



PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar Hosts International Emergency Care Conference

Gibraltar is proud to be hosting its First International Conference in Pre-Hospital Emergency & Disaster Medicine from 26th to 28th March 2009 at the John Mackintosh Hall.

The conference brings together clinical experts from various parts of the world to share the latest medical advancements on how best to treat patients who become critically ill and require life saving treatment. Included in the programme are techniques in the emergency and after care treatment for cardiac arrest resuscitation, stroke and trauma. Professors, Consultants, Paramedics, Nurses, Academics and Clinicians from countries as far afield as US, Canada, Egypt, South Africa, Jersey, UK, and, more locally from Spain and Gibraltar will be looking at how best to improve the survival rates of these critical conditions.

It has taken eighteen months to plan this conference and it is a joint venture between the Gibraltar Health Authority, The Gibraltar Fire Service, Kingston University and St Georges University of London and the UK's South East Coast Ambulance service. These organisations have been working closely together since the ambulance service moved into the GHA in September 2007.

As well as the keynote speakers, delegates will have the opportunity to view an exhibition of posters submitted, with a presentation being made on the final day for the best poster. The exhibition will include a demonstration of state of the art technology for "call triage" – a system that assists specially trained telephone operators taking 190 calls to provide life saving advice over the telephone and collect accurate information for the dispatched ambulance so they can respond quickly and effectively. A leading academic involved in developing this system is presenting a paper on the impact of its introduction on saving lives and improving treatment in other countries.

The conference will be opened by Yvette Del Agua, Minister for Health and Civil Protection. The Minister said "It is excellent news that Gibraltar, for the first time, will be hosting this important conference in Pre-hospital Emergency and Disaster Medicine. It is an ideal opportunity for clinicians from a number of countries to share best practice and learn from each other, and it is yet another excellent opportunity for Gibraltar's Health Services to be placed on the world map".

Note for editors

A full conference programme is attached for information. Please contact Natalie Alvarez or Diane Shinn on Extension 2316 or email natalie.alvarez@gha.gi or diane.shinn@gha.gi for further enquiries or requests for photographs.