

WMS 2019 AWARD WINNERS

AUERBACH AWARD



Ian Wedmore, MD, FACEP, FAWM, DiMM

Dr. Ian Wedmore grew up climbing and skiing in New England and became interested in wilderness medicine in medical school. He joined the WMS in 1987 and has been a member ever since. He did his undergraduate at Skidmore College in upstate NY in close proximity to the Adirondacks and VT ski areas. He did his medical school training at New York Medical College graduating in 1990. He did an internship in Internal Medicine and then trained in emergency medicine at the Madigan Army Medical Centers Emergency Medicine Residency program. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians. He obtained his FAWM in 2008 and his DiMM in 2012. He started the US Army Austere and Wilderness Medicine Fellowship program in 2011 and the US Army/Uniform Services University International Diploma in Mountain Medicine program in 2012 of which he is the director. He has served 29 years in the US Army from which he will retire in late 2019. He is a volunteer ski patroller and the medical director for Mount Rainier National Park. He has climbed throughout the world and has summited four of the seven summits.

DIAN SIMPKINS AWARD



Lawrence LeBlond, MD, FAWM, FAAFP

Dr. Lawrence LeBlond is board certified in Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine, completing a residency at UTHSC where he was a chief resident and a fellowship in emergency medicine. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee, Adjunct Clinical Faculty with Christian Brothers University and Lincoln Memorial University, and instructor with the Memphis Fire Department. He is currently the faculty advisor for the University of Tennessee's Wilderness, Austere, and Remote Medicine Student Interest Group. Dr. LeBlond was a Wilderness NREMT-B, working for the State YMCA of Michigan in multiple positions including health officer and medical trainer from 1997-2007, and has been on the Program Committee since 2012. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine™ and has served on the Wilderness Medical Society's CME Committee since 2012 and Academy Oversight Committee since 2015. He is a member of the American Board of Physician Specialist's Board Certification in Emergency Medicine's Emergency Medicine Written Exam Committee and has been sailing and SCUBA diving in all 4 oceans, the Great Lakes, Caribbean Sea, English Channel and the North Sea, and hiking the Georgia section of the Appalachian Trail, the New Mexico section of the Continental Divide, Isle Royals National Park, Frans Josef and Fox Glaciers in New Zealand as well as other multi-day to month-long hikes around the world.

EDUCATION AWARD



Seth Hawkins, MD, MFAWM, FACEP, FAEMS

Dr. Seth Collings Hawkins, writer, anthropologist, and physician, holds dual board certification in emergency medicine and EMS. The son of two English professors, he is genetically wired as an educator, despite his expression of that heritage through medicine. He received his medical anthropology undergraduate training at Yale University and his emergency

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medicine residency training at the University of Pittsburgh, where he was awarded the “Ron Stewart Excellence in Teaching Award.” He is the first physician designated as a Master Fellow by both the Academy of Wilderness Medicine™ and the Adventurers & Explorers Guild. He currently serves as medical advisor for REI and NC Outward Bound School, as well as medical director of NC State Parks, Burke County EMS, and Landmark Learning. He is executive editor of Wilderness Medicine Magazine, co-author of Vertical Aid: Essential Wilderness Medicine for Climbers, Trekkers, and Mountaineers, and is currently working on a third text, Medical Screening for Outdoor Activities. The Journal of EMS named the Wilderness EMS Medical Director Course he co-founded as a Top 10 EMS Innovations of 2011, and the textbook Wilderness EMS he edits as Top 10 EMS Innovations of 2018. One of his major educational initiatives is the Carolina Wilderness EMS Externship, which received the 2018 “Innovation in Medical Education” Award from the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine and is frequently cited as the “best month of medical school” by its students. When indoors, Dr. Hawkins is a full-time clinical emergency physician and an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Wake Forest University.

FOUNDERS AWARD



Michael Caudell, MD, FACEP, FAWM, DiMM

Dr. Michael Caudell is a Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, where he was formerly the Medical Director for Wilderness and Survival Medicine as well as founder & Co-Director of the Wilderness Medicine Fellowship. Dr. Caudell is one of the founders of MedWAR (Medical Wilderness Adventure Race), serves as the Executive Director for the annual Southeast Race, and serves on the Board of Directors for the North American Educational Adventure Racing (NAEAR). He is a former Chair of the American College of Emergency Physicians Wilderness Medicine Section and Chair of the Fellowship Directors Committee. Dr. Caudell served two terms on the Board of Directors for the Wilderness Medical Society (WMS) and is also a former chair of the WMS Education Committee. He remains active in the WMS, as course director for AWLS pre-conferences, co-chair of the Practice Guidelines Committee, and as a member of the GME Fellowship & Education Committees. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine™ (FAWM). Dr. Caudell is Past President and serves on the Board of Directors for the Appalachian Center for Wilderness Medicine (ACWM). He has earned his Diploma in Mountain Medicine (DiMM) along with certifications in Level I Swiftwater Rescue, SCUBA Advanced Open Water, Mixed Gas and Rescue Diving.

