner.

The Chairman of the ICMM has presented memento to each National Delegate.
The Guest of Honor delivered the closing speech.
Trooping out of Member States flags closed the ceremony.

2.3 – Next World Congress on Military Medicine

The 39th World Congress on Military Medicine will be held in Abusha, federal capital of Nigeria, in October 2011.

3 – REGIONAL CONGRESSES OF MILITARY MEDICINE, HELD UNDER THE AEGIS OF ICMM

3.1- Preparing Regional Congresses

They are closely linked to the activity of Regional Working Groups (RWG / GTR):

Pan American RWG

Pan African RWG

Maghribian RWG

Pan Arab RWG

Pan European: will be operational in 2010

Asia-Pacific: creation in progress in 2010

The Members of the RWG make up the audience of the regional congresses, as one of them is the organizing and host country.

The Scientific Council of the ICMM uses to cooperate in close contact with the Director General of the Congress and with the Secretary of the Congress Scientific Committee, during the preparation of each regional congress.

Regional Congresses are organized on even years, and World Congresses on odd years. Three Regional Congresses have been held in 2008.

3.2 – Seventh Pan African Regional Congress, Khartoum February 08-12, 2008.

The scientific preparation was fulfilled with Brig Gen (MD) Siddig.

The Chairman of the Scientific Council and the Director of International Relations did a preliminary visit in Khartoum six months before the congress.

The ICMM delegation attending the congress comprised: the Secretary General, the Chairman of the Scientific Council, the Director of International Relations and the Director of Communication.

The venue was Grand Holiday Villa.

391 participants from 27 countries had attended the congress.

- The majority came from Africa: Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo D.R., Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

- Others came from other continents: China, France, Germany, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The working languages were English and French

The main topic was “Military Medicine: a Tool for Peace and Security in Africa”, the sub scientific topics of the congress were:

- HIV-AIDS and uniformed personnel (UNAIDS)

- Identification of victims in conflicts and disasters
- War injuries
- Management of disasters
- Infectious diseases: malaria, TB, emerging and reemerging diseases

A total of 5 articles, derived from scientific presentations of the congress, have been published in the International Review of the Armed Forces Medical Services.

3.3 – First Pan Arab Regional Congress, Algiers, 26-30 October 2008

Scientific preparation was fulfilled with Prof. D. Bacha.

The Secretary General of the ICMM did a preliminary visit in Algiers six months before the congress.

The delegation of the ICMM attending the congress comprised the Secretary General, the Chairman of the Scientific Council and the Director of International Relations.

The venue was the Cercle National de l'Armée (National Army's Club).

The delegations of thirteen countries have attended the congress: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoro Islands, France, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

The working languages were French, English and Arabic.

The Scientific topics were:

- Military Medicine in all aspects:
 - . Treatment of casualties caused by terrorism
 - . Mental pathology
 - . Dental pathology
 - . Cardiovascular pathology
 - . Aviation medicine
- Administration, organization and medical logistics
 - . Means of medical support of deployments
- Disasters medicine

A total of 7 articles, derived from scientific presentations of the congress, have been published in the International Review of the Armed Forces Medical Services.

3.4 – Fifth Pan American Regional Congress, San Antonio, USA, November 10-14, 2008.

The scientific preparation was fulfilled with Lt Col (MD) J. Fonseca, by emails. No preliminary visit was organized.

The delegation of the ICMM attending the congress comprised the Secretary General, the Representative of the Secretary General for Latin America and the Assistant to the Secretary General (Hispanic Affairs).

The Congress venue was the Anthony Hotel in San Antonio (Texas) U.S.A.

A total of 19 countries have been participating:

Member States were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, United States, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador and Uruguay.

Observers (non members) were Colombia, Ecuador, Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama.

The working languages were Spanish and English

The scientific topics were:

- Disasters response
- Epidemiological surveillance - Infectious diseases
- Prevention and control of HIV-AIDS in uniformed personnel (COPRECOS-LAC)
- Open topics on Military Medicine

Only two articles, derived from scientific presentations of the congress, have been sent by authors and published in the International Review of the Armed Forces Medical Services.

4 - PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CONGRESSES OF MILITARY MEDICINE

Representatives of the ICMM have been participating in several national congresses organized by member states:

- March 2008, **Bahrain**, International Military Medical Symposium.
- May 2008, Amman, **Jordan**, Congress on Military Medicine.
- November 2008, Libreville, **Gabon**, Premières Journées Gabonaises de Médecine Militaire (First Gabonese Symposium of Military Medicine).
- November 2008, Riyadh, **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, Congress of Military Medicine.
- June-July 2009, Kaliningrad, **Russia**, International Conference on 'Current Issues of Interaction of Armed Forces Medical Services in Modern Challenges and Threats'.

