

IMHA Research:

IMHA Research – Why? How? Who?

IMHA Research Meeting, Barcelona, 18th October 2014

*Dr. M. Luisa Canals
Chair IMHA Research*

**Why create IMHA Research?**

The main reasons have been turned into objectives of this group of researchers interested in Maritime Health. Here you have the answers:

1. To facilitate **research in Maritime Health**. We need to promote this type of research and work to get the necessary resources to create a specific database of scientific references, researchers, institutions related, collect material for training and homogenise competences in Maritime Medicine.
2. To lead and **create a network** of collaboration: interdisciplinary, with the support of main international organisations related to maritime health and national scientific associations and groups with special interest in this subject.
3. To **disseminate the evidence**, the results of the maritime health research: using IMHA support, publications, website, meetings, workshop, teaching and **continuing education** are important tools.

How? – The Prelude

The IMHA Research proposal was presented in Brest (during the 12th International Symposium on Maritime Health (ISMH12)), June 7th, 2013. A meeting organised with the intention to support IMHA and the scientific community to fill the gap of Research in Maritime Health. It was chaired by M. Luisa Canals and Alf Magne Horneland and it was taking the MARIN meeting proposal as background (Poland, June 12th, 2012, chaired by Don Prisno III and proposed by Bogdan Jaremin in that former meeting).

From the proposal of this meeting, in an IMHA board meeting, the objectives, tasks and other points were stated in a text. It was the turn of IMHA Research to reach a consensus of what document of rules and regulations wanted. Some discussion by e-mail was active in September 2013 and an excel file with the members was created (with a mailing list in the IMHA website).

A new IMHA board meeting and Workshop for IMHA Strategies took place in London, February 3rd, 2014. The goal was to have a draft for a consensus document to regulate IMHA main actions towards 2020.

The latest IMHA Research Meeting took place in Barcelona, Oct. 18th, 2014, and there, the final mandate document was presented. The main conclusions and presentations are to be found on this website of SEMM: http://www.semm.org/IMHAResearch/welcomeConcl2014IRG_MEETING.pdf and the document on the IMHA website forum for members.

How?- Last Activities

Barcelona (Spain), October 18th, 2014. Annual meeting of IMHA RESEARCH and 1st practical activity: Training Workshop: "Better and more maritime epidemiological research! - how to improve the culture of research and publication".

**Actions taken:**

- Management: Proposal of a Steering Committee by 3 subgroups of communication by languages and areas with support of some national scientific associations and other institutions. Possibility of meetings by subgroups. IMHA Research Mediterranean Roman Languages Subgroup meeting took place in Brest, March 19th, 2015. Next meeting IMHA Research Atlantic, onboard the DFDS Seaways Ferry in the way Copenhagen - Oslo and back 22nd May, 2015
- Collaboration & Data Base: Support has been given to the organisation of the 1st National Congress of the Moroccan Society of Maritime Medicine Dec 20th, 2014, The Seminar about the prevention of asbestos risk onboard in Brest (19-20th March, 2015). The presentations have been collected for our Data base
- Research topics selected: Professional Competences in Maritime Health and TMAS proposal for Research
- Training and Continuing Education: Implementation of Mendeley data base learning in courses like the Master in Maritime Health (Univ. of Cadis-Spain), Testing some possibilities of agreement with some universities of Venezuela and Panama to implement Seafarers Medical Examinations and the MLC 2006 training
- Dissemination: Joint agreement for publication of abstracts of the main articles 2014 from the Int. Marit Health to the Maritime Medicine Journal and vice versa
- Next IMHA Research Meeting in Bergen, 23rd June, 2015 inside the 13ISMH.

Who? Creating a Steering Committee

Everybody interested in Research in Maritime Health is invited to join. But we have to take into account that we are under the umbrella of IMHA. What does it mean? IMHA expect from us support in Research, once in Oct. 2014 the Rules and Regulations for IRG were presented: VISIONS, OBJECTIVES, AIMS AND ACTIONS.