ICE AXE AWARD



Hill McBrayer, MD, FAWM, DiMM

Dr. Hill McBrayer graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School in 1996 and completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic Florida in 1999, where he is currently an Assistant Professor of family medicine. McBrayer initiated and teaches a wilderness medicine elective for the family medicine residents. He has been an instructor for AWLS in the past and has volunteered to teach wilderness medicine and rescue skills to Girl Scouts. McBrayer has been involved with the WMS since 2008 and has been the WMS CME committee chair since 2009. McBrayer received his FAWM in 2009 and received his DiMM through the University of New Mexico in 2018.

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PEER REVIEW AWARD



Aaron Brillhart, MD, FAWM

Dr. Aaron Brillhart is an emergency physician at Northwestern Medical Center in Vermont as well as clinical assistant faculty with the University of Vermont and with the UVM Wilderness Medicine program. He currently serves as National Ski Patrol Northern Vermont Region Medical Advisor and volunteers with the Smugglers Notch Ski Patrol. Aaron's background with the WMS includes achieving FAWM and DiMM certifications, an annual meeting plant toxicology lecture, former Education Committee member, and current article reviewer for the Wilderness and Environmental Medicine journal. Aaron has worked on search and rescue crews on Denali, as a climbing ranger on Mount Rainier, and in conjunction with winter-over field science support in Antarctica. He has published on search and rescue activity on Denali, and maintains that his most prestigious manuscript remains "Bunny Pasta and Hot Chocolate: Cold Weather Camping on the Long Trail [with his seven-year-old child]". Aaron avidly pursues Nordic and Telemark skiing, rock-climbing, biathlon, trail-running, sinking his canoe, and extremely benevolent parenting of his two very wild daughters.



Bryan Jarrett, MD, FAWM

Bryan Jarrett is the outgoing wilderness medicine fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and has been involved in wilderness medicine since participating in the WMS elective as a medical student. He is an avid rock climber, mountaineer, and runner, and his wilderness medicine interests focus on ultrasound use in the wilderness, altitude medicine, and wilderness medicine education. Bryan has served as a volunteer physician with the Himalayan Rescue Association in Nepal, as an expedition doctor with the Polaris Research Project in Alaska, and as a race medicine physician in Namibia and the southwest US. He completed a fellowship at the Divers Alert Network as well as his FAWM, and is in the process of obtaining his DiMM.



David Rust, MD

Dr. David Rust was born and raised in Sandpoint, Idaho and has always loved the outdoors. After training out west he moved to Duluth, MN to be near his wife's family. Duluth is a great city for outdoor recreation and he has an orthopedic practice that allows him to take care of athletes young and old, including arthroscopic procedures to joint replacement surgery and trauma. He has become involved in working as a medical adviser for his local ski and mountain bike patrols and has provided medical coverage at races and other outdoors sporting events. He is also a clinical preceptor for the Duluth Family Medicine residency program, U of M SOM-Duluth Campus, and St. Scholastica University PA, PT, and ATC programs. He has been a reviewer for Wilderness and Environmental Medicine journal and the American Journal of Sports Medicine. He loves spending time with his wife Erin, a pediatric hospitalist, and his three children. His favorite activity currently is mountain biking.

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Susanne J Spano, MD, FACEP, FAWM

Dr. Susanne Spano is from Fresno, CA where she is the Director of the Wilderness Medicine Fellowship program at the University of California San Francisco Fresno Medical Education Program. She received her MD at Temple University in Philadelphia before emergency medicine residency training and Wilderness Medicine Fellowship Training at UCSF Fresno. She is an active member of the search and rescue team that serves Fresno County and the adjacent National Parks. Leadership activities include serving as steering committee member and councillor for the Wilderness Section for the American College of Emergency Physicians, as well as Membership Committee member and Graduate Medical Education subcommittee chair for the Wilderness Medical Society. Hobbies include long distance backpacking with a planned 600-mile section hike of northern California's Pacific Crest Trail this July, which will bring personally completed PCT mileage to over 1000 miles.

RESEARCH AWARD



Marc Berger, MD, MBA, DESA

Dr. Marc Berger is a German professor of Anesthesiology, working at the University Hospital Salzburg in Austria. His work focuses specifically on the pathophysiology, prevention, and treatment of high-altitude diseases. His work has been published in major journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the Am J of Resp Crit Care Med, and the European Resp J. Recent honours of his work include the 2018 WMS Hackett-Auerbach-Award for investigating the effect of acetazolamide for prevention of high altitude pulmonary edema, and various other international awards from Germany and Austria. He recently described, for the first time, three different time courses of acute mountain sickness and was able to link them to different pathophysiologic mechanisms. This finding could explain why no consistent correlations between acute mountain sickness and single pathophysiologic factors have been found in a large number of studies over the last 50 years. Marc is a dedicated mountaineer and rock climber, with mountain activities in the Alps, the Caucasus, and the Himalaya.

WARREN D BOWMAN AWARD



Linda Lee, RN, FNP, MPAS, PA-C

Linda is nationally certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant. An alumni of UC Davis in California, she holds a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies with an added certificate in emergency medicine. Always the outdoor gal, the opportunity to practice in Yosemite National Park guided her into yet another realm: the wilderness.....and here she remains at heart. She joined the Wilderness Medicine Society in 2006 and received her FAWM in 2009. Now living in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, she continues to practice emergency medicine. She volunteers her expertise with ski patrol, local running and cycling events and Yosemite YOSAR.