

Some Thoughts on Collaboration

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More than 100 generations of medical doctors have passed since the oath of Hippocrates was formulated (± 400 BC). Since then, the medical world has centered around the patient, whether he requires treatment for an elective or emergency situation. Many medical emergencies are possible, varying from a single event to a mass casualty situation. Single events occur more frequently, both inside and outside the hospital, than do mass casualty events; therefore, medical personnel concerned with the former outnumber the doctors concerned with the latter. This is reflected in the number of members of the various professional societies. Whether these societies are large or small, rich or poor, they still have one thing in common: the medical emergency of the patient.

For a variety of reasons, nowadays these societies are diverging from one another and act like competitors. Instead, these societies should unite and learn from each other. Harmonization rather than competition, should lead to collaboration and understanding between these societies. And this, of course, is to the benefit of the patient

with a medical emergency, which brings us back to Hippocrates.

With this in mind, the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) and the International Society for Disaster Medicine (ISDM) would like to set an example by joining their official publications into one single journal; *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*. The *Proceedings*, for decades the official publication of ISDM, is no longer. Creating a real journal of Disaster Medicine was not realistic for the time being, because of the relatively small number of ISDM members and lack of manpower and finances to realize such an effort.

Therefore, as president of the ISDM, I have the privilege to introduce to all ISDM members this WADEM-ISDM official publication on Disaster and Emergency Medicine. And as a consequence, I would like to urge all members to submit papers on Disaster Medicine to *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*. After all, this young branch on the old tree of Medicine has all the potentials in it to become a science!

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