



Disaster Rehabilitation Committee of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine: disaster response

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Background

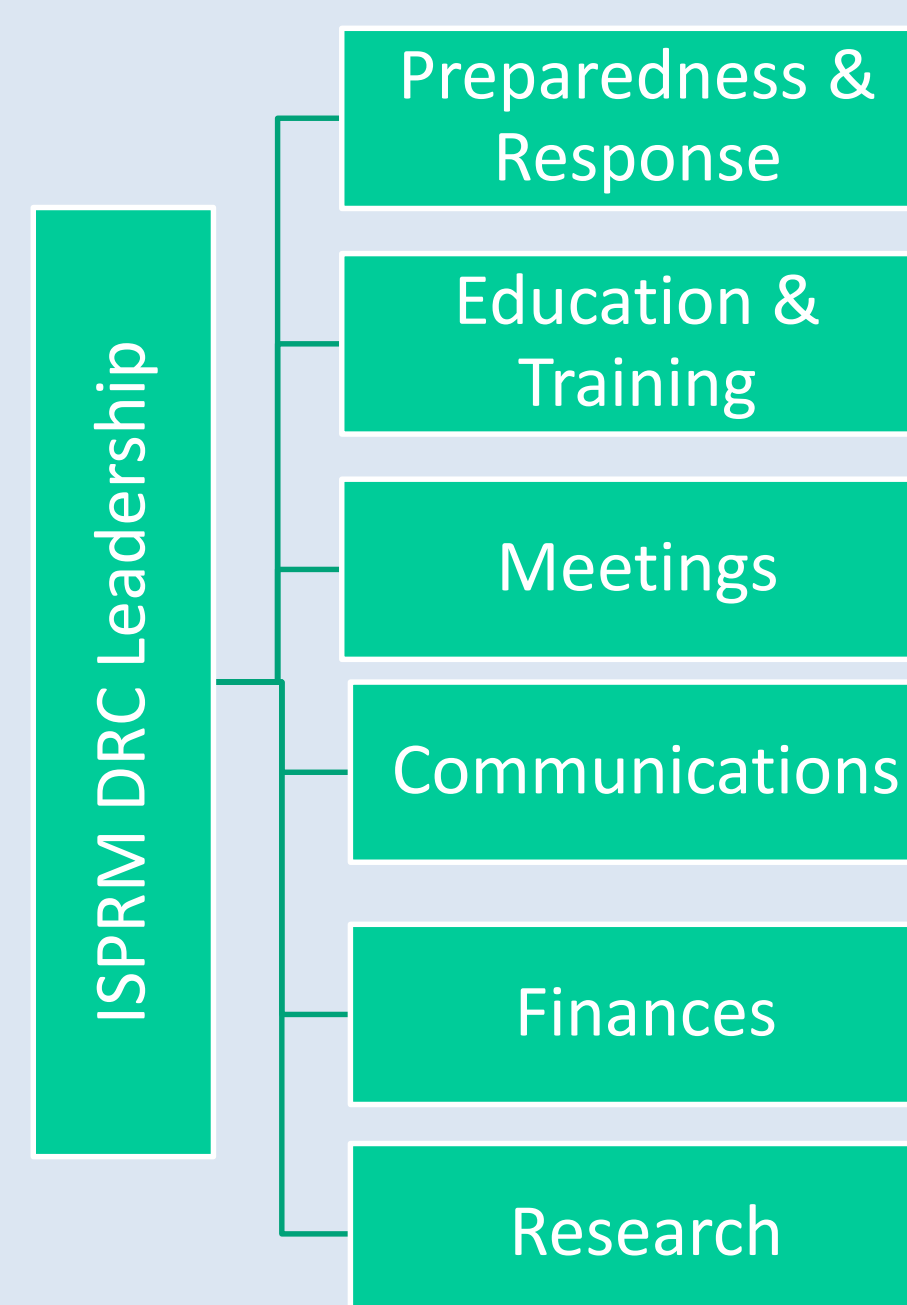
International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) has served as the global agency for Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (PRM) since 1999. As a non-governmental organization (NGO) in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), as an international umbrella organization of PRM physicians, and as a catalyst for international PRM research, ISPRM has professional, scientific, and humanitarian mandates.

ISPRM thus aims to continuously improve global PRM practice and facilitate PRM input to international health organizations with the goal of contributing to optimal functioning and quality of life of people experiencing disability.

The Disaster Rehabilitation Committee (DRC) of the ISPRM was established in 2010 with Jianan Li (China) as its first Chairperson.

ISPRM DRC - Structure

The ISPRM DRC features a workgroup structure.



ISPRM DRC – Mission & Goals

The mission of ISPRM DRC is to advocate PRM perspective in minimizing disability and optimizing functioning and health-related quality of life in persons who sustain traumatic injury and those with pre-existing disability in a disaster.

Committee goals advance global disaster rehabilitation, enact the ISPRM humanitarian agenda, and are consistent with ISPRM goals. Committee goals are to:

- support ISPRM member National Society response to disasters;
- provide education and training resources on rehabilitation disaster management;
- host disaster rehabilitation programming at ISPRM congresses and other professional meetings;
- provide expert PRM consultation to WHO and other rehabilitation disaster management stakeholders;
- partner with WHO, other international rehabilitation professional societies, and other organizations to advance global disaster rehabilitation policy and practice;
- perform and facilitate disaster rehabilitation research.

ISPRM DRC - Response activities

- Wenchuan EQ (China, 2008): evaluation of physical rehabilitation response
- Typhoon Haiyan (Philippines, 2013): funding support, onsite assistance; health services evaluation
- Nepal EQ (2015): advisement of Australian and Bangladesh Rehab EMTs on WHO EMT procedures
- Hurricane Matthew (Haiti, 2016): funding
- Hosted disaster rehabilitation symposium at regional rehab meeting (AOSPRM 2015)
- Disaster rehabilitation sessions at annual ISPRM congresses
- Contribution to global rehab documents
 - 'WHO Guidance Note on Disability and Emergency Risk Mngt for Health' (2013)
 - WCPT 'Physical therapists in disasters' (2016)
 - Dos & don'ts for rehab professional volunteer responders' (2016)
 - WHO 'Minimum technical standards and recs for rehab for EMTs' (2016)

ISPRM DRC – Responder Training

Educational curricula (online; in person) for ISPRM national society rehabilitation responders are under development.

Curricular structure:

- International disaster response architecture, coordination, and humanitarian basis
- Humanitarian core competencies
- Technical skill competencies for management of specific disabling injuries
- Rehabilitation in austere environments

Planned implementation on ISPRM website and at ISPRM 2017.