



ISMM

International Society for Mountain Medicine

PO BOX 31142
Colorado Springs, CO 80931-1142
USA

from Marco Maggiorini, President

A Year-end Letter, December 2008

Dear Member,

For most of us another year comes to its end giving us the opportunity to look back what 2008 offered and make good propositions for the coming year. This is an excellent occasion also think renewing your membership of our Society.

2008 was for our society characterized by a change of the presidency and the celebration of the 25th anniversary of research at the new Capanna Regina Margherita in Varallo-Sesia, Italy. This was a successful event attended by 80 delegates during which outstanding researchers gave an elegant review of the scientific work performed at the hut during the past 25 years. As usual the Italian hospitality given by the local organizing committee was grate. We express our gratitude to Giorgio Tiraboschi and his team.

Far away from Varallo, more precisely in New Delhi, India, by the end of November the first Congress of the Asia-Pacific Society of Mountain Medicine has been held. This was an important event aiming to improve contacts between scientists, medical doctors and spread knowledge about high altitude illnesses around that area of the world. Jean-Paul Richalet represented the ISMM executive committee at the congress.

As years go by we have to face changes, which some of us may regret, but are at the same time an opportunity to improve. 2008 is the last year we could enjoy the print copy of High Altitude Medicine and Biology, our society journal. With the next year, the journal will be only available in the online format. All ordinary members of our society will have the opportunity to download and store on their PC the pdf version of all articles they are interested in. The journal access will be as it was in the past through the society web site, members' area. This gives us the chance to improve an update our web page, making it the platform through which

the members of our society communicate.

Early this year John B. West invited me to write a guest editorial in High Altitude Medicine and Biology, a unique opportunity for me to thank our past president Jim Milledge and outline my personal view where the society should move. The executive committee discussed the proposed concept during our meeting at the Varallo congress and decided to move in that direction step by step. The basic idea behind the reorganisation of the society is to make it a roof organisation by which national or regional societies feel represented. At our next executive committee meeting which will take place at the Hypoxia Symposium in Lake Louise, Alberta Canada we will discuss how to reorganize the executive committee and which structure should have a council of national representatives. The new reorganisation of the society will be voted at the general assembly during the next ISMM World congress, which will be held August 8-12, 2010 in Arequipa, Peru. I'm more than happy to get suggestions from any motivated members of the society willing to help making the society growing.

Finally, I don't would like to miss this opportunity to wish you all best for 2009 and encourage renewing your membership and motivating friends and colleges to join our society. In doing so you kindly contribute making the society grow and meet it's goal, written in the statutes "to create an international organization of scientific character . . . and to encourage research, studies, discussion and publications concerning all medical aspects of mountains, mountains people and mountaineers".

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggiorini', written in a cursive style.

Marco Maggiorini