



24th FIPS Congress Riksgården, Sweden April 2024

The 24th FIPS Congress was hosted by Ski Patrol Sweden and held above the Artic Circle at Riksgården, Sweden from 21-30 April 2024. Fifteen countries participated with a total of 146 participants including 110 international attendees, eight specialist presenters and Swedish/local Riksgården patrollers and congress patroller organisers.

After a welcome by FIPS President Marie Norgren and presentations by Riksgården representatives there were informal welcome drinks on Sunday evening. The congress formally commenced on Monday morning with the flag ceremony, a tribute to esteemed FIPS contributor since 1983 Jan Sandegård from Sweden who died recently and the traditional FIPS group photo.



The Congress highlight was the eight specialist presenters who gave excellent insights into world best practice in the areas of medicine relevant to ski patrol, avalanche search and rescue, and avalanche dog training. For most, their attendance expenses were funded by a combination of Ski Patrol Sweden sponsorship and by FIPS using some of the Helly Hansen International Ski Patrol Day donation funds.

There were meetings of various Special Interest Groups throughout the week to plan their ongoing progress in the coming years and to identify items of interest for the next congress.

National delegates also attended FIPS Board meetings including the FIPS Biennial General Meeting where Marie Nordgren was elected president for the next two-year period.

CONGRESS PROGRAM for FIPS 2024 in Riksgransen, Sweden - issue 21apr24								Subject to change	
Bringing patrollers together at the top of the world									
Lift times 0900-1600hrs		Note: The Rescue Dog SIG also has a separate multi-day program			Meal times: Breakfast 0700-0900hrs			Lunch 1100 - 1400hrs	Dinner 2000-2100hrs
Sunday, 21Apr24	Monday, 22Apr24	Tuesday, 23Apr24	Wednesday, 24Apr24	Thursday, 25Apr24	Friday, 26Apr24	Saturday, 27Apr24	Sunday, 28Apr24		
Arrival Day	Medical Day 1	Avi/disability Day	Medical/Avi Day 2	Visitation/Free Ski Day	Women/Risk/Rescue Dog Day	Disability/Closing Day	Departure Day		
07:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Goodbye Breakfast		
08:00	see separate Rescue Dog program	see separate Rescue Dog program	see separate Rescue Dog program						
	Presentations and workshops	Presentations and workshops	Presentations and workshops		Presentations and workshops	Presentations and workshops			
08:30	Flag Raising Ceremony	Avi survival medical aspects optimising AvaLife	Mechanical Chest Compression Device - Viktor Lugnet		Women in Ski Patrol Beckett Stopes (USA)	Environmental - SLAO			
09:00		Peter Paal							
09:15									
09:30	Hypothermia/intermittant CPR	Beacon signals & separation	Spinal Motion Restriction	Norway Narvik Ski Area	Euro mini meet report Italy	Set up for FIS online			
09:45	Peter Paal		Marc-Antoine Depatis		RiskSIG - indoor	FIS and FIPS Andrew Cholinski (FIS, online)			
10:00					Morning Tea	Morning Tea			
10:15	Morning Tea	Morning Tea	Morning Tea						
10:30	Psychotraumatology	On-piste activities	On-piste activities		On-piste activities	DisabilitiesSIG	Move out Day		
10:45	Per-Olof Michel	Excavation & rescue using AvaLife (near hotel)	spinal on piste (no skis, near hotel)		Ed Gassman	Nancy Askin/Marie Nordgen			
11:00					RiskSIG - on piste	Patrol Best Practice Guidelines			
11:15	psychotrauma panel debate					Terry Abrams			
11:30	Terry Abrams - moderator								
11:45									
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch			
12:30	see separate Rescue Dog program	see separate Rescue Dog program	see separate Rescue Dog program	obtain your own at your cost					
13:00	On-piste activities	On-piste activities	On-piste activities		On-piste activities	On-piste Activities			
13:30	free skiing - stretch your legs after travelling	AvalancheSIG - on piste	Medical SIG - on piste		Rescue Dogs - on piste 1.5-2hrs (see also separate Dog program that runs on Mon-Wed)	free skiing			
14:00		1. Beacon search with signal overlap 2. Recco or free skiing	MCD and test of diff MCDs	Norway Narvik Ski Area (need to buy your own ski ticket)					
14:30			or free skiing			Patroller sled challenge			
15:00									
15:30	Ski Lifts close 1600								
16:00	assemble for key note address								
16:30	FIPS Exec Pre Congress Meeting	Board Meeting - 2hrs							
17:00	Anna Bågenholm & Torvind Næsheim								
17:30	Social time		SIG Meetings -		SIG Meetings -	Board Meeting - 1.5hrs			
18:00			Avi/Medical/Disability/FIS /Rescue dogs/Risk/Tech etc	Social time	Avi/Medical/Disability/FIS /Rescue dogs/Risk/Tech etc				
18:30	FIPS Bar open								
19:00	Congress Welcome to the Top of the World								
19:15	The Paradise Paradox	Proposal for next congress		FIPS Board specific items					
19:30									
19:45	Social time	Social time							
20:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Closing Gala Dinner			
20:30									
21:00	Social time	Social time	Italian Night	Canada Night	Swedish/Scottish Night				
21:30									
22:00									
22:30			Social time	Social time		Social time			

