

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**DIVING DEATH RATES**

P.O.Box 2182
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas 75275
U.S.A.

December 21, 1988

Dear Sir,

I enjoyed reading the issue of SPUMS Journal you sent me, especially as it contained my reprinted article. I also enjoyed both your editorial and Mr Horne's cover issue cartoon !

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed draft as a possible follow-up article. I think the latest PADI Australia publication statistics are very interesting when compared with the USA and Japanese experience. Naturally, I was gratified to see the relatively close convergence between my models and the reported statistics from Australia.

I hope this article will prove useful to your readers by placing the Australian diving death rate figures into a context, e.g. between those of the US and Japan. I also believe that this article will show how the Australian data can be used to decide between my models and those of NUADC, that is, to help resolve the controversy over diving safety statistics.

Finally, I believe that the call for greater diving safety precautions can now be related to a more realistic view of the actual risks associated with sport diving. I feel fully justified in my calls for greater diving safety. To the extent that these articles call for more careful training and diving operations, I think we will have further served the cause of diving safety.

Thank you again for your interest in my articles and your on-going support for safer diving!

Robert Monaghan

COST OF AMATEUR DIVING MEDICALS

Diving Medical Centre,
66 Pacific Highway,
St. Leonards,
New South Wales 2065.

Dear Sir,

I keep getting requests from various doctors to advise on the proposed cost of an Amateur Diving Medical examination. It seems as if there is no real problem with the professionals, as most doctors do not do them.

I would think that any "recommended fee" should come from a reputable body, not mine. How about SPUMS?

With this in mind I would request that the topic be discussed at the next annual general meeting and a realistic fee be proposed and promoted in the SPUMS Journal.

My own personal viewpoint is that I have tried to keep the cost of an amateur diving medical (but including both lung function tests and pure tone audiometry) to maintain parity with that of an insurance medical examination. I do not wish to imply equality as regards the skill and knowledge needed.

The extra expertise and increased skill needed for a diving medical examination, compared to an insurance medical examination, are donated by diving physicians to the diving public. In return, the reputable diving instructors tend to advise their students to consult physicians who are knowledgeable in this field.

Currently the price for an insurance medical report is \$ 55.00, but the relationship could be reconsidered at each annual meeting of SPUMS.

The recommendation of a price for professional diving medicals will be much more difficult, as various professional diving groups do have different requirements.

Thanking you for your consideration of this request.

Carl Edmonds
Director
Diving Medical Centre

AID TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

"Wynlorel"
145 Wattletree Road
Malvern, 3144.

15th November, 1988

Dear Sir,

The SPUMS Annual General Meeting was at Bandos in the Republic of Maldives in 1985. At that time I had an opportunity, with the help of the Health Department in that Republic, to be conducted over the hospital at Male, and discussed help in a very general way.

Over the last three years we in Australia have been able to assist the people in Male with medical and surgical supplies which they sorely need and greatly appreciated.

The responses to my request have been most satisfying but now their needs are presumably far greater, due to the unrest and attempt to destabilize the country.