

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS — ADVANCEMENTS IN RESCUE****RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT: DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE WATER SAFETY AND RESCUE TRAINING FOR LAYPEOPLE****M.ec. Reto Abaecherli<sup>1</sup>**, MD Linda Quan<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Swiss Lifesaving Society (Swiss Red Cross), , Switzerland, <sup>2</sup>American Red Cross, , USA**POSTER PRESENTATIONS DAY 1, DURBAN ICC - EXHIBITION HALL, OCTOBER 8, 2019, 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM**

As is well known, bystanders make a critical difference in the survival of drowning victims. Many organizations worldwide provide any sort of water safety and rescue training to laypeople. It's content and learning modalities often are based primarily on experience and expertise. But what tells us evidence? And: shouldn't there be a certain harmonization of water safety and rescue training programmes for laypeople?

As it already exists for first aid and resuscitation in form of the « International First Aid and Resuscitation Guidelines » (referred to as the guidelines) from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) there shall be something similar for water safety and rescue.

The aim is to identify evidence about effective and safe rescue techniques/procedures for laypeople rescuing other from drowning and how to teach this in an effective way.

The next issue (2020) of the guidelines shall be expanded with this issue. To this end, a comprehensive analysis of the available evidence should be made; followed by recommendations and examples of "good practice".

Finally the guidelines should serve as the basis for developing and updating water safety and rescue training programmes, apps, public information and associated educational materials of any interested organization.

The project started in autumn 2018. Meanwhile structure, topics, method and procedures are defined, scientific questions are drafted and first systematic literature searches are done.

One challenge is that the number of available - water safety / rescue specific - studies that meet the quality requirements is rather low. However, with regard to learning modalities or aspects such as "skills fade", findings from related fields - like "first aid" - can be adapted to water safety and water rescue training to laypeople.