

# Welcome from the President



Dear all,

I am very pleased to assume the ISMM presidency for the next four years. On behalf of the executive committee and all members, I would also like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Buddha Basnyat who has led the Society over the last few years. Equally, I wish to thank Marco Maggiorini, for his contribution as general secretary; Vicky Rotari, for her great help with administration; and Steve Roy, for his fantastic work as treasurer and webmaster.

I am very glad that Steve will continue to act as treasurer and webmaster, plus with great pleasure I can announce that Miriam Gottardi of EURAC will take over the role of ISMM secretary. Miriam will help with administrative issues, assisting the president and his team and keep ISMM up and running smoothly. Considering how time flies, we will need to prioritize a few goal in order to achieve them. Therefore, my main aims as president will centre around the strengthening of our scientific network, increasing scientific communicative exchange between us and encouragement of the new generation of up and coming researchers. I will do my best to contribute as much as possible to increase ISMM membership and to reinforce the society in terms of its attractiveness, scientific rigor, and sustainability. Apart from my constitutional “obligation” to increase membership, I have put 5 main targets on my agenda for the term 2016-2020:

1. My main competence lies in emergency medicine; high altitude research is highly attractive, but also relatively new to me. Nevertheless, what I have learned during my scientific career is that standardisation in data recording is a key to render research reproducible, which is of utmost importance as we often work with low levels of evidence and small sample sizes. Maybe this is a matter that can be still be improved upon in high altitude research. Therefore, I have chosen to initiate the STrengthening Altitude Research (STAR) project, which aims to establish a standardised, uniform data recording protocol. The project is led by a core group (Monika Brodmann Maeder, Peter Bärtsch, Peter Hackett, Marco



Maggiorini, Matiram Pun, Giacomo Strapazzon, Ken Zafren, and me) and supported by a group of publication-based selected 32 experts. We're using the Delphi process to gain expert consensus.

2. Presently, there are several experts who promote the necessity for an update of the 1991 Lake Louise Scoring (LLS) system for the diagnosis of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). It is envisaged that, on the basis of the STAR project and considering the opinions of the above mentioned Delphi experts group, the LLS will be re-evaluated by the original Lake Louise Consensus Committee of 1991.

3. At the last ISMM general assembly in Telluride, it was decided to host the next ISMM World Congress in Nepal. What a great initiative! The event is expected to be in the Hotel Yak & Yeti in Kathmandu in November 2018 and will be organised by the Mountain Medicine Society of Nepal (MMSN), with administrative support from EURAC. There is a vision that a new training facility for mountain rescue and high altitude medicine will also be opened in Kathmandu, run by the MMSN and Himalayan Rescue Association.

4. One main target of mine, that I hope you share, will be to encourage and support a new generation of high altitude researchers. Two respective initiatives are on the agenda: 1. To establish a bi-annual "ISMM young investigator grant" (e.g. 2x1000USD) and two "ISMM best abstract awards" (2x500USD) to be awarded at the World Congress; 2. To finance an ISMM Mountain Medicine Education grant. Both of these future initiatives heavily depend on our budget (i.e. on our membership), therefore encourage as many of your friends and research colleagues as possible to sign up and become a part of a growing scientific network!

5. In 2018, EURAC will open a comprehensive climate chamber (Extreme Environment Simulator) in Bolzano/Italy. The facility can host up to 15 persons for 45 days and is able to simulate the world's climate in all its facets including extreme altitude up to 9000m (29.500ft) and all weather conditions. It will be available to all research institutions and study groups with a collaborative research interest; a consortium of high altitude researchers and institutions will be established in 2017. If you are interested, please get in contact with us directly.

Please consider that ISMM membership gives you a series of advantages:

- The list-server gives you the opportunity to discuss specific topics that you cannot find on Google or PubMed.
- You have free access to High Altitude Medicine and Biology, the highest ranked journal on high altitude medicine.
- You can sign-up for the bi-annual ISMM World Congress with a 50% reduction.
- You can get a 20% discount off the ISMM membership fee if you are already member of a national mountain medicine society.



ISMM

International Society for Mountain Medicine

Steve, Miriam and I will keep you informed of further advantageous developments, please help us by promoting ISMM where appropriate and by making efforts to increase the current membership, after all it is your future scientific network.

Warmest regards,

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