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## IMS Congress

**Rescue from the world's highest mountains:  
exporting rescue operations or education?**

**Friday 5th November 2010 / 9am - 4pm  
Brixen / Bressanone - Dolomites - Italy**

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE: Prof. Hermann Brugger, Dr. Giacomo Strapazon  
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Organizer: EURAC Institute of Mountain Emergency Medicine



# Rescue from the world's highest mountains: exporting rescue operations or education?

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What did Simon Kehrer feel when he saw the rescue helicopter coming towards him at 5700m on Nanga Parbat in 2008? Iztok Tomazín, emergency physician and one of the best alpinists in the world, tells of his experiences of rescue operations in the Himalaya. What is the current status of Alpine Rescue in Pakistan and Nepal?

The race to conquer the 8000m mountains of Himalaya and the rough peaks in the Andes make front-page headlines. Even greater scrutiny occurs when there is a tragedy and an overseas rescue is mounted. Examples include Mt. Kenya 1970, Everest 1996, Nangat Parbat 2008 and Langtang Lirung 2009. Earlier this year, a helicopter rescue mission on Annapurna demonstrated technical success in the thin air of extreme altitude. But how do we satisfy the diametric problems of an acute and unfolding drama with a rescue mission at high altitude that takes days to mount? The solution seems as challenging as orienteering through the labyrinthine of alleyways in Marrakesh, where the International Mountaineering and Climbing

Federation (UIAA) adopted its Code of the Ethic of Expeditions in 1987. Subsequently, the International Commission of Mountain Emergency Medicine (ICAR MEDCOM), representing over 30 countries, has tried giving an evidenced-based medicine answer.

There are two contrasting points of view: some mountain rescue organizations advocate a rapid response team, which though based in Europe, is ready to respond to a mountain rescue mission anywhere in the world at any time. Others question this, supporting instead the idea of initiating education and technical support to empower local alpinists and mountain rescuers.

World-leading scientists, alpinists and stakeholders will attend “Rescue from the **World's Highest Mountains: exporting rescue operations or education?**”. The day is part of the IMS – International Mountain Summit Congress and is organized in cooperation with EURAC Institute of Mountain Emergency Medicine.

The EURAC Institute of Mountain Emergency Medicine ([www.eurac.edu](http://www.eurac.edu)) was founded in 2009. It is the first research institute in the field of Mountain Emergency Medicine, a specialist area within Emergency Medicine. Its main aim is to improve the diagnosis and treatment of casualties and acutely ill patients in mountainous regions by raising the standards of Alpine emergency medicine to an internationally recognized ‘evidence-based’ level. This will enable the development of a rational basis for the allocation of medical rescue services in mountainous areas.

Friday, 5th November 2010 / 9am -4pm

Time	Moderators	Speakers	Title
<b>The point of view of the alpinist</b>			
09.00-09.30	Fidel Elsensohn	Hermann Brugger (I) Toni Grab (CH)	Introduction
09.30-10.00		Simon Kehrer (I)	Rescued from an unexplored big wall - Nanga Parbat 2008
10.00-10.30		Simone Moro (I)	Solo rescuing in the thin air - Lhotse 2001
10.30-11.00	Coffee break		
<b>The point of view of the rescuer</b>			
11.00-11.30	Hermann Brugger	Iztok Tomazin (SLO)	Extreme rescue missions in the death zone
11.30-12.00		Bruno Jelk (CH) Gerold Biner (CH)	Can air rescue save "the golden hour" at high altitude?
12.00-12.30		Patrick Fauchere (CH)	Natural limits in air rescue: the Air Zermatt experience
12.30-13.30	Lunch		
<b>Mountain Emergency Services in remote areas</b>			
13.30-14.00	Günther Cologne	Nazir Ahmed Sabir (Pakistan)	Can we organise mountain rescue at high altitude?
14.00-14.30		Buddha Basnyat (Nepal)	Approaching a new chain of survival in the Himalayas?
14.30-15.00		Raimund Margreiter (A)	Spectacular rescue mission on Mt. Kenya 1970: the future in the past or an outdated model?
15.00-16.00	Günther Cologne	Gerold Biner (CH) Hermann Brugger (I) Fidel Elsensohn (A) Bruno Jelk (CH) Raimund Margreiter (A) Reinhold Messner (I) Simone Moro (I) Iztok Tomazin (SLO)	Rescue from the World's Highest Mountains: Exporting Rescue Operations or Education? (Panel discussion)

Ticket & Infos: info@ims.bz. Entrance: € 14.- The congress will be translated in three languages (DE, IT, EN)



Reinhold Messner, Italy

# International. Mountain. Summit.

Das Bergfestival  
Il festival della montagna

30 Oct. - 7 Nov. 2010  
Brixen / Bressanone  
Dolomites (I)

Tickets & Infos: [www.ims.bz](http://www.ims.bz)

The International Mountain Summit (IMS) is an international platform which discusses, celebrates and casts a new light on the mountains in all their different facets. The mountains are just as diverse as their admirers and climbers: They are both living space for people and a habitat for nature. All at the same time, they have market potential and offer individual challenges. Being one of nature's incredible marvels, they open the eyes of individuals and leave their mark on entire cultures. Thanks to its location in the heart of the Alps, South Tyrol is the ideal host for this comprehensive summit event dedicated to the mountains. With the city of Bressanone/Brixen, the IMS has chosen a very special venue at the foot of a stunning and proud UNESCO World Heritage Site: the Dolomites.

The first edition of the International Mountain Summit (IMS) has been a big success. Markus Gaiser and Alex Ploner, the two founders of the festival, expressed their satisfaction: More than 8500 guests and 88 journalists found their way to the IMS 2009. For climbing legend Reinhold Messner the IMS has given proof to be an international platform for mountaineering. "I do not know any other mountain festival as profound as the IMS. It is an open competition of ideas. I am ravished by the IMS."



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