5 – INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE ARMED FORCES MEDICAL SERVICES

The general aspect of the review has been refurbished in 2009.

The editorial line has been re-centered on the core components of Military Medicine:

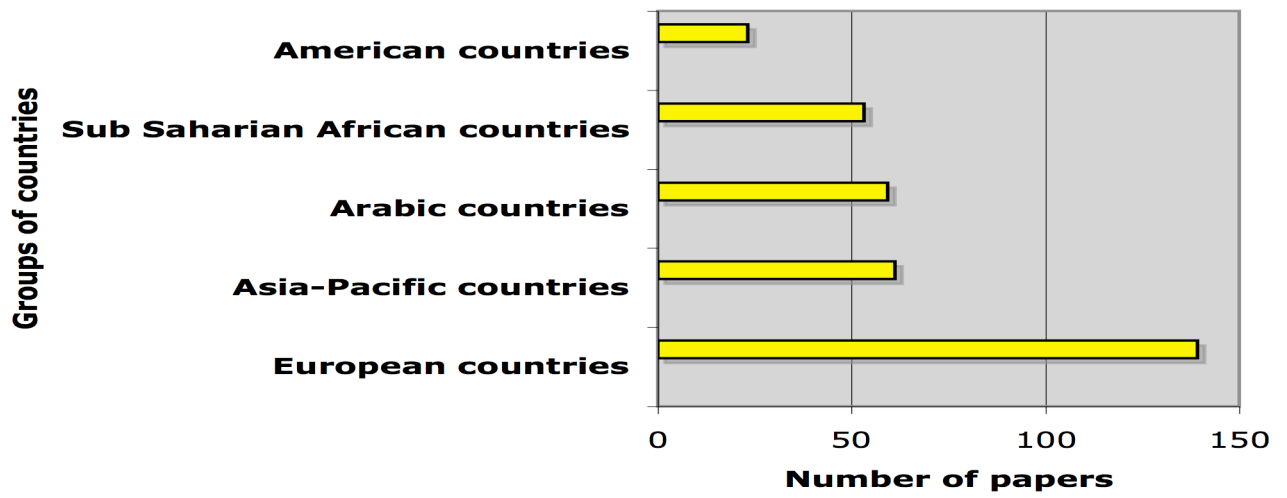
- Medical support of troops in peace and wartime,
- Infectious diseases, hygiene, epidemiology and prevention concerning deployed troops,
- War surgery and resuscitation,
- Medical logistics,
- Law of Armed Conflicts and juridical issues during PSO,
- Military medical research...

It is also focused on Relief and Medical Cares Provided to Civilians during disasters and in crisis areas affected by complex emergencies.

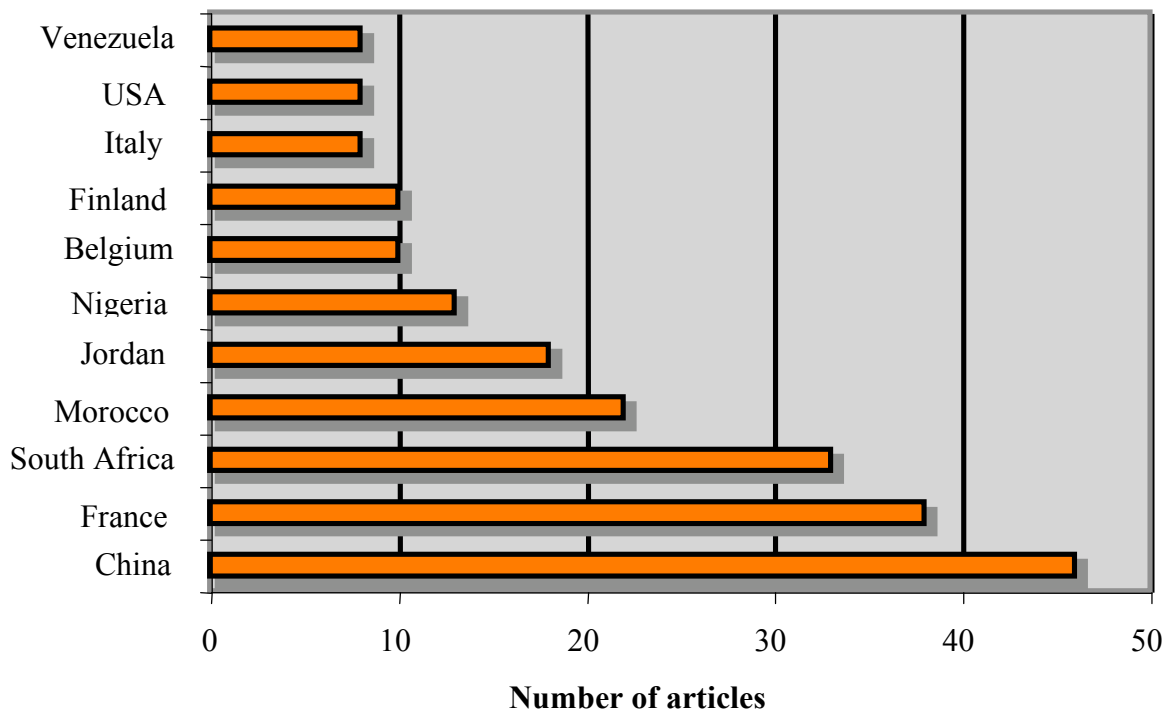
The review is now directly readable on line on the ICMM's Website: www.cimm-icmm.org

