

## Welcome

On behalf of the Malta Resuscitation Council it is my great pleasure to update you on our activities in 2008 and give you a preview of what lies ahead in 2009.

2008 has been another very busy and active year for our organisation and I would like to immediately thank all the council members and the many volunteers who gave us their time and commitments which were essential to organise the council's various events. Other key supporters of our mission which I would like to thank as well are the Anaesthesia Department, the Paediatric Department and the Accident and Emergency Department of the Mater Dei Hospital. These departments have contributed significantly by facilitating us with the training material and other organisational logistics.

## Summary of 2008 Calendar

|   |   |
|---|---|
| BLS / AED Provider courses              | 6 |
| BLS / AED Instructor course             | 1 |
| European Paediatric Life Support (EPLS) | 1 |
| European Trauma Course (ETC)            | 2 |
| Advanced Life Support (ALS)             | 1 |

### BLS / AED courses

This course has remained very popular since its introduction in February 2006. We have delivered these courses to persons in the medical and paramedical fields as well as to lay people and professionals working with national agencies like the Civil Protection Department. It is our aim to continue to deliver as many of these courses as possible in an effort to increase potential life savers in our community.

### BLS / AED Instructor course

To date this course has produced 32 full instructors. This year the course was directed by Dr. Anthony Handley who is the current ERC Chair of the BLS / AED working point. Another distinguished faculty on this course was Dr. Koen Monsieurs who is the current ERC Secretary.

### EPLS course

The EPLS subcommittee continues to organise this course on a yearly basis.

### ETC

This latest ERC course was piloted for the very first time in Malta in November 2006. Since then our local instructors have been crucial in disseminating this course in other countries in Europe. In 2008 two ETC courses were organised with candidates coming even from ashore. To date Malta boasts to have the first self sufficient ETC faculty. There is an increasing demand for this course on both national and international levels and the MRC looks forward to continue to deliver more ETCs in the future.

### ALS

This much awaited course was successfully organised for the first time in Malta this year. We were very honoured to have a distinguished international faculty directed by Dr. John Ballance who is the current ALS chair within the ERC. In this course ten Maltese candidates were flagged for Instructor Potential and this augurs well for a future Maltese ALS faculty.

## **Memberships**

Although we have increased our memberships this year we still feel that there should be more. As an incentive to increase our pool of members we have offered all participants to our courses a free 2008 membership. We now would like to invite these new members to pay their 2009 fee which will be €20 and this is renewed every 1<sup>st</sup> January. Although a small fee this will help us a lot to maintain our activities. Another incentive which we are introducing in 2009 with the paid membership is an associated 10% discount on any one MRC course followed in 2009. We are hopeful that this encouragement will make more people join us.

## **Elections in 2009**

As our statute dictates in February 2009 we will have another election where 7 council seats will be contested. Only paid up members can participate in the preceding general meeting, can be nominated for these elections and can vote. Further announcements on this election will be issued shortly by the MRC secretariat.

## **Posters**

The MRC has presented the Mater Dei Hospital CEO Ms. Rizzo with posters of 'In-hospital patient collapse' and 'Advanced Life Support'. We are very satisfied to see these posters in many sections of our hospital. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Rizzo for her continuous support towards the MRC.

## **ERC Symposium 2009**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 the ERC will be organising a symposium on Education in Cologne, Germany. Like other ERC meetings this symposium promises to be very interesting and successful and we encourage all those interested to book early. More information is available from our council, posters and fliers at the hospital's main registration notice board and on [www.resuscitation2009.eu](http://www.resuscitation2009.eu)

## **Plans for 2009**

Next year promises to very busy. We will have more of the established courses and will be introducing new ones. We also have ambitious plans to increase national awareness on BLS and the importance of more AEDs on our island. Watch out for more news on this website!

## **Conclusion:**

Our main mission statement in 2008 was: 'To promote and support high standards of Resuscitation to all and everywhere in Malta'. We intend to improve more on this in 2009 but we need more proactive, new people to join our team. Therefore please accept this invitation to help us save more lives by keeping yourself updated in Resuscitation and taking active part in our activities. Finally I also take this opportunity to augur everyone a forthcoming Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Dr. Mary Rose Cassar MD FRCS Edin. MMCFD**

**Chairperson**