Let’s shape the future for Emergency Medical Services in Europe!

Pre-hospital emergency care and emergency medical services (EMS) have advanced at a steady but increasingly rapid pace during the last decades. With growing public expectations of emergency care - now - more than ever, it is important that we learn from the latest knowledge, evidence, training, and technology and that we cooperate across Europe to identify best practice and find new solutions. That’s why we are organizing the first European EMS congress.

By Freddy K. Lippert, Fionna Moore and Jerry Overton

The important role of EMS today
Emergency medical services (EMS) have transformed over the last decades from patient transport to advanced medical care provided at scene and during transport to definitive care. Emergency medical dispatch is now the gatekeeper to emergency care in many EMS systems. The role of the emergency call and dispatch centre is more than identification, prioritizing and dispatching the right resources to the patient, now serving as an important clinical hub. In addition, it provides instruction for the lay person to begin care, the most important of which is telephone-assisted lifesaving CPR instructions. Some EMS systems are providing enhanced assessment by clinicians enabling referral to alternative appropriate pathways for patients with lower acuity symptoms. The focus is always on maintaining patient safety and using emergency resources more efficiently.

Emergency medical services are also undergoing development which reflect changes in healthcare delivery with centralization of highly specialized medical care to fewer and more specialized hospitals and emergency departments and a greater emphasis on locally provided care where appropriate. This has led to an increased focus on pre-hospital care and is also why EMS plays an even more important role today.

Why an EMS congress in Europe?
There has been no dedicated EMS congress in Europe to address our common challenges. Therefore it is essential that we create an overview of and establish cooperation between the EMS systems in Europe. We need to explore each other’s strengths, limitations and current challenges. We need to describe a desired vision of the European emergency care system and recommend strategies to reach our goals.

That is why we have organized an EMS congress in Europe – the first of its kind. The first European Emergency Medical Services Congress will be held in Copenhagen from 30th May to 1st June 2016.

Our ambitions – your ambitions
It is our ambition that the first European EMS2016 should make such a significant impact and be such a success that it creates expectations for similar events in the future.

In so doing, we aim to set the standard for future EMS congresses in Europe and for the development of a network of EMS leaders.

EMS2016 will be a catalyst for future research, education and product development by disseminating existing knowledge and proposing the implementation of best practice, thus resulting in better care for the patients. EMS2016 will also have a strong focus on clinical practice, leadership and development.

At EMS2016 we will create a setting where the leading experts in the field will share their experiences and where you as a participant will be given the opportunity to contribute with professional input across different fields. In the various forums you will be able to learn new practices or develop ideas for new research areas, the latest in product development as well as educational qualifications in various areas.

A different Congress – for you!
The congress will be characterized by its desire to encourage involvement and active participation. As a participant or exhibitor

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You will be asked to contribute as this is all for you!

Through workshops, poster presentations and events— you as a participant will be asked to contribute. You will be given the opportunity to speak up and use social media at debates as well as to network and meet in small forums to develop ideas, for e.g. on product innovation and debates on specific topics.

This also applies to the exhibition and the sponsors. The exhibitors will be an important part of the Congress and we are encouraging them to make their stands interactive with a focus on learning. Ideas for developing new solutions depend on interaction between clinicians, managers and exhibitors— we want to encourage this.

The new Global Resuscitation Alliance

EMS2016 is also proud to present and promote implementation of the new Global Resuscitation Alliance as part of the program. The Global Resuscitation Alliance is being established as a recommendation from an Utstein meeting on implementation held at Utstein near Stavanger in Norway in 2015. A follow-up meeting with international experts takes place 2 days prior to the EMS2016 Congress and the result will be announced during the Congress.

The new European EMS Leadership Network

One of the key goals of the Congress is to establish a European EMS Leadership Network. The network will consist of initially limited numbers, but will be comprised of strongly committed CEOs, medical directors and managers from across European emergency medical services, including medical dispatch.

In the wake of the recent Brussels and Paris attacks, and utilizing the learning from the recent multinational exercises (Exercise Unified Response) now more than ever – it is important that we have a highly active European EMS Leadership network. Therefore it is essential that we create an overview of and establish cooperation between the EMS systems in Europe to explore each other's strengths, limitations and future challenges.

This makes the timing of the unveiling of the EMS Leadership Network at EMS2016 in Copenhagen very timely. The network will be dynamic and agile, responding to the changing needs and priorities of participating EMS organizations. The European EMS network will bring the future EMS congresses forward and will support the implementation of the coming Global Resuscitation Alliance.

As part of EMS2016 we will have a session for you and international EMS leaders to discuss the future for EMS. At EMS2016 we aim to shape the future for EMS in Europe. That is why EMS2016 will provide an unparalleled opportunity for you to have your say and to influence EMS leadership in Europe!

So join us for the 1st European Emergency Medical Services Congress in Copenhagen from 30th May to 1st June 2016 where together we will shape the future for emergency medical services and pre-hospital emergency care. We all look forward to seeing you all in Copenhagen!

Biography: Freddy K. Lippert

Freddy K. Lippert, MD, Associate Professor, FERC, is CEO of the European Medical Services in Copenhagen, Denmark. Freddy has served as board member of the European Resuscitation Council and as General Assembly member for years and is a founding member of the European Trauma Course. Freddy is chair of the regional Resuscitation Committee in Copenhagen, covering the Emergency Medical Services and five hospitals. Freddy is an associate professor, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen. Freddy has as a physician more than twenty years of experience in resuscitation, trauma care and emergency care and has published more than one hundred scientific publications and contributions to books. Recent research and publications include improved outcome from Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest and implementation and use of public access defibrillation programs.

Biography: Jerry Overton

Jerry Overton serves as the Chair of the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch, the organization charged with setting standards, establishing curriculum, and conducting research for public safety dispatch worldwide. Previously, he served as the Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA), Richmond, Virginia, for 18 years and had overall responsibility for the EMS system. Jerry is a Past President of the American Ambulance Association, was a member of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the U.S. Health System, and is the Treasurer for the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine. He serves on the editorial boards of two leading prehospital care journals and has received numerous recognitions. As an expert in EMS systems design and deployment strategies, Jerry was named one of the 20 most influential leaders in EMS by JEMS magazine.

Biography: Fionna Moore

Fionna Moore, MD, is Chief Executive Officer of the London Ambulance Service. Fionna has been a Consultant in Emergency Medicine since 1985, holding appointments at University College Hospital, the John Radcliffe in Oxford and most recently Imperial College Healthcare Trust. She is an Honorary Consultant to London’s Air Ambulance.

Fionna was appointed to Healthcare for London’s Clinical Advisory Group in 2007 and was London’s first Trauma Director from 2009. She is a member of the London Clinical Senate and the National Clinical Reference Group for Major Trauma. Fionna developed and implemented London’s Major Trauma System 2009-2013. She has an unparalleled experience in major incidents and planned events in London from 1988 and she is recognized internationally for improving pre-hospital care (Gathering of Eagles award 2015).

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