

aid workers. This paper reviews two frameworks in the international literature to propose a model for cultural competency education in the humanitarian workforce.

Methods: The framework for disaster health, developed by the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) Education Committee, and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMCR) "Cultural Competency in Health: A Guide for Policy, Partnership and Preparation" (2006) were used as frameworks for this review. A meta-review of the literature was conducted to identify cultural considerations in disaster management.

Results: A definition of cultural competence was adopted from a range of theoretical models. Both the WADEM model, which includes the "Socio political, cultural context", and the NHMRC model, which describes four dimensions for actions (systemic, organizational, professional, and the individual), identify key principles. Using these principles informed by the literature review, a model is proposed to foster culturally competent behavior incorporating all four dimensions.

Conclusions: The model argues that "everyone" is responsible for culturally appropriate and responsive management. This review makes explicit the importance of cultural competency skills in the humanitarian workforce and provides a model, underpinned by contemporary frameworks, to address this challenge.

Keywords: cultural competency; disaster health; disasters; education; humanitarian workforce; training
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(M26) Model for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Health

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Introduction: The conceptual framework for disaster medicine is weak and unstructured. There is a need to reinforce disaster medicine education and research with appropriate conceptual models. This paper outlines the development and structure of one such model—a "work-in-progress".

Methods: A literature review of contemporary education programs in disaster medicine was performed and used to enhance the outcomes of the evolving framework of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) Education Committee.

Results: The literature review identified some consistent themes representing "new" thinking on conceptualizing the field of disaster medicine.

Four domains were constructed to develop a new framework for conceptualizing disaster medicine, namely: an expanded disaster health framework developed by the WADEM Education committee, which includes the primary disciplines of public health (the collective), emergency and risk management (the organizational), the clinical and psychosocial (the individual), secondary disciplines, the community, and, the socio-political-cultural context; a contemporary view of the disaster cycle; the disaster epidemi-

ology of the region; and the generic personal attributes expected of the humanitarian professional.

The consequent model demonstrates the relationships between these domains.

Conclusions: As a "work-in-progress", this model has been used to successfully guide the development of undergraduate and graduate programs in emergency preparedness and disaster health. The model provides a framework for common communication and subsequent modification in the light of further research and discussion.

Keywords: disaster medicine; education; framework; research
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Oral Presentations—Coordination and Clusters

Formation of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine Oceania Chapter: Process, Lessons Learned, and the Future

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Introduction: The World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) Oceania Regional Chapter is the first WADEM Chapter to be formed. This paper describes the journey experienced in the formation of this Chapter.

Methods: This is a descriptive, historical review.

Results: The Chapter had its origins in WADEM's 13th World Congress in Melbourne (2003). In Edinburgh (2005), the WADEM General Assembly approved the establishment of Chapters to promote both the discipline and WADEM activities. WADEM Vice President, Professor Frederick (Skip) Burkle Jr, led the development of guidelines for establishing WADEM Chapters, which were considered by the WADEM Board in Amsterdam (2007) and subsequently approved by the WADEM Officers in August 2007.

Three "Chapter co-sponsors", later expanded to a steering group of five to include members from Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Island Nations, led the process. Three constituting meetings were conducted by teleconference, the general geography of the Oceania region defined, and draft Chapter Charter and Chapter bylaws were distributed for input from WADEM members in the region. The Chapter was launched in November 2008.

Nominations for the inaugural Chapter Council have been called in advance of an election to be finalized in February 2009. The first Chapter Council will meet before the WADEM World Congress in Victoria, Canada (May, 2009). The Council has a list of activities proposed in the constituting meetings, upon which to base an initial strategy plan for the young Chapter.

The WADEM Chapter guidelines have been most useful and the concept of Chapter co-sponsors has proved essential. Enthusiasm in the region has been promoted by the formation of the Chapter and membership in WADEM increased.