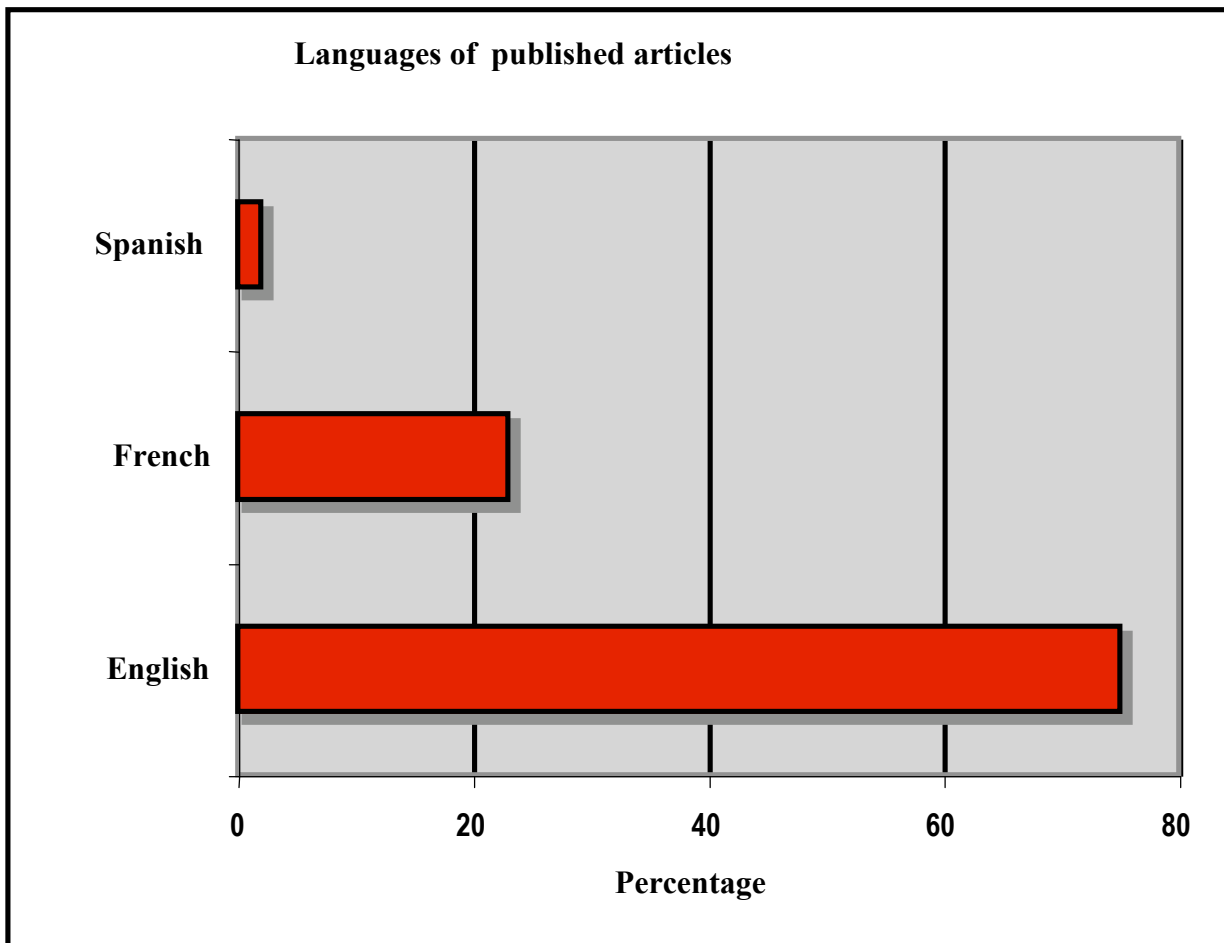
The participation of the 104 Member states in the publication of articles in the ICMM scientific review is not well-balanced.

