THE "WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MEDICINE" (WAEDM) (CLUB OF MAINZ)
Presidents
1976-81: Rudolf Frey, Mainz, West Germany
1981-85: Peter Safar, Pittsburgh, USA
1985-89: Morgan Fahey, Christchurch, New Zealand

The "Club of Mainz" for Improved Emergency and Disaster Medicine Worldwide was conceived in 1973 and founded in 1976 by about 10 reanimatologists under the leadership of the late Rudolf Frey (Critt Care Med 6:389, 1978). Its objectives are: (1) to foster optimal resuscitation and life support methodologies worldwide; (2) to concern itself with a range from everyday emergencies to mass disasters, with appropriate consideration for differences in populations, available resources and other factors; and (3) to informally pursue the objectives by combining the resources of scientific, social and related information and experiences, together with international communication and collaboration.

The Club of Mainz recognizes the experiences and contributions of other organizations for public health related disaster relief, which particularly helps uninjured survivors and rehabilitates regions, but wishes to add the potentials of modern resuscitation (emergency and critical care medicine), focusing on the acutely ill or injured individual victim in distress.

The Club of Mainz was inspired by the Club of Rome, which was initiated in 1968 by the late Aurelio Peccei and some other concerned non-medical leaders and scientists around the world. The 10 key problems identified by the Club of Rome have equivalents for the Club of Mainz: (1) overpopulation (starvation); (2) no long range planning; (3) destruction of the environment (destruction of people); (4) business crises; (5) competitive armament leading to wars; (6) poverty (starvation, epidemics); (7) chaotic development in science and technology; (8) antiquated institutions; (9) schisms between East and West and between North and South; and (10) lacking moral leadership.

Rudolf Frey, Professor and Chairman of Anesthesiology at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, West Germany, and founding President of the Club of Mainz, died on December 23, 1981. In 1983, the Club of Mainz, with a membership ceiling of 100, was transformed into the "World Association for Emergency and Disaster Medicine" (WAEDM) with unlimited membership. Between 1983 and 1985 the membership was expanded to over 500. The WAEDM recognizes that the basis for effective disaster medicine is the quality of everyday emergency medical services (EMS), that the initiating link is life supporting first aid (LSFA) by the public, that third world countries are predominantly hit by mass disasters, that disaster medicine must be multi-professional, and that military medicine can contribute much to disaster medicine.

Membership in the WAEDM is by nomination from one member. To initiate membership, nominee and nominator should write to Honorary Secretary, Dr. Peter Baskett, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, U.K. Qualified for membership are physicians and non-physicians with interest and proven experience in emergency or disaster medicine -- as clinicians, educators, investigators, administrators, organizers, leaders, or in other relevant roles -- who express continued interest and willingness to be involved in the development of this field.

The WAEDM (Club of Mainz) is organizing world congresses. The first such congress was held in Mainz in 1977, the second in Pittsburgh in 1981, the third in Rome in 1983, and the fourth in Brighton in 1985. The fifth will be in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1987 (host: Dr. Brenildo Tavares). The WAEDM plans for action include: the Journal; studies and recommendations on traffic casualties, airport disasters, earthquakes, and nuclear war; and field teams delegated via other international organizations. These organizations include: the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LRCS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United National Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO), the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA), and the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine.