

Executive Directors Review
December 19, 2012

We are at the start of a new year and it is perhaps time to review some of those activities from 2012. In general, our membership has remained steady between 2,300-2,500. Financially we are much improved from the losses of 2011 (see our 990 on the web) and meeting our budget with a total income of some \$1,562,575 and expenses of \$1,561,375. Our Balance Sheet shows total assets at \$814,580.

Education

Being number 1 on our strategic plan of 2009 we continued our two international HBO/Diving Medicine Courses. The spring course was held in Grenada and Bonaire in the fall. We are planning to host only one course in 2013 in the spring, April 13-20 in Little Cayman. Instead of the fall course we are planning a Winter HBO Symposium in February 2014 at a suitable ski resort (more information later this year).

We obtained a 3 year DMAC International approval for our UHMS/NOAA two week course, *Physicians Training in Diving Medicine*, August 6-17 in Seattle and for our *Medical Examiner of Divers Course*, September 20-23 in New Orleans. The UHMS is the only one in North America with such International DMAC approved courses.

The South African Stellenbosch University/UHMS has developed a web based modular system, including an approved (already existing) 40 hour course and 240 hours of hyperbaric treatment supervision. This was described in the last Pressure and is international in scope, being used in Europe, South Africa and North America and possibly Australia/New Zealand. This phase will be for Associate Hyperbaric Physicians. We hope to have this completed this month.

During 2013 we will be working with Stellenbosch on the 2nd phase of web based courses to include 240 hour logbook completion, research project and final exam leading to Graduate Hyperbaric Physician Degree, BScMedSci (Hons). The final level is consultant, who is usually Director of a facility.

Chapters

Last summer, our 4 US Chapters signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This was recommended by our lawyers and accountants to provide a clear and workable governance structure in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws of the UHMS and in compliance of our IRS 501c3 non-profit status.

This is because the IRS does not regard Chapters as autonomous but totally integrated, financially and otherwise into the Society and its 501c3 non-profit exemption. They are regarded as 'subordinates' by the IRS. Recently, the IRS has issued a lengthy questionnaire that digs deep into how associations hold a group exemption ruling over their subordinates (i.e. Chapters). It is presently voluntary and being sent to 2,000 organizations. Likely, the result will be even more requirements on the IRS annual 990 in regard to our Chapters and their relationship to UHMS.

Meanwhile, the UHMS Board, with the help of Dr. Ken LeDez and Dr. Brett Hart are working at producing guidelines common for all UHMS Chapters in regard to organization, responsibilities and financial obligations.

Our Chapters are an important part of the UHMS and had 4 very successful meetings this year. The home office is working more closely now in helping run their meetings as there is a direct financial responsibility and representation to the IRS of these activities in our budget and on the 990.

Disclaimer

There have been a number of discussions by the Board and the Education Committee in regard to the need for a disclaimer on all our approved courses or meetings, advertising website, brochures, etc. The result was recently approved by ACCME too, and is as follows:

“The information provided at this CME activity is for Continuing Medical Education purposes only. The lecture content, statements or opinions expressed however, do not necessarily represent those of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS), its affiliates or its employees.”

You will also see it on our website, Pressure, etc.

Journal

The number of papers received for publications in our Journal of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine has been steadily increasing in recent years. For example, they were up 27% from March 2012 and 57% from July 2012. This year with Board approval each edition included parts of the updated 2008 Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Indications book. These indication reviews now appear in critically peer reviewed publications and can be more readily accessed in the scientific medical literature.

As a former Editor of the Journal, I know that at least one problem is ever present. Reviewers of papers are greatly appreciated but this is voluntary and they have their own work to do as well. However, it would be appreciated if they could be as prompt as possible with the review so as not to hold up the publication. Nevertheless, we always welcome more reviewers if you would care to volunteer. The excellent support by our present Managing Editor, Renee Duncan has markedly reduced delays in publications, too. She has done an excellent job also in the publication of Pressure with lots of information for members.

FUHM (Fellow Undersea Hyperbaric Medicine)

Another new designation of membership was introduced at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Phoenix in June. Recognition as a Fellow Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine (FUHM) is awarded to individual members of the Society who are hyperbaric physicians whose professional activities and standing are judged to be worthy of such recognition. Over 29 initial applicants were accepted in 2012 and applications are being received for 2013. Know the deadline to receive applications is January 1st of each year. The applicants will be honored at the banquet at the next ASM in Orlando, June 12-15 at the Universal Orlando Resort-home of “*Wizarding World of Harry Potter*” and our hotel Loews Royal Pacific Resort! Orlando is always a very popular place for our Annual Scientific Meeting. It is a great opportunity to bring the family and enjoy the theme parks and other activities, too. We are currently seeking abstract submissions now! Please send them in before the deadline!

Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs

QARA continues to grow with more and more chambers seeking accreditation with over 50 in 2012 and up to 72 planned for 2013. This has placed heavy pressure on finding sufficient trained surveyors, especially the physicians. Fees have been increased recently to help in this regard.

A major problem is the very slow payment by the hospitals of the fees for the accreditation. This has a direct effect on our budget. Delays resulting in \$50,000 to \$70,000 accumulated late payments of up to 3 months are significant!

In spite of a fire in the building for the QARA office, Tom Workman and Roy Cano have endeavored to carry on a very busy program from their homes while the building is repaired and have continued their accreditations in spite of significant adversity. Hopefully they are back in their offices by time this is printed as the expected return date was mid-December 2012.

Roy Cano has produced an excellent business plan as to how we will deal with 100 accreditations per year, which will be under consideration this year as the number of accreditations continues to grow.

CME

The Board approved an increase in CME fees beginning January 2013 as follows:

- a. CME Application fee: \$300 per year
- b. Introductory HM Course (ICHM) Application Fee: additional \$100 per year

c. Multiple Course Fee: additional \$200 per year
CME Certificate Fee: \$25 per certificate.

A quick review of the large number of educational courses and meetings requesting CME has continued to keep Stacy Rupert and the Education Committee very busy.

One is very mindful of the many volunteers in the UHMS who give their time and money to help the UHMS staff support the many benefits of UHMS Membership. Thank you for all you do and a Happy New Year to you all!