Countries submitting articles to the review:
distribution by regional groups of member states (2004-2009)



2004-2009: the 11 first countries to provide articles





In conclusion: 70 p.100 of the articles published from 2004 to 2009 in the International Review of the Armed Forces Medical Services, have been submitted by only 10 p.100 of the ICMM's Member States. If we really wish to reach the main objective of the ICMM, which is sharing knowledge and experience, a substantial effort from the remaining 90 p. cent of the Member states would be appreciated.

6 – TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS

6.1 – Chairmanship of Technical Commissions

Five technical Commissions currently exist.

6.1.1 - Commission on Veterinary Science

Current Chairman : Colonel van der Merwe (Vet), **South-Africa**. His first mandate will end in 2011.

6.1.2 - Commission on Education

Current Chairman: Colonel Baer (MD), **Switzerland**. His first mandate will end in 2011.

6.1.3 - Commission on Pharmacy

Precedent Chairman : Brigadier General (Pharm) Bleimüller, Germany. His second mandate was ending in 2009. The new Chairman, elected by the 38th General Assembly, is Colonel (Pharm.) Claus Lommer, from Germany.

6.1.4 - Commission on Dentistry

Precedent Chairman : Colonel Nassih (MD), Morocco. His second mandate was ending in 2009. The new Chairman, elected by the 38th General Assembly, is Colonel (Dentist) Theresa Gonzales, from USA.

6.1.5 - Commission on Administration and Medico-military Logistics

Precedent Chairman: Colonel Tirico, Italy. His mandate was ending in 2009. The new Chairman, elected by the 38th General Assembly, is Senior Colonel (Prof.) Zhang Lulu, from China.

6.1.6 - Referable criteria for the appointment of the Chairmen of the ICMM's Technical Commissions

The referable criteria for the appointment of the Chairmen of the ICMM's Technical Commissions, are as follows:

- Professional and university qualifications
- Professional experience in the specific field addressed by the Technical Commission
- Practice of official ICMM's languages (English and/or French)
- Practice of other languages
- Current age of the candidate and age for retirement in his country
- Military rank
- University grades
- Scientific and technical publications
- Availability
- Confirmation of a clear personal commitment of the candidate.

6.2 – Scientific topics of the Round Tables of Technical Commissions

6.2.1 - Round Table on Veterinary Science :

1. Food safety and water security aboard naval ships.
2. The military veterinarians role in combating emerging and re-emerging diseases in a military context.
3. The World Organization on Animal Health (OIE): The implication of codes and standards on military veterinary services.

6.2.2 - Round Table on Dentistry :

1. Thematic communications on forensic odontology :
 - a) Informatics as a support of forensic odontology in the armed forces. Utilizing Win-ID and Plass Data softwares.
 - b) Interest of computerization of occlusal relief in military forensic odontology. Preliminary results.
2. Thematic communications on medical support of armed forces :
 - a) Evolution of dental situation of young French recruits. A 15 years study.
 - b) Operation Pamir- Field Hospital Kabul: taking charge of dental cares for NATO and Afghan Armed Forces militaries. retrospective study on 3 years/

6.2.3 - Round Table on Pharmacy :

1. Air medical evacuation system
2. Air mobile medical facilities
3. Mobile oxygen producer and bottling plant
4. The provision of medical supplies and equipment modular facilities.

6.2.4 - Round Table on Administration and Logistics :

1. The Practice of Occupational Medicine in the Various Armed Forces, with a special interest for the problem of asbestos.
2. The Medical Support Matrix and UN Medical COE Manuals a pathway for Medical Interoperability in Multinational Operations. (Malaysia).
3. Management of role 2 in medical support during Peace Support Operations : experience from a Member State.

6.2.5 - Round Table on Education :

1. Courses on the Law of Armed Conflicts (international and regional sessions).
2. Courses on medical support for deployments in specific environments.
3. Courses for veterinarians and paraveterinarians.
4. Course on the medical preparation of personnel to be deployed in PSO.
5. Courses for training laboratory military personnel in developing countries: project to be discussed with WHO/GEIS/ICMM.
6. Courses on health education: project to be discussed with UNAIDS.

7 – RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The ICMM uses to cooperate with International Organizations who have signed a memorandum of understanding including:

- reciprocal representation
- exchange of information and documents
- mutual cooperation and consultation.

It is the case with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The ICMM is also cooperating with International Organizations that accept to provide a support to some ICMM activities, in the field of education.

It is the case with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Program (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR).