Notes: all meals are at the hotel except for Thursday lunch that you obtain at your cost

SIGs need to coordinate the specific of their meetin times to avoide clashes

On the Thursday most patrollers travelled to nearby Narvik in Norway thanks to TwiceMe-sponsored coaches. Attendees enjoyed a fine sunny day skiing above the Ofotfjord fjord that connects to the Atlantic Ocean.

Socially, at this congress Canada and Chile, Scotland and Sweden, and Italy hosted social evenings that were enjoyed by all in the nearby Riksgransen resort workshop shed.

The Congress concluded on Saturday evening with the closing dinner during which the FIPS flag was presented to Canada, the host in 2026. **Terry Abrams** was presented with the 2024 **Mark Labow Award** for his outstanding service to FIPS as Coordinator of the Medical Special Interest Group.

Congress Activities

The **keynote address** was from Dr. Anna Bågenholm and Dr Torvind Næsheim – Severe immersion hypothermia – based on Anna’s personal experience of surviving immersion hypothermia and her recovery being supported by the University Hospital of North Norway, Tromsø.

A number of world leading specialists supported FIPS with presentations, including:

- Dr. Peter Paal - accidental hypothermia and its treatment including intermittent cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), AvaLife, a technical and medical rescue algorithm for single and multiple burial in avalanches
- Dr. Per-Olof Michel - psychotraumatology
- Dr. Marc-Antoine Depatis - Spinal Motion Restriction
- Dr. Viktor Lugnet – Mechanical Chest Compression Devices

- The Paradise Paradox – Mental health issues in resort villages
- Torbjörn Ohlén – avalanche transceivers
- Marcel Meier, ICAR – rescue dog training in theory and practice
- Jörgen Modin – search in water with cadaver dogs
- Laura McGladrey – online - stress mitigation in your rescue dog
- Beckett Stokes – Women in ski patrol – an NSP perspective

In-door and outdoor presentations and workshops covered a range of topics relevant to ski patrol as outlined in the program shared earlier. The Rescue Dog SIG had its own specialist program working with two local Swedish rescue dogs.



FIPS Special Interest Groups

- The Special Interest Groups that met during the Congress included:
 - Medical
 - Avalanche
 - Technology
 - Risk Management
 - FIS Liaison, and
 - Rescue Dogs
- Flor Gimenez has taken over as Coordinator of the FIS Liaison SIG from Erik Hansen
- Patrollers interested in joining any of the SIGs should contact the specific SIG Coordinator or send a message to the Secretary. See the contact details at the end of this document

The FIPS General Meeting and Board Meetings

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

- Reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer
- Following the Biennial General Meeting the new FIPS Board re-elected Marie Nordgren (Sweden) as President
- At the request of the new President the meeting agreed that Brian Low (Canada) will take

over from Rik Head (Australia) as Secretary, Lori Serrano will continue to assist the Secretary and Bruce Lochhead (Canada) will continue as Treasurer and Canadian Government Liaison with assistance from Natallie Everitt (Canada)

- Canada made a presentation on the potential location for the 2026 congress. Canada will come back to the Board with a finalised proposal for consideration
- FIPS membership fees for the next two years will remain unchanged
- There was an update to the Board on current state of the Helly Hansen donations and proposed associated projects, including liaison with FIS and ICAR
- FIPS welcomed North Macedonia as a National member and agreed that Finland and Iceland should migrate from being Associates to become National members

A **very big thank you to the Riksgränsen resort and Ski Patrol Sweden**, and to the organising team who worked tirelessly to make this the most successful congress ever.

This report and presentations are available on the FIPS website to FIPS National members and to website-registered subscribers for individual private use. www.fips-skipatrol.org

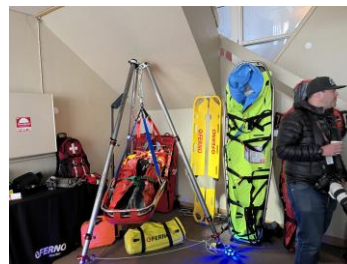


FIPS Contacts

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