



**SURFING MEDICINE  
INTERNATIONAL**

## **Press Release Surfing Medicine International - World Drowning Day, 25 July 2021**

April 2021, World Drowning Prevention Day was declared as part of the UN General Assembly resolution, which highlighted that drowning is preventable with urgent need for a coordinated global action. Over 2.5 million preventable deaths by drowning have occurred in the last decade. The burden on global health has been largely unrecognized relative to its major impact.

Surfing Medicine International promotes research and organises reliable evidence-based education to prevent drowning in surfers and trains them as bystander rescuers. On World Drowning Prevention Day we want to ask the attention of the surf community for drowning prevention with the goal to diminish and eliminate drowning as a cause of mortality and morbidity, also in surfers. “Surfers are one with water and the ocean environment” – The global surf community plays a pivotal ambassador role in drowning prevention and water safety. It is well recognized that surfers turn often into bystander rescuers, prevent drowning by retrieval and initiate early resuscitation. Also, drowning seems to be the major reason for surf fatalities. Surfers should be very aware of this and should get trained for optimal rescue and resuscitation skills, but also to prevent drowning themselves in difficult conditions.

We envision a world free of drowning. Let us all raise awareness on 25 July and step up in your community. Because: Anyone can drown, no one should.



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**Get educated now** on surfers as bystander rescuers in our recent open access publication <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0735675721005015?via%3Dihub> on our website [www.surfingmed.com](http://www.surfingmed.com) and the WHO <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-drowning-prevention-day/2021>

***Please share this message in your community, journal, website or other medium to maximize impact and fight drowning together. [www.surfingmed.com](http://www.surfingmed.com)***