7.1 – World Health Organization (WHO)

7.1.1 - Contacts have been organized with the WHO Lyon Office (International Health Regulations Coordination, Health Security and Environment).

The main topic addressed on this occasion was the Management of Crisis in Urban Areas. During the first part of the special UN plenary session, designed during the 38th World Congress of Military Medicine on Tuesday morning, 6th of October this topic has been addressed.

7.1.2 - Several contacts and meetings were organized between ICMM and WHO/GOARN/GEIS.

Discussions were ran about different projects of cooperation, to be submitted to the General Assembly:

- preparation of a meeting between WHO and Military Health Services, which could be organized in 2010, in Russia;
- project of a **Center of Excellence in Epidemiology**, organized as a network, on a voluntary basis, under the aegis of WHO and ICMM, with a nucleus located in Geneva, close to the GOARN (Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network), with the cooperation of the GEIS (Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System, US DoD).

7.2 – World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

The representation of the ICMM to the OIE General Assembly has been fulfilled:

- in 2008, by the Chairman of the ICMM's Scientific Council, who gave an oral presentation of the ICMM and its activities;
- in 2009, by the Chairman of the ICMM's Technical Commission on Veterinary Science.

7.3 – The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Several contacts have been fulfilled with UNAIDS for their participation in:

- the Pan African Regional Congress of the ICMM in Khartoum, Sudan, on February 2008,
- and the World Congress in Kuala Lumpur on October 2009. During the second part of the special UN plenary session, designed during the 38th WCMM, on Tuesday morning, 6th of October the topics designed by UNAIDS speakers have been addressed. They had also the opportunity to participate in the Round Table of the Heads of Delegation.

Other contacts were made for the preparation of the scientific features of the new Memorandum of Understanding between UNAIDS and the ICMM, finally signed in September 2009.

7.4 – International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Several exchanges of view have been fulfilled in August 2007, 2008 and 2009 with speakers of the ICRC participating in the LOAC Course in Spiez.

The Chairman of the Scientific Council has met, in Geneva on July 2009, Mr Sénéchaud, Head of Unit for the relations with Armed and Security Forces, concerning two issues:

- the participation of ICRC speakers in the regional sessions of the LOAC course;
- the participation of ICRC experts in a forum that could be organized by the future ICMM Center of Reference for Education on the International Humanitarian Law.

The answers were positive.

7.5 - High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

On 14 November 2007, meeting in Yaoundé (Cameroon) with Mr Jacques Franquin, the Representative of the UNHCR, concerning further cooperation about the ICMM Course on the Management of Refugees and IDP Situations during PSO.

8 – EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

In the field of education and training activities ran by the Member States, the ICMM implements three kinds of relationship:

- Some of these activities are held under the aegis of ICMM, in close cooperation with one or several Member States.
- Others are organized by a Member State and are recommended as fitting with the objectives of ICMM and corresponding to some criteria.
- The last category is corresponding to education and training activities organized by a Member States, brought by the ICMM to the attention of all the others, as able to interest some of them.

8.1 – Course on the Law of Armed Conflicts (LOAC).

8.1.1 – Yearly session in Spiez;

This course was the first activity of the ICMM in the field of education. It has been created in 1998, with a strong support provided by the Swiss Army. Since 11 years, the LOAC course is organized in Switzerland, under the aegis of the ICMM. The first session had been held in Geneva, the others have been organized in Spiez.

In August 2007, 2008 and 2009, the 9th, 10th and 11th sessions have confirmed the international success of the LOAC course. The Chairman of the Scientific Council represented the ICMM. The Coordinator of the course is Col. (MD, Prof.) Hans Baer, Chairman of the ICMM Technical Commission on Education. The Director of the course is, since 2009, Maj.Gen. (MD) Andreas Stettbacher, Surgeon General of the Swiss Armed Forces Medical Service.

Each year, the LOAC session in Spiez gives the opportunity for a meeting of the Technical Commission on Education.

The working languages are English and French.

Each year, after evaluation of the session, lessons learnt are used to improve the quality of the course. The success of the course has been yearly confirmed since 1998.

Progressively, aside the International Humanitarian Law (Law of Geneva), which is, with the Law of The Hague, the basis of the Law of Armed Conflicts, the teaching team has added a discussion on medical and military ethics in conflict areas.

But many Member States have asked, since several years, for the implementation of regional sessions of the LOAC course. So as to reply to this request, it has been decided to organize a network of host countries for regional sessions, with the central course in Spiez playing the role of Center of Reference.

