



Military and Emergency Pharmacy Section

Annual Report 2021

The Military and Emergency Pharmacy Section (MEPS) members have, as always, been busy over the last six months. A lot of activity has been based around providing support for our members engaged in either the provision of care or in enabling the provision of care in humanitarian situations which have been complicated by the emergence of the Covid 19 pandemic. The military members have been very involved in their national responses to the pandemic situation. The result of this has been very little capacity for volunteer activities in the wider MEPS environment.

The MEPS WhatsApp groups have been active. They are being used to ask questions between members and to help resolve considerable problems. The use also strengthens the ties between our members.

This App reduces the lack of collegial support for members who work in relatively isolated conditions within NGOs. The groups have been particularly useful in the current emergency in helping to overcome knowledge gaps and provide workarounds for equipment shortages. MEPS has also seen members posting news of the release of new resources to keep everyone up to date almost immediately as they become available. It has also become increasingly seen that members are providing wellbeing support for colleagues who are struggling with the difficulties

The MEPS Newsletters have been distributed. Two Board meetings have been held.

Much of the work on developing and progressing other projects has been put on hold. MEPS is a small group and the majority of members have been very busy in responding to the requirement around the pandemic. This has left no capacity for project work.

Board members have been busy in organising the up and coming Congress in Seville. This has involved a lot of communication and arrangements with the Spanish military as our host nation. The reduction of the Congress to only 4 days overall has caused some considerable problems as it has meant all MEPS activities were not able to be programmed. To overcome this problem MEPS is running an additional day with a host visit activity and a MEPS only session. It is hoped that this will give sufficient justification for members to be able to attend.

ICMM (International Committee on Military Medicine), who has signed an MOU with FIP has asked for an FIP representative to give an address to their members at their assembly during the

2022 world congress in early September. The MEPS President as agreed to make that address and is working with the FIP office to ensure key messages align with FIP strategy.

While there is no quantifiable output from the activity, the MEPS Board is very proud of the way in which the membership has risen to the current emergency and have provided that support to each other. This is a very clear demonstration of the value of the Section. It is an intangible output but a highly valuable one.