

An Ongoing Series

Introduction to the NATO Special Operations Combat Medic Research Ongoing Series

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Since 2017, the International Special Operations Training Centre (ISTC), Pfullendorf, Germany, and University College Cork (UCC), Ireland, have partnered to deliver the first academically accredited Special Operations Forces (SOF) medical training program internationally. Graduates who successfully complete the NATO Special Operations Combat Medic (NSOCM) course are now awarded a university-accredited Diploma in Military Special Operations Medical Care.

The ISTC NSOCM course aims to transform the SOF Operator/first responder into a SOF combat medic with an advanced and broad-based scope of practice to effectively treat life-threatening injuries and illness in the austere, hostile, and tactical settings. Not only do students gain a robust education in assessing and treating the immediate threat to life, but this course also teaches the critical skills required to sustain life throughout the prolonged field care phase of patient management.

UCC is ranked in the top 2% of universities internationally. The School of Medicine at UCC was founded in 1849 and

has a long tradition of teaching, research, and scholarship. UCC provides NSOCM students with a world class, student-centered, and evidence-based medical education, informed by operational needs. This allows for students to mature in pursuit of clinical excellence and develops critical thinkers with an enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

Developing NSOCM students' research skills is an integral component of this course. Students are given the necessary tools to source and appraise relevant medical literature and develop the core skills required to perform their own research study. Students are then tasked with producing a study protocol and undertaking de novo research in an area of their interest. The following series is intended to highlight their efforts and is very much a reflection of the evolving academic development of the SOF medic.

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*Dedicated to the
Indomitable Spirit
and Sacrifices of
the SOF Medic*

A Peer-Reviewed Journal That Brings Together the Global Interests of Special Operations' First Responders