INTERCONNECTION OF MILITARY HOSPITALS (IMIHO) PROJECT

NEWSLETTER (Feb 2019)
INTRODUCTION

1. The Interconnection of Military Hospitals (hereafter abbreviated as IMIHO) project is an international non-profit initiative, within the SEDM framework, aiming at exchange of medical information among Military Hospitals and foster cooperation between medical personnel.

2. Ten nations currently participate in the Project.

3. Any health care institution, designated to provide health care services - exclusively or not exclusively- to military personnel is eligible to join the IMIHO Project. A Technical Working Group has been established with the purpose of designing, implementing and maintaining the IMIHO portal, an online information system, accessible at www.imiho.org.

4. The IMIHO Project aims at building a vibrant, active and ever-expanding community that will exchange information and experiences on medical research and practices. The IMIHO Portal provides public awareness and promotion of medical activities, performed by Military Hospitals and personnel. Services are provided free of charge to participating Nations and users.

FRAMEWORK

5. The aims, functions and process of the IMIHO Project are detailed in the “IMIHO Guidance and Framework”, a comprehensive document, endorsed by the Defense Ministers SEDM Nations, that establishes simple, clear and effective ways to utilize internet technologies for implementation of Activities, such as:

- International Programs with a specific purpose or subject.
- Team Projects of research or scientific subjects of common interest.
- Implementation of Services to IMIHO Users
- Catalog and Communication Services
- Training and Learning activities
- Awards for exceptional contributions.
PROGRESS REPORT

a. Web Portal

6. The IMIHO portal has been fully operational from February 2015, providing secure, reliable and uninterrupted services to the users (more than 99,5% uptime). As of January 2019, 410 users have been registered, a number that is continuously increased.

7. The IMIHO portal is under continuous development and enhancement. New thematic areas and services have been introduced, such as the Project Timeline and history, automatic translation and collaboration tools.

8. Services have been provided to the Balkan Military Medicine Committee (BMMC), allowing submission of abstracts for BMMC Congresses. A thematic area dedicated to part BMMR Congresses with historical information is now available.

b. Teleconference / Tele-education System

9. An online teleconference and tele-education system which supports high resolutions and mobile devices is operational, providing communication, training and education services while facilitating research and academic activities on subjects of common interest. The system can be accessed via the IMIHO Portal.

c. Meetings

10. The following Meeting have been held:

   ● 27th Meeting in the 404 Military Hospital in Larissa and SEEBRIG HQ from 22 to 24 May 2018.

   ● 28th Meeting in Military Medical Centre and Ministry of Health and Public City Hospital “8th September” in Skopje, from 13 to 15 November 2018.

Future Actions

11. The IMIHO Project will seek to expand cooperation with other
respected international organizations.

12. A series of online seminars (webinars) will be organized. The first webinar has taken place on 29 January 19 and included 3 speeches regarding the IMIHO Project, BMMC as well as the utilization of new technologies for medical purposes. More webinars will be organized within the next months.

13. A Military Medical Archive will be implemented as a central repository that will preserve knowledge and experience, document and provide historical, statistical and scientifically significant medical information from past conflicts, as well as assist military personnel preparation and lessons learned from peacekeeping operations.

14. A proposal document will be prepared on the subject of “Online Medical Training” that will describe examples, best practices, stipulations and limitations regarding online training of health care personnel via new technologies, including use of mobile smart devices, commercially available at very low cost.

15. The next meeting (29th) will be arranged by Athens in an appropriate Hellenic Military Hospital, tentatively scheduled for early May 2019.

Other Topics

16. Sofia national coordinator Col. (ret.) Professor Assen Petkov passed way on 29th November 2018. Being an inaugural member of the IMIHO/SIMIHO Project and the living memory of the initiative, the IMIHO Community would like to express condolences for the loss of an exceptional medical officer and leader. The IMIHO Technical Working Group will dedicate the next Meeting to his memory.