



21st FIPS Congress Rosa Khutor, Sochi, Russia January 2018

The 21st FIPS Congress was hosted by Russia and held at Rosa Khutor resort, Sochi from 20-27 January 2018.

Seventeen countries participated in the Congress. There were approximately 60 international and ~20 local Russian patroller attendees. Rosa Khutor was previously one of the key venues for the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014.

After informal drinks on Saturday evening the congress formally commenced on Sunday with the presentation of flags and the official opening by Sergey Chernov Deputy Director-General Operations Rosa Khutor resort. The FIPS President, Jean-Louis Tuillon, then extended a welcome from FIPS, followed by entertainment from a Russian dance troupe and refreshments.



Photos: Rik Head, Jo Winter

The Congress consisted of a series of indoor presentations and workshops, outdoor demonstrations along with multi-country practical scenarios. In addition, there were meetings of the Special Interest Groups, and national delegates also attended FIPS Board meetings and the FIPS Biennial General Meeting.

On Wednesday morning participants were able to open the resort with the patrol or visit the operations/communications centre while in the afternoon they enjoyed a free ski or went on an excursion to see the history of Sochi or view the Winter Olympics facilities. Each evening social hospitality was provided by different countries including the USA, Russia, the 3 S's - Scotland, Sweden and Serbia, and on Thursday Romania. The Congress concluded on Friday evening with

the Congress Gala Dinner which provided entertainment with dancers, a live band and several presentations.

Congress Activities

In-door presentations and workshops covered a range of topics relevant to ski patrol and included:

- Welcome to Rosa Khutor resort and their ski patrol – Rosa Khutor *
- An update on the process leading to the signing of the Collaboration Agreement with the International Paralympic Committee – Luca Sardelli and Ed Gassman *
- An update on the latest from ICAR from FIPS attendees – Marie Nordgren *
- Scott avalanche reusable air bags – Alex from Russia *
- Conclusions from the Ski Patrol Pain Relief Survey – FIPS *
- Knee injuries – Poul Kongstad *
- Legal aspects of analgesics - Ed Gassman
- A case study: Teenagers and submersion hypothermia – Sweden - Marie Nordgren
- Rosa Khutor Ski Patrol including steep slope evacuation – Constantine from Russia
- New perspectives on patient immobilisation – Sweden
- Head trauma is the big killer – what to do? – Poul Kongstad
- Mountain rescue and patrol update – Sabine from Romania *
- An update on the S Korean Winter Olympics – Korea *
- Use of opioids – Poul Kongstad
- C spine rules Canadian vs Nexus approaches – Sweden *
- Immobilisation and vacuum splints – Natalie from Russia *
- Avalanches: How to preventatively release – Avalanche SIG Coordinator *
- Avalanche control and prevention in Rosa Khutor – Russia *
- The ICAR avalanche algorithm workshop *
- Intermittent CPR for hypothermic patients – Medical SIG Coordinator *
- Natural hazards control equipment – TAS *
- Unionisation within ski patrol – Legal SIG Coordinator
- Colorado Court avalanche decision resulting consequences – Ed Gassman
- Legal regulation in Russian ski resorts – Russia and associated discussion workshop *
- The 2017 World Ski Patroller Survey conducted by Medic 52 – Australia *
- Trends in the use of personal safety equipment discussion – Legal SIG Coordinator
- Resaro whistle outdoor safety network *
- My winter with Dr Lizarov – USA *
- Feedback of results from the pain relief practical session
- Feedback on the congress and suggestions for improvements for future congresses



Photos: Rik Head, Jo Winter

- During the Congress there were specific 10-minute updates from the following ski patrol organisations:
 - FIPS – What is FIPS? *
 - USA National Ski Patrol
 - Canadian Ski Patrol
 - Southern Russia Rescue
 - Gorky Gorod ski area
 - British Association of Ski Patrollers
 - Chile Ski Patrol training and rescue – a new patrollers perspective *
 - Australian Ski Patrol Association
 - Ski Association of Japan – Globalisation and Safety *

