



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **IAFCCP Announces the 2019 Tim Hynes Award Recipient**

Each year a paramedic who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and the highest level of professionalism is nominated by his or her peers to be recognized by this prestigious recognition. This year, the International Association of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics (IAFCCP) is pleased to announce that Steve Whitfield of Griffith University School of Medicine – Paramedicine in Queensland, Australia, is the 2019 Tim Hynes Award recipient.

The Tim Hynes Award recognizes exemplary abilities in leadership, education and safety within the paramedic profession. Tim Hynes was a founding member of the Association who was passionate about his profession. He lost his life, along with his crew, when their helicopter crashed while on a rescue mission in 1998. The IAFCCP changed the name of the Flight Paramedic of the Year Award to the Tim Hynes Award to honor Tim's spirit and contributions to our profession. Mr. Whitfield was selected because he embodies the ideals Tim Hynes was passionate about.

For more than eight years Steve has been a paramedic involved in ground and flight transport in Australia and internationally. He has volunteered much of his time and expertise as a relief flight paramedic in Fiji, and a humanitarian medic team leader in Nepal, Mongolia, Sinai, Botswana, Vanuatu and the Arctic. Steve is consistently aware of health and safety risk to team members and responds accordingly.

Following the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal, Steve founded The Wild Medic Project. Its mission is to provide frontline medical and educational clinics in remote areas where access to basic healthcare is limited. The project also promotes shared experiences between local communities and humanitarian medical teams. He has worked tirelessly to bring health care to remote communities in the Helambu province in Nepal, while inspiring and leading a team of over 100 volunteer clinicians to provide free health care to the community and education to a network of local health care responders. The clinics are now self-sufficient with local staff through the educational programs offered by the Wild Medic teams.

In 2017, Steve was instrumental in bringing the first qualified paramedics into the island nation of Fiji and establishing the operational criteria for the flight EMS role. This program has now rotated flight paramedics from the U.S., England, and Australia into Fiji HEMS and is working to provide training and education to local Fijian-based EMTs for future flight rotations.

In Australia, Steve is committed to raising the bar and standardizing benchmarks for prehospital care delivery. He currently works as a clinical educator, lecturer and clinical advisor to a number of emergency prehospital organizations. An advocate for paramedic development, he has contributed to several paramedic texts and text books and holds a Graduate Diploma of Strategic Leadership, a Bachelor Degree of Paramedic Practice, a Certificate of Health in Humanitarian Crisis and Leaders in Global Development and a Certificate in Marine and Antarctic Science. He is currently completing a Master of Public Health (remote and polar medicine).

Steve's exemplary abilities in leadership, education and safety within the paramedic profession demonstrate that he is deserving of this year's Award. Mr. Whitfield is the 21<sup>st</sup> recipient of this prestigious award. The official award presentation was made during the CCTMC in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### ABOUT THE IAFCCP

Founded in 1986, the National Flight Paramedic Association, currently known as the International Association of Flight & Critical Care Paramedics, is one of the largest independent paramedic associations in the world. Our focus is specialty care paramedicine and our purpose is to serve as advocates to the profession on an international basis. IAFCCP members are involved in transporting critical care patients by airplane, helicopter and ground ambulance.

The IAFCCP continues to provide advocacy, leadership development and educational opportunities for critical care paramedics. Our website is a valuable resource for everyone interested in the evolving field of critical care paramedicine, provides an increased level of service to our members, and supports our mission of representation, education and development of our profession.

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