

## **ACEP TALEM Member Profile: Heejun Shin**

The first in a series of getting to know members of the section.



**Can you tell us a bit about your background and what inspired you to specialize in tactical and law enforcement emergency medicine?**

Hello, I'm Heejun Shin, MD, MS, FIBODM, an Korean board-certified emergency medicine physician and the Director of the SCH Disaster Medicine Center at Soonchunhyang University Bucheon Hospital, South Korea. I specialize in emergency medicine, disaster medicine, tactical medicine, CBRNe medicine, and counter-terrorism medical response. My journey into tactical and law enforcement emergency medicine began during my Disaster Medicine Fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) in Boston under Dr. Gregory Ciotto, a global leader in disaster medicine. Through this experience, I developed a deep appreciation for the critical role emergency medical support plays during tactical operations and counter-terrorism responses. Motivated by the growing threats in our contemporary world, I've dedicated myself to advancing specialized medical training and education, aiming to enhance safety and preparedness among law enforcement and tactical response teams.

**Was there a particular moment or experience that solidified your interest in this field?**

Yes, during my fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a realistic training exercise involving a simulated chemical-terrorism attack highlighted the critical need for specialized medical preparedness. That moment solidified my dedication to tactical and counter-terrorism emergency medicine, inspiring me to focus on advanced training and education in this field.

**What roles have you or do you currently perform in relation to tactical and law enforcement medicine?**

Currently, I serve as an International Member and Outreach Coordinator Officer for the Tactical and Law Enforcement Medicine (TALEM) Section of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). My work includes to work on forging and maintaining relationships with other physicians and law enforcement medicine groups like the International Association of Chiefs of Police, NAEMSP, National Tactical Officers Association etc.

**In what ways do you feel your work impacts the communities or populations you serve?**

Living in South Korea, where ongoing conflicts between physicians and government health policy have continued for over 15 months, my work directly contributes to community safety by enhancing specialized tactical and disaster medical preparedness. Through targeted training and education, I aim to maintain effective emergency medical response capabilities, mitigate potential impacts from these conflicts, and ultimately improve the resilience and well-being of the communities I serve.

**Is there a particular accomplishment in your career that you're most proud of?**

Recently, on May 4, 2025, I was honored to be elected to the Board of Directors of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM), further empowering me to contribute to global efforts in disaster medicine and emergency preparedness.

**Are there any projects or initiatives you are involved in or want to highlight?**

I'm currently leading the development of the CIREcourse-Tactical, an immersive, scenario-based training program focusing on CBRNe, tactical medicine, and counter-terrorism medical response. Additionally, through my role on the Board of Directors of WADEM and as Director of the SCH Disaster Medicine Center, I'm actively expanding global collaboration and innovation in disaster preparedness, aiming to strengthen emergency medical response capabilities both regionally and internationally. For instance, I'm coordinating a Counter-Terrorism Medicine educational workshop as a pre-congress session at the upcoming Paris WADEM 2027 Congress, in collaboration with the WADEM European Chapter, the European Council of Disaster Medicine (ECDM), and Counter-Terrorism Medicine-Europe (CTM-E). Beyond this event, as a WADEM Board member and Director of the SCH Disaster Medicine Center, my goal is to establish sustained partnerships with these European organizations. Starting this year, we will actively pursue long-term joint research initiatives, strategic collaborations, and ongoing educational program development in disaster and

counter-terrorism medicine. I also look forward to pursuing similar opportunities through the Tactical and Law Enforcement Medicine (TALEM) Section of ACEP, strengthening global collaborations and advancing tactical emergency medicine education.

**Anything else you'd like to add to your profile?**

I served as a Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School from 2022 to 2023, an experience that deepened my passion for international collaboration in disaster and tactical emergency medicine. I'm continually seeking new partnerships and opportunities for joint research and education initiatives, dedicated to mentoring and training the next generation of medical professionals in this critical and evolving field.