

**FOR IMHA Newsletter***(Sent to be published in 2015 but still in press for 2016)***IMHA Research–Network (2)****Olaf Jensen and M. Luisa Canals**

Contact: ocj@health.sdu.dk &amp; lcanals@comt.es

The IMHA-Research objectives, scope and overall organisation are described in the IMHA Newsletter in April 2015, p 17-18. Here we want to give an update of the development since then.

**The IMHA-Research Network**

The objective is to strengthen the network for better and more - research, teaching/training and evidence based practise by building stronger national and international collaborations. With other words to develop a global interdisciplinary research-, information- and training collaboration in maritime health to the benefit of all the seafarers. More specifically to promote the IMHA policy to improve job satisfaction, well-being and health for all while working and in the retirement. The IMHA-Research Policy is to strengthen the evidence-based maritime health practice by interdisciplinary, collaborative research, training and information activities. The WHO definitions of health and prevention and the updated WHO/ILO guidelines for healthy workplaces are applied. The activities are done as a combination of unpaid voluntary or/and paid work. The IMHA-Research-Network includes:

## a) The IMHA-Database

i) Conference- and meetings -Power points PDF/PPT and abstracts

ii) Scientific articles that are not available in IMH/PubMed or other databases

## b) The IMHA-Research themes with interdisciplinary, national and international working groups

## c) The IMHA-continuing training programs for seafarers, seafarer's doctors and for all others in the maritime health field. The development so far:

**The Database**

With the help from our colleagues, we collected links to the PPT's and abstracts from the latest meetings and conferences. We hope to be able to continue the collection as a collaborative work. Please report if there are problems to get the data and if you have good ideas on how to improve the archives:

<b>Links to the materials from conferences and meetings</b>	
<b>2015 June 23-26th</b>	Bergen, Norway: 13th International Symposium on Maritime Health <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6q2sjtnj590pz8g/AADmXzjFPh5Uw4t7TgVTiLmYa?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6q2sjtnj590pz8g/AADmXzjFPh5Uw4t7TgVTiLmYa?dl=0</a>
<b>2015 Mar 19-20th</b>	Brest, France: Seminar about prevention of asbestos risk on board <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b7xocv1xrgtx3yx/AAAPbx_qDb6orLkZOVX3jmuca?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b7xocv1xrgtx3yx/AAAPbx_qDb6orLkZOVX3jmuca?dl=0</a>
<b>2014 Oct 18th</b>	IMHA Research Meeting and Workshop in Barcelona: "Better... " <a href="http://www.semm.org/cihfmm8.html">http://www.semm.org/cihfmm8.html</a>
<b>2014 Oct 15-18th</b>	Barcelona: VIII Congreso Internacional de Medicina MarítimaVIII - video <a href="https://vimeo.com/110005258">https://vimeo.com/110005258</a>
<b>2013</b>	ISMH12 Brest: all presentations <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o9nkn7b6gi9mn55/AABTfeeXvldyY6A9wLuqfKE4a">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o9nkn7b6gi9mn55/AABTfeeXvldyY6A9wLuqfKE4a</a>

### **Perspectives for the Database**

We would like to include all abstracts and presentations /proceedings - in a prospective way - from all the conferences and meetings. Later, materials from the past symposia and workshops will be included in due time. For a start we will ask the national maritime scientific associations to provide us with the links to their materials from their meetings and conferences for the latest years.

We propose that the files are stored "in the Sky" in the Dropboxes, Google-drives and other similar drives in the "owner countries" with links to the IMHA pages. We will collect the links and bring them in the IMHA-News. Further we hope to establish short training events on the ISMH's, workshops and meetings on how to use and contribute to improving the database. The IMHA homepage (or the SEMM) will be used as the central database with links to the national maritime health associations and research units.

### **Post-conference tasks document sharing**

Alf Magne Horneland, Chair of the ISMH13 in Bergen told us that many participants have requested access to the documents. Unfortunately the distribution of the files was delayed because we wanted to find the best form to disseminate the information. Based on these experiences we are convinced we need to add an item on the conference agendas: "Post-conference document sharing - responsibility". We also need more feed-back about the problems with the distribution and we should give instructions on how to get access to the documents.

## **b) Notes on the research themes**

### **1 Competencies in maritime medical health theme**

Coordinators: Luisa Canals, Alcaraz, Brice Loddé

The objectives are to develop the competencies with the universities, authorities and practical doctors.

Projects: a) Philippine study, responsible dr. Salomon and Dr. Teves, Cadiz and Brest University

### **2 Exposure matrix study theme**

Coordinators: Rafael Lefkowitz, Martin Slade

The objective is to collect exposure measurements (noise, indoor-air climate, vibrations, psycho-social, safety climate etc.) related to job titles and work tasks on the ships. The exposure risk assessments can be used for immediate improvements of the work-environment and for cohort based register studies.

