



THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING FEDERATION
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

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History of the Medical commission

The Medical Commission was founded in 1981 by the General Assembly. In the beginning there was only a few doctors representing the largest mountaineering federations. Today, the commission has grown to include 22 delegated doctors from 18 different mountaineering federations, as well as 16 corresponding members from all over the world.

In 1984 the commission held a conference in Chamonix, with over 350 participants. There the delegates decided that it was necessary to form an international organisation which was open to everyone interested in mountain medicine, also those who are not members of the UIAA. Therefore the Medical Commission founded the [International Society of Mountain Medicine \(ISMM\)](#) in 1986. This society deals with all the different aspects of mountain medicine, mainly on a scientific level. Today ISMM has 450 members.

Over the years the UIAA Medical Commission has worked very closely with the Medical Commission of the [International Commission for Alpine Rescue \(ICAR\)](#). The current presidents of the UIAA Medical commission and the MedCom ICAR are always on the advisory board of the ISMM.

In the last few years we have also worked closely together with the [Wilderness Medical Society \(WMS\)](#), a leading organisation dealing with all different aspects of wilderness medicine (mountaineering, diving, space medicine, survival in deserts etc). WMS is mainly active in the USA and has about 3500 members.

The presidents of the medical commission to this date:

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| 1981 – 1987 | Pietro Segantini, Switzerland |
| 1987 – 1991 | Charles Clark, United Kingdom |
| 1991 – 1996 | Franz Berghold, Austria |
| 1997 – 2003 | Durrer Bruno, Switzerland |
| 2004 – present | Buddha Basnyat, Nepal |