The teaching team of Spiez will have to be strengthened, so as to be able to run the yearly central session and to participate in the running and the evaluation of the regional sessions. The Swiss Army, firm support of the course from the beginning, will agree to create **a Medical Unit, with permanent military personnel, dedicated to the running of a Centre of Reference for Education on International Humanitarian Law and Ethics**, with a siege in Switzerland.

8.1.2 – Regional sessions of the LOAC course

Presently, two Member States has accepted to be involved in hosting regional sessions of the LOAC course: South Africa and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

8.1.2.1 – Regional session of the LOAC course in South Africa

ICMM kindly agreed that this Regional Course could be held in the RSA which then took place during the period 24 to 29 May 2009 in Pretoria. The Course contents was based on the contents of the annual course being held in Spiez, Switzerland.

The Working language was English.

Venue: The venue chosen for the course was the St Georges hotel which proved to be the absolute ideal venue with its excellent Plenary Halls, practical breakaway rooms, high quality of accommodation, food and support services.

Participants: The 36 Military participants from various Military Hospitals and sickbays in the attended the Course and were divided in 4 classes for exercises after lecturers in the Plenary.

Commanders of the Course: The Course director was Lt Gen V. RAMLAKEN, the Surgeon General of the South African National Defence Force. The Chairman of the Scientific Council represented the ICMM in the RSA. Col Johan CROUSE of the South African Military Health Service, a service of the South African National Defence Force with his team organised the course and was also the Course Commander with Col (Prof) Hans BAER from the Swiss Armed Forces as his co-course Commander.

Lecturers/Instructors/Class leaders: The same team of Spiez were used so as to maintain the same standard of the course, namely: 1. Col Johan CROUSE, South African National Defence Force 2. Lt Col Max ZHANDT, Swiss Armed Forces 3. Lt Col Thorsten SCHAAY, German Armed Forces 4. Lt Col Sylvain FOURNIER, Canadian Armed Forces

Course evaluation: All course participants (Military Medical Personnel) were requested to evaluate individually and separately. All Plenary lectures, all class lectures and all exercises in classrooms as well as accommodation, opening and closing ceremony. The results were documented and an overall average mark of 87.67% (Eighty seven comma six seven percent) was obtained. All Plenary and classroom lectures obtained marks above 85%.

Summary The course was very well organized and conducted in a professional manner of a high standard and indeed did the ICMM proud.

8.1.2.1 – Regional session of the LOAC course in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The same kind of regional session of the LOAC course will be organized from 4 to 10 December 2009 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The working languages will be English and Arabic.

The venue will be the Prince Sultan Military College of Health Sciences, in Dhahran.

The Director of the course is Maj. Gen. Dr. Ketab Eid Al OTAIBI, Surgeon General of the Saudi Armed Forces Medical Service and Chairman of the Pan Arab RWG.

The Coordinator of the course is Brig.Gen. (MD) Saleh Hamad Alshayea, Director of the Prince Sultan Military College of Health Sciences.

The course will be ran by a team of 4 teachers of the Reference Centre of Education on International Humanitarian Law (practically the same team that fulfilled the regional session in Pretoria).

The ICMM will be represented by the Chairman of the Scientific Council.

8.2 – 4th International Course for Veterinarians and Para-veterinarians

Over the period 9 November to 19 November 2008, the Tunisian Defence Force's Military Medical Services presented the Fourth International Course for Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Personnel under the auspices of the International Committee on Military Medicine, represented by Col. (Vet) Paul van der Merwe. More than 50 members representing 11 countries attended the course. The course followed upon the very successful first three courses presented and followed the same format of scientific presentations interspersed with technical visits throughout Tunisia.

The military veterinary world is a relatively small and close-knit community, and the course presented an ideal opportunity to build new ties and to renew old acquaintances. Veterinarians from Algiers, France, Germany, Morocco, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, South Africa, Tunisia and USA, as well as two paraveterinary NCOs from South Africa and the United Arab Emirates attended the course. In keeping with the format of the previous courses, a large contingent of Tunisian veterinary and paraveterinary personnel were afforded the opportunity to attend the course and to interact with their counterparts from around the world. The attendance by local delegates not only allows for greater interaction, but also lends local colour to the event, and ensures that foreign delegates could be adequately taken care of. The working languages were English and French.

The Surgeon General of the Tunisian Military Medical Services and Chairman of the ICMM, Brigadier Gen Mohamed Kamel Chebbi, opened the course on the 10 November 2008 followed by a welcome cocktail in the evening attended by the Defence Minister in Cabinet, Mr Abdullatif Chebbi. The organizing committee, under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Colonel Slim Haddad had designed a diversified programme that was to expose the delegates to scientific papers, military veterinary, nation building and cultural activities, as well as touring the countryside of Tunisia. All delegates were accommodated in comfortable hotels across Tunisia.