### **3 TMAS-telemedicine theme**

Coordinators: Olaf Jensen, Lulu Hjarnø

Projects:

a) Danish international - repatriations (Kimmo, Lulu)

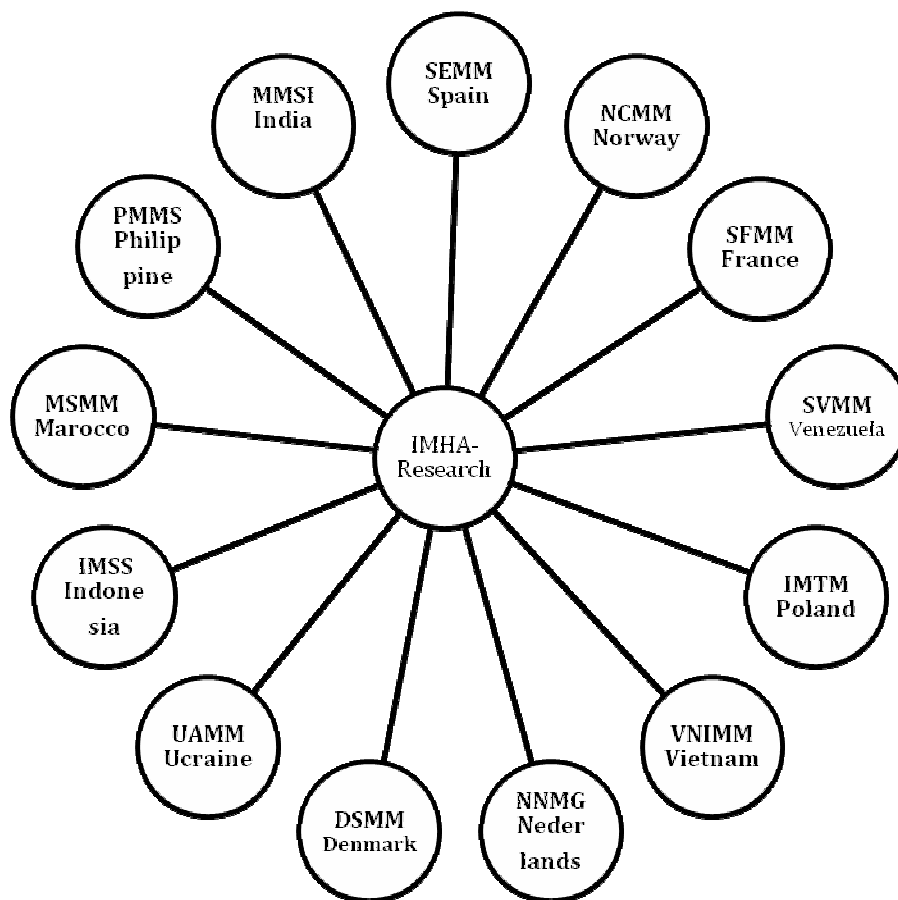
b) Swedish analysis of RM-contacts and repatriations: Westlund, Jensen, Nilsson,

c) USA Rafael and and M. Slade: repatriations

### Organisation of the Network

The intention is that the IMHA-Research Network is mainly based on the national maritime societies, the university research units' activities and the company activities. The coordinators' task is to help people getting in contact and to update information about contact persons, projects home pages, upcoming conferences and training activities. Each coordinator has one or more back-ups. The intention is to inspire all seafaring countries to establish their maritime scientific society in connection with IMHA-research (Figure 1). We have asked IMHA-office to arrange an updated and global list of the maritime medical societies with contacts and websites on the IMHA homepage. A *preliminary* list of 13 scientific maritime societies:

Figure 1



**Overview of the database-, research- and continued education activities:**

The figure doesn't covers all the activities but is only a first draft of the current activities to be updated continuously. We request all members and non-members of IMHA - to update the information for their on-going activities in the 3 research themes, the Database and the Training activities. At the moment we see the current activities as described in the table. Please inform us about any other activity you think should be included.

	<b>The global coordinators and the geographical areas</b>		
	<b>The Indo-Pacific</b> covers: Asia, China, India, Indonesia Coordinators: Abaya, Prisno-III	<b>The Mediterranean</b> covers: Africa, Latin- American areas Coordinators: Canals, Lucas	<b>The Atlantic</b> covers: The Nordic, Slavic, Anglo-Saxon languages Coordinators: Jensen, Jecewska, Ilona
	<b>Working groups</b>		
<b>Database</b>		Canals, Jégaden, Lucas, Lucas Viruly, Lygia Therese Budnik, Xaver Baur ...	Jensen, Baur, Jecewska, Jaremin,
<b>Research themes</b>	<b>Ongoing studies</b>		
<b>Competencies</b> (Alcaraz, Salomon, Teves)	1) Alcaraz, Salomon, Teves et al. Profile of Filipino Physicians		
<b>Exposure risk assesment matrices</b> (Lefkowitz, Slade)			1)US & Danish Lefkowitz, Slade, Jensen Gyntelberg
<b>Telemedicine</b> (Jensen, Hjarnø)	1)Abaya et al. Repatriation in Filipino seafarers	Fdo. Gomez, M. Pujos, F. Amenta	1) Herttua, Hjarnø: Danish-Int RM study 2) Swedish RM-contacts & repatriations: Westlund, Jensen, Nilsson 3) USA RM: Lefkowitz and Slade: repatriations - by the use of insurance data
	<b>Ongoing activities</b>		
<b>Continued education</b> (Canals, Lucas, Loddé)		Canals, Shafra, Loddé, Nogueroles, MM. Rodrigues, F. Diaz Agreements: SEMM, SFMM, SMMM, SPMM ...	Jecewska, Jensen,