The link between IMHA and IMHA Research is defined in the document. It is also described in IMHA Bylaws, in accordance with the new article we got at the General Meeting in Brest 2013. Political statements and consensus documents intended for public access should be endorsed by the IMHA Board of Directors, prior to publication. It is supposed that IMHA Research talks externally with the acknowledgement of the IMHA Board of Directors or through them. This will, however, not interfere with the professional freedom of scientific publication, which should be completely exempt from influence from IMHA Board of directors.

Corinne Idnani was the board member linked with IRG to inform the IMHA Board and for the Website Ilona Denisenko is the contact. Tim Carter is the link to organise the annual meeting of IMHA Research in Bergen inside the 13th ISMH (June, 23rd, 2015) and David Dungan the link for the news of the group in the IMHA Newsletter. Financial support has not been discussed yet but we expect some answer from the IMHA President, Secretary and Treasurer.

In our reports we have to measure our achievements, and define scopes which bring maritime health research forward. So we also expect some freedom in prioritising our actions and we offer a transparent and democratic way of self-management. When the Mandate was presented in Barcelona, Oct. 18th, 2014, Dr. M. Luisa Canals (till there interim chair) was appointed by the IMHA board to officially chair the Steering Committee. Previously by skype and emails other members were appointed and included for the steering committee by the interim chair:

Olaf Jensen and Don Eliseo Priso III were confirmed and added in a first step in the Annual Meeting 2014. Each of the 3 is working, leading the aforementioned 3 subgroups of communication or IMHA Research with maritime names: Mediterranean (Luisa), Atlantic (Olaf), Indo-Pacific (Don).

The first subgroup “Mediterranean” has already had their own meeting this year and proposed a steering committee for activities: co-chair (David Lucas), website & database (DB) (Dominique Jégaden), 9CIHFMM-Agadir 15Oct.2015 (El Kouen, M. Amsaf, T. Ghailan), 10CIHFMM-Paris 2016 (T. Sauvage), Telemedicine Research (Fdo. Gomez, M. Pujos, F. Amenta), Continuing Education (B. Loddé, P. Nogueroles, MM. Rodrigues, F. Diaz...). Agreements: SEMM, SFMM, SMMM, SPMM ...

By topics, we also have some subgroups of Research and leaders: Karin Westlund for the radiomedical research group, Marcelo Alcaraz et al. for Competences of Maritime Medicine Doctors.

We also have proposals of activities coming from some of members of IMHA Research:

- Advisers for Research Projects, training of researchers ... : Olaf Jensen, Don Priso Tercero, Henrik Hansen, Jørgen Riis Jepsen, M Rosa Fenoll-Brunet ...
- Organisations related to Maritime Health and Bibliographic References data base, communication tools: Dominique Jégaden, David Lucas, Lucas Viruly, Lygia Therese Budnik, Xaver Baur ...
- Help to publish scientific articles: Maria Jecewska, M. Luisa Canals, LM. Shafran...

How can you communicate with us?

You can use for your comments:

1. The IMHA website forum: Research (you need to login and register, possibility for all IMHA members and invited IMHA Research users).
2. We have created a questionnaire form in google drive to collect in a transparent way your comments at this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qE_IDw4dR6YDGHFhHR1sQ0khKP9d3TLolcN3rVAyRkg/viewform
3. The possibility of using e-mail to contact the chair of IMHA Research (M. Luisa Canals e-mail: mlcanalsp@gmail.com or lcanals@comt.es), IMHA secretary (IMHA@online.be) or any of the leading persons of the subgroups in the steering committee (subgroups of communication by languages, areas, topics, tasks ...) approved. We have also created a mailing list for those that have applied to be members of IMHA Research. We are updating it and if you want to join us, send an e-mail with a short CV, explain the reason you are interested in and how can you collaborate with us, suggestions are admitted, send us a photo and do not forget a good e-mail and telephone). For institutions, scientific associations ... instead of the photo send us your logo, there is a possibility of an agreement with IMHA and our group.
4. A website to download some documents (texts, minutes, presentations, summary of comments ...) and give information of the activities will be created. We need more time for a real data base. Links will be inserted through www.imha.net in Last News, IMHA Research.

Luisa Canals
Chair IMHA Research