

MARITIME HEALTH INTERNATIONAL e-LEARNING POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION COURSES:

An inter-university collaboration to train health professionals around the world.



M.R. Fenoll-Brunet¹ (Reus, Spain)
 M.L. Canals^{5,6,7} (Tarragona, Spain)
 P.J. Nogueroles^{2,6,7} (Cádiz, Spain)
 O.C. Jensen^{3,7} (Esbjerg, Denmark)
 J. Herrador^{2,5,6} (Gijón, Spain)
 D.L. Jegaden^{4,6,7} (Brest, France)

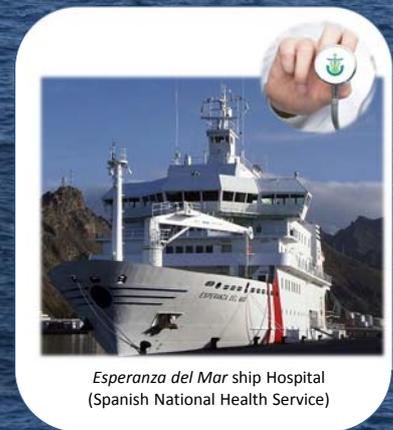


Background

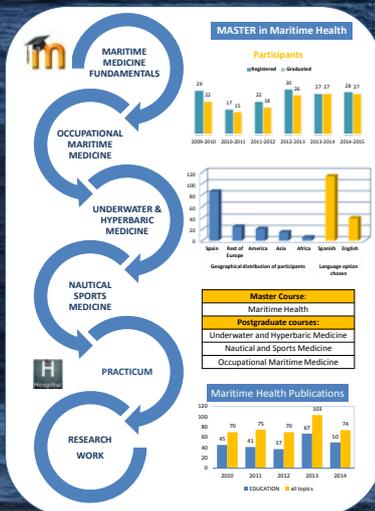
Medical education competences are fundamentally oriented to solve health issues of inhabitants that live, work and get sick on the planet's surface. However, the acquisition of competences addressing healthcare needs at distance for sea workers embarked during long periods while navigating around the world with limited access to ground healthcare services are not taken into account (1). This gap requires appropriate medical training on Maritime health competences, including e-Health and ICT management skills (2).

Summary of work

Courses have been designed to train health professionals to be able to perform medical examinations of sea workers, seafarers and divers, to manage a medical care centre, a ship hospital or a radio medical telemedicine consultation, to train seafarers, or to manage risk prevention activities on board (3,4). E-learning resources are provided in both, English and Spanish. A panel of 60 professors from 13 Universities in Europe, Asia and America are participating in online training with asynchrony collaborative teamwork, by tutoring practicums at 12 hospitals and nautical institutions and developing workshops coordinated by National Maritime Health Centres worldwide (i.e., Spain, France, India, Venezuela, Morocco, Philippines).



Esperanza del Mar ship Hospital (Spanish National Health Service)

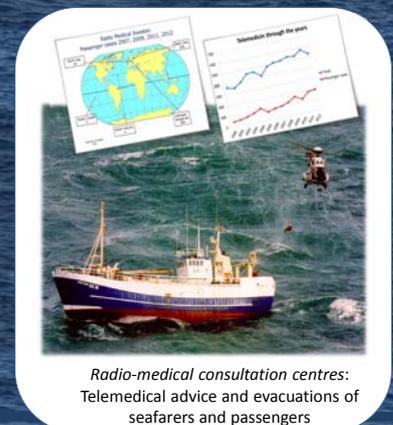


Summary of results

Since 2003 we are delivering Postgraduate Medical Education (PME) courses on Maritime Medicine. Doctors follow online learning modules by using Moodle as ICT platform and participate in practicum activities that are offered periodically worldwide to train rescue simulations and other protocols in maritime medicine including underwater and nautical sports accident aspects. There is a competence assessment programme ensuring that trainees achieve key competences for practising worldwide. Furthermore, a range of face-to-face workshops, rescue training events and symposia are regionally offered in close collaboration with the Maritime Health Associations network worldwide (4).

Conclusions

Maritime health professionals have been pioneers implementing e-Health, developing telemedicine services assisting seafarers and embarked workers, providing medical assistance and counselling to underwater diving professionals. They were also the first to share electronic patient medical records among maritime health professionals at harbours. This collaboration in the maritime medicine field can be considered a successful global partnership for education, research, and service.



Radio-medical consultation centres: Telemedical advice and evacuations of seafarers and passengers



IMHA International Maritime Health Association

REFERENCES

- McCarthy, N.; O'Flynn, S.; Murphy, J.; Barry, D.; Canals, M.L. (2013). Evaluation of the educational impact of a special study module on maritime medicine for medical undergraduate students. *International Maritime Health* 64(4), 195–201.
- Canals, M.L.; Nogueroles P.J.; Rodríguez, F.; Fenoll-Brunet, M.R.; Jegaden, D.; Rodríguez, M.M. (2013). International postgraduate courses in maritime medicine, a challenge to joint universities. *Archives des Maladies Professionnelles et de l'Environnement* 74(5):575.
- World Health Organization report (WHO) (2010): Telemedicine: opportunities and developments in Member States.
- International Maritime Health Association (IMHA). Network website is available from <http://www.imha.net/>

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE: Patients at sea do exist!
 The hazardous occupation of seafaring brings many unique medical challenges. Maritime Medicine professionals look after their health. However, this field it's not recognised as a medical specialty in most countries. There is a need to fulfil this gap!

Information: Maria Rosa Fenoll-Brunet MD, PhD, mariarosa.fenoll@urv.cat