



IMHA

IMHA Research

Vision

IMHA Research will promote and facilitate the conduct of maritime health research and encourage collaboration within and across disciplinary boundaries to establish evidence that will benefit the health of seafarers and help to improve safety and operational efficiency in the maritime sector.

Background

The knowledge base for maritime health risk management and for the effective medical diagnosis and treatment of seafarers is very limited. This means that the validity of the methods used to prevent and treat harm is low.

Contributions to the knowledge base may come from a range of sources including: epidemiological, toxicological, ergonomic and psychological research by academic institutions; statistics from maritime authorities, ship operators, insurers and unions, and case studies and other investigation by maritime health professionals including TMAS providers.

Funding for maritime health research is limited and in most countries there is no tradition for support for such work. As a consequence co-ordination of maritime health research both within countries and internationally is weak and there is little dissemination of results, except those that are published in the well-indexed biomedical scientific literature.

IMHA Research has been created to establish better links between the communities concerned with maritime health research in order both to improve the protection of seafarers' health and to enhance and optimise the use of the available research skills and experience to grow the skill base for the future and to help ensure that topics are addressed which will bring the greatest benefits in terms of improvements to seafarer health in future.

In short it is addressing two questions:

- What matters? The nature and scale of risks to health
- What works? The effectiveness of interventions aimed at preventing harm or reducing its consequences.



IMHA

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES
IMHA Research shall	To reach these goals, IMHA Research will	On a regular basis, IMHA Research will engage in
G.1 be the world's leading network of researchers in maritime health	<p>O.1 map and identify gaps in the knowledge base for maritime health through continuous monitoring of emerging problems</p> <p>O.2 identify possible sources of data where analysis and publication of findings can improve maritime health.</p> <p>O.3 develop agreed priorities for investigations on seafarer health worldwide identify how these priorities can best be met</p> <p>O.4 share information among researchers and research institutions.</p> <p>O.5 encourage partnerships between academics, practitioners and governmental and sector organisations that will foster sound research projects</p> <p>O.6 explore possible new contacts in seafaring countries with little tradition in maritime health research</p>	<p>A.1 Approach maritime authorities, seafarer organisations, ship operators, crewing agencies P&I Clubs, seafarer health insurance bodies, medical clinics, TMAS services etc. and identify the scope for using the data they hold as the basis for improving the knowledge base on seafarer health</p> <p>A.2 organize meetings and workshops of researchers and of those who can benefit from the results of an improved knowledge base</p> <p>A.3 set up a website as a section of the IMHA website (or separate – after the decision by the IMHA Board of directors) for the Network and use it as a means of communication among Network members</p> <p>A.4 maintain an email network to update individual and institutional network members of current research news and other updates in the field.</p> <p>A.5 identify, map out and classify the different academic and</p>



		<p>health research institutions of the world that have traditionally conducted maritime health research</p> <p>A.6 work with the WHO Collaborating Centres on the Health of Seafarers in Germany, Denmark, Ukraine and Poland in the conduct of the Network activities.</p> <p>A.7 actively seek cooperation with institutions in seafaring countries which have little tradition of conducting research in maritime health</p>
<p>G.2 conduct and promote research</p>	<p>O.7 document the available sources of funding for maritime health research and the criteria for funding that each uses</p> <p>O.8 encourage undergraduate and early post graduate research in the field of maritime health</p> <p>O.9 lead in linking findings of maritime health research to other related areas that would concern the sector such as human rights, health care governance, inequity, labour policy, etc.</p> <p>O.10 identify and improve methodologies relevant to</p>	<p>A.8 encourage funding bodies and those who can benefit from research results to support maritime health research.</p> <p>A.9 develop research proposals suitable for submission to grant giving bodies that will improve maritime health risk management, either by reducing risks or by improving the diagnosis and treatment ill, injured or psychologically distressed seafarers</p> <p>A.10 encourage and facilitate research training and research colloquia and conferences for purposes of strengthening research and</p>



	<p>maritime health research.</p>	<p>dissemination of findings</p> <p>A.11 encourage interdisciplinary collaboration in conducting maritime health research for purposes of understanding the determinants of the health of seafarers such as in the field of labour, economics, ergonomics, policy sciences, etc.</p>
<p>G.3 disseminate scientific knowledge in maritime health</p>	<p>O.11 encourage publication of scientific studies in indexed journals</p> <p>O.12 Ensure that research findings are disseminated to those in the maritime sector who can use them to improve health protection</p> <p>O.13 establish a database of research studies and other data on maritime health classified according to different subject areas.</p> <p>O.14 Actively collaborate and coordinate research presentations at international maritime health and related conferences.</p>	<p>A.12 work with the International Maritime Health and other journals to publish research results from studies done by Network members.</p> <p>A.13 Publish an annual update of the work of the Network in the International Maritime Health journal.</p> <p>A.14 Set up a website as a section of the IMHA website (or separate – after the decision by the IMHA Board of directors) of the Network and use as a medium of sharing information with the general public.</p> <p>A.15 produce summaries of the implications of research findings in languages and formats that can readily be understood and acted upon by maritime managers, officials and seafarers</p>



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<p>G.4 support IMHA, as the parent organisation, to encourage the use of scientific knowledge to promote health and wellbeing among seafarers and those who work in ports</p>	<p>O.15 Establish and conduct maritime health research methods training programmes under IMHA’s umbrella using different modes of delivery, including online materials.</p>	<p>A.16 Participate actively in organising IMHA symposia, seminars and workshops</p>
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Compliance with IMHA values

IMA Research will comply with IMHA policy, objectives and defined activities, as outlined in the Bylaws of IMHA.

IMHA Research will work in close cooperation with the IMHA Board of Directors.

Steering committee

The IMHA Board of directors appoints the following steering committee for IMHA Research:

The appointment is valid for two years, and may be renewed.

CHAIR: Maria Luisa Canals, Spain

Co-Chair

MEMBERS:

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The group supplements itself with additional members as needed.

The chair is to be appointed by IMHA Board of directors.

Sub-groups

IMHA Research may establish subgroups to look at specific areas of risk, intervention or research techniques.

Reporting

IMHA Research reports to the IMHA Board of directors when needed, at least once a year.



IMHA

Public and official statements of IMHA policy

Policy documents intended for public use must be endorsed by IMHA Board of Directors prior to the documents being publicized. This endorsement by the IMHA Board of Directors shall not interfere with normal academic publication.