The first two days of the course was spent in Tunis covering the role of veterinarians in disasters and the importance of emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases. On these two days the members had also the opportunity to visit the Tunisian Defence Force's food health laboratory, a farm where the Tunisian Defence Force produces red meat for its members, the institute for veterinary research, the Veterinary Council of Tunisia, the National Foundation of the Improvement of the Horse Race an institute that registers and improves the genetic stock of indigenous horses in Tunisia as well as the National School of Veterinary Medicine.

On the third day the course traveled to El Haouaria where a fish factory, Thon Sidi Daoued, was paid a visit to experience hands-on food safety practices. Various presentations were given underlining the importance of food safety.

On the fourth day a visit was paid to a pasta factory, Epi d'Or to look at their food safety practices employed. Some lectures relating to food hygiene and the ISO systems employed for control and quality assurance were presented. Then the courses proceeded to Gabes where they spent the night.

The fifth day some lectures were presented underlining the importance of zoonotic diseases such as leishmaniasis and the Military Museum of the Mareth Line, the defence line used by Gen Rommel, was visited. A visit was also paid to the town of Matmata, a town where the people live underground to escape the heat of the Saharan desert before booking in at the hotel in Douz.

In Douz a visit was paid to the GHOUT EL GHOUL military camp where the group had the opportunity to learn more about camels and the use of camels in the desert, as well as some practical tips on desert survival. Participants were also exposed to some practical work on camels such as taking blood samples. The visit was concluded by a lunch under tents in the desert amidst a Saharan sand storm that left all participants white with Saharan dust.

On the seventh day the group toured from Douz to Tozeur, visiting Rjim Maatoug, an oasis build in the desert by the Tunisian Defence Force enticing the autochthonous population nomads to inhabit the area permanently. Water wells were drilled and agricultural activities, such as date palms, fruit trees, forage production and even ostrich farming started. Houses and social facilities were build by the Tunisian Defence Force on behalf of the Tunisian government and given to the Tunisian autochthonous population nomads.

In Tozeur lectures were given as to food safety and water security, especially in operational environments. Various discussions were held as to food safety and water security aboard naval ships and it has been identified as a serious concern that warrants further investigation. Some proposals in this regard will be forwarded to the ICMM in due course.

On the last day the group traveled to Bizerte, the most northern town of Tunis and Africa, to pay a visit to the Military Canine Centre. Various lectures on dogs, a tour of the facility as well as demonstrations were given. After lunch the group returned to Tunis to prepare fro the closing function to be held at the hotel in Tunis.

The course was again honoured to have the Defence Minister in the Cabinet, Mr Abdullatif Chebbi, as the chief functionary of the evening. Course participants and presenters received certificates and gifts were exchanged. The course was closed and the members retuned home from as the evening of the 19 November and the 20 November 2008.

Feedback from all the participants was extremely positive, especially as to the arrangements and accommodation.

8.3 – 1st Course on Medical Support of Troops Deployed in Saharan Environment.

From 24 to 28 March 2009, the Direction Générale de La Santé Militaire Tunisienne (Tunisian Directorate of Military Health) has organized in Tozeur, under the patronage of the Ministre de la Défense Nationale (MoD) and under the aegis of the ICMM, the first International Course on Medical Support in Saharan Environment (Cours International du Soutien Sanitaire en Milieu Saharien).

The working languages were English and French.

Brig.Gen. (MD, Prof.) K. Chebbi, Surgeon General of the Tunisian Armed Forces Medical Service, Chairman of the ICMM, was the Director of the Course.

Col. (MD, Prof.) M. Ferjani was the Coordinator of the Course.

Col. (MD) P. Neirinckx, Assistant of the Secretary General for Training and Operations, represented the ICMM.

Participants : 29 military doctors from 15 member States of the ICMM (Saudi Arabia 4, United Arab Emirates 4, Libya 3, Nederland 3, Algeria 2, Cameroon 2, Spain 2, Norway 2,

Germany 1, Belgium 1, China 1, France 1, Kuwait 1, Senegal 1 and Tunisia 1).

Main topics: - heat related diseases – medical preparation of troops to be deployed in desert areas - desert environment related diseases - scorpion and snakes stings – infectious diseases related to desert environment, completed by the award of a Certificate of Education and Initiation to Cutaneous Leishmaniasis.

Teachers : For each topics, civilian and military teachers, from Tunisia and other countries, gave an international approach of high scientific and practical value. A close cooperation between the Direction Générale de la Santé Tunisienne (Tunisian General Directorate of Health) and the Institut Pasteur de Tunis gave to the participants the opportunity to study the complete epidemiological cycle of leishmaniasis, to examine patients and to learn the new therapeutic protocols. Practical training has been fulfilled on the field, with a total immersion in Saharan environment, allowing interactive demonstrations and discussions with a Military Camel Unit Commander.