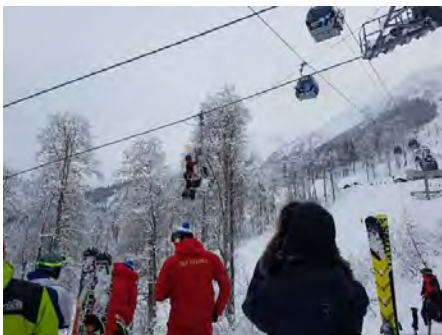
* Indicates the presentation is available for individual private use to registered subscribers on the www.fips-skipatrol.org web site



Photos: Jo Winter

Outdoor activities included:

- A tour of Rosa Khutor resort and viewing of the snow making system
- On-piste pain workshop – 3 work stations – Medical SIG
- On-piste patient immobilisation and management workshop – 3 sessions – Medical SIG
- Tour of avalanche risk areas at Rosa Khutor and associated discussion
- Chairlift evacuation demonstration - Russia
- Resaro whistle outdoor safety network on-piste demonstration
- Gazex avalanche demonstration - Rosa Khutor
- International patroller friendly sled challenge - teams of 4 using akjas to achieve a safe decent through a defined course. After a series of controlled or not so controlled descents the Rosa Khutor team was declared the winning team
- Night skiing from 7PM to 11PM



Photos: Jo Winter, Jo Winter, Rik Head

FIPS Special Interest Groups

- The Special Interest Groups met during the Congress to plan for the next two years
- The facilitators for the Special Interest Groups are:
 - Medical - Dr Poul Kongstad (Sweden)
 - Avalanche – Fanny Bouraillat (France)
 - Technology - Duncan Isaksen-Loxton (Australia)
 - Legal – Ed Gassman (USA)
 - Disabilities – Luca Sardelli (Italy)
- SIGs also meet using Skype at various times between congresses
- Patrollers interested in joining any of the SIGs must register via the FIPS-skipatrol.org web site

The FIPS Biennial General Meeting and Board Meetings

The Board met three times during the Congress and there was the FIPS Biennial General Meeting. The key outcomes were:

- New members ratified or accepted at the Congress included:
 - National:**
 - Patrol Police Department under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia
 - Russian National Association of Mountain Ski Resorts Rescuers (currently represented by Rosa Khutor)
 - Associates:**
 - Professional Rescue Service of Gorky Gorod Mountain Ski Resort
 - The North Caucasian Regional Search and Rescue detachment
 - Centre “First Aid” (a group of 5 resorts in the north of Russia)
 - Ski Patrol of Karachaevo (Cherkessia region)
- Reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer
- Following the Biennial General Meeting the new Board elected Jean-Louis Tuaillon (France) as the president of FIPS for another term
 - At the request of the President the meeting agreed that Bruce Lochhead (Canada) should remain as Assistant to the President, Secretary: Rik Head (Australia), and Treasurer and Canadian Government Liaison: Hugh Thomassin (Canada)
- FIPS formally adopted the Collaboration Agreement to promote cooperation with the International Paralympic Committee for our mutual benefit
- The Board accepted the policy proposed for sponsorship of FIPS and the proposal to establish a FIPS Emergency and Assistance Fund to support patrollers
- In recognition of his role in the establishment of FIPS and being its original President for many years, the Board has much pleasure in making Mark Labow the Honorary Foundation Chairman of the FIPS Board
- There was a report from the medical SIG to the Board and topics were proposed for the 2019 Congress
- The Disability SIG has met for the first time and is planning future meetings
- The Board decided that the 22nd FIPS Congress should be at Bariloche in Argentina in September 2019. Full detailed to be provided to the FIPS Executive for confirmation by 1 March 2018
- The FIPS Mark Labow Award for 2018 was made to Rik Head of Australia at the Gala Dinner for his continued contribution to FIPS in recent years, congratulations Rik



Photos: Rik Head, jo Winter, Rik Head

A very big thank you to the Russian FIPS2018 Organising Committee , Rosa Khutor resort and to the large team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make a most successful congress.

This report and, where the authors have agreed, a number of the indoor presentations (shown with an *) are available on the FIPS website to registered subscribers for individual private use.

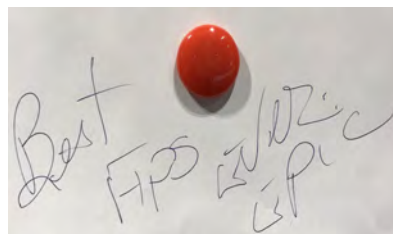
FIPS Contacts

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Photos: Rik Head