Feedback from all the participants was extremely positive, especially as to the arrangements and accommodation.

8.4 - International Course on preparation of Peace Support Operations (PSO)

8.4.1 – Venue: This course will be organized by the French Armed Forces Health Services, in the Military Institute of Tropical Medicine of Le Pharo, Marseilles, from 17 to 21 June 2010.

The working language will be English.

8.4.2 - Course objective

Main objective: Enable military physicians to organize all necessary measures prior to deployment of military units.

Subsidiary objectives: - Learn to identify health risks related to any envisaged mission. - Learn to organize and conduct preventive measures and medical planning related do identified health risks. - Learn to evaluate measures taken related to defined objectives.

8.4.3 – Topics

Lectures on Military Health Service in Peace Support Operations : example of multinational UN led mission ; example of a multinational NATO led operation ; example of a French operation, lecture on the operation LICORNE.

Health risks during operations, experience acquired by the Military Health Service.

Health Risk Assessment. Sources of Information.

Execution of medical preparations

Supplies and evaluation of Health support.

Commanders point of view regarding Medical support

8.4.3 – Pedagogical methods

Lectures by field practitioners, study of learned lessons, syndicate work, case studies.

8.5 – Courses recommended by the ICMM

8.5.1 – Courses organized in the Prince Sultan Military College for Health Sciences, Dhahran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- AVIATION MEDICINE
- DIVING & HYPERBARIC MEDICINE
- MANAGING INJURIES OF MASS DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS

Two to three weeks modules.

Working language: English.

First sessions: 2009

Director: Brig. Gen. (MD) Saleh Hamad Alshayea

8.5.2 – Course organized in the Academic Hospital of the University of Amsterdam, «Academisch Medisch Centrum» (AMC), the Netherlands.

Course on Infectious Diseases and Tropical Pathology for the Military Medical Officer: the Dutch abbreviation is “BIUPAMA”.

Working language: English.

Coordinator: Dr P.P.A.M. van Thiel, civilian infectious diseases consultant to the Ministry of Defense, attached to the office of the Surgeon-General

8.6 – Participation of ICMM representatives in national training activities

Gulf Countries Council Joint Field Training Exercise, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, November 2008: Participation of an ICMM team to the final assessment of the exercise (Maj.Gen. (MD, Prof.) André Pasturel and Col. (MD) Pierre Neirinckx), with production of a final report.

8.7 – New courses scheduled

8.7.1 – New sessions of the LOAC course

Discussions are in progress with China and Malaysia about regional sessions of the LOAC course in Asia.

South Africa will organize a regional session in 2011, and Saudi Arabia will do the same on December 2010.

8.7.2 – Medical support in hostile environment

Tunisia will organize a new session of the course on medical support in Saharan environment in December 2010.

Discussions are in progress with several member states about a course on Medical Support of Troops Deployed in Jungle.

Discussions are in progress with several member states about a course on Medical Support of Troops Deployed in Cold and Altitude.

8.7.3 – New sessions of the course on the Management of Refugees and IDP situations during PSO

Contacts have been maintained with Cameroon about a new session of this course, organized for the first time in November 2006, in Douala (Cameroon) under the aegis of ICMM, with the cooperation of UNHCR, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCHR and ICRC.

Other contacts will be taken with South Africa and Nigeria.

9 – INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP

The Scientific Council has participated in the meeting of the IWG in Tunis on March 2009.

A review of the ICMM's scientific activities had been given to the participants, with a summary of the ICMM's Scientific Council constraints and needs.

Following the meeting, the Scientific Council has participated in the implementation of the recommendations of the IWG: providing elements for the preparation of the ICMM's strategic plan, working on further developing relevant courses.

CONCLUSION

The scientific activities of the ICMM, which are the entire *raison d'être* of this organization, are increasing more and more since ten years. The scientific objectives of our organization have to be clearly identified and updated, thanks to the cooperation with the RWG and the IWG. They must be integrated in the ICMM strategic plan, among which they will constitute the main issue.

The way these scientific activities are developing since two years, with the multiplication of Regional Congresses and the creation of new courses, underlines the fact that our organization is not currently fitted to manage such an amount of work.

The General Assembly has approved the amendment of the statutes and the RIO concerning the enhancement of the means allocated to the Scientific Council. But this solution cannot be the only and sufficient response to give to the real question: is the ICMM able to evolve in a professional permanent structure?