



WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR MEDICAL LAW

June Issue

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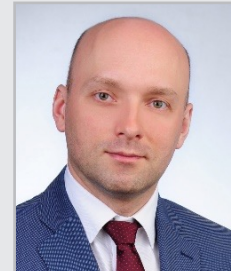
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Editor's Note June 2024 Guest Editor



Hon Richard S Wilbur
MD JD FCLM FACP FRSM FACPE
Member of the National Academy of Medicine
Editor WAML Newsletter



Jerzy Bednarski, MD, PhD
Specialist in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
Department of Human Anatomy of Medical University of Lublin, Poland
WAML Board of Governor

This issue of the Newsletter immediately predates the WAML World Congress in Batam, Indonesia. It contains thoughtful contributions from our Polish Governor, Jerzy Bednarski MD, PhD. Abstracts from the Congress are available to members and subscribers in the WAML Journal. Details about attending the Congress are in the Administrator's Report and online at the WAML Website

Dear Friends, Dear Readers,

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest issue of our newsletter! In these times of rapid change and uncertainty, it is crucial to grasp the legal frameworks that govern healthcare and understand how global political dynamics influence medical practices. Concurrently, the current geopolitical climate presents distinct challenges for our community.

We are honored to showcase contributions from authors spanning the globe. As you delve into this edition, we trust that these diverse articles will foster lively discussion and

Disclaimer: The articles presented in this newsletter express the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the attitudes or opinions of the WAML

the exchange of ideas. Looking forward, we eagerly anticipate our upcoming conference in Batam, Indonesia. We envision enriching conversations and collaborative efforts emerging from this gathering. We invite you to join us in Batam to delve deeper into these critical topics and contribute to the global discourse.

Let us continue our commitment to meaningful dialogue and collective action in tackling challenges and embracing opportunities ahead.

Warm regards,

Jerzy Bednarski MD, PhD

Medical Law Unites and Helps Resolving Topical Issues



Medical law and the WAML continue uniting distinguished professionals and young researchers all over the world.

In March and April 2024, the WAML governors and members contributed to the medical law-related meetings organized at

the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine.

The first one – International Interdisciplinary Dialogue “The Principle of Inclusion in Public Administration: Public Service, Medico-Legal and Urban Dimensions” - was a unique event that gathered together all those interested in public administration, medical law and urban planning, in one conference room and remotely to discuss topical issues of inclusion.

As mentioned by Prof. Olexiy Pronevych, who told about the way from the idea to the event, it was a students’ initiative. Mentors certainly helped developing it into a representative meeting that started from speeches of state and municipal officials who depicted the achievements of building an inclusive society and the outstanding issues and finished by students’ reflections on the topic. The international component was an important part of the event. The WAML Governor, Prof. Eduardo Dantas (Brazil), and the WAML member Dr. Arrie Budhiartie (Indonesia) pinpointed the universal nature of inclusion and shared the experiences of their countries in ensuring inclusion in health care.

Another event – Medico-Legal Polylogue – that took place on 17 April 2024 on the occasion of the European Patients’ Rights Day– was devoted to the realities and prospects of ensuring and protecting patients’ rights. The participants appreciated the opportunity of listening to the inputs on the members of the Ukrainian Parliament, Health Ministry, the NGOs the work of which is aimed at protecting

patients’ rights, and certainly, of international speakers. All the attendees were moved by presentations of Tetyana Kulesha and Oksana Alexandrova, the leaders of NGOs effective in protecting the rights of patients with rare diseases and interested in the presentation of Prof. Andre Pereira, the head of the WAML Education Committee who spoke of the topical issues of the application of the Oviedo Convention.

In June 2024, new international cooperation initiatives in the sphere of medical law, particularly those directed at the protection of rights of healthcare workers, were discussed by the WAML Governors from Poland and Ukraine Jerzy Bednarski and Radmyla Hrevtsova who had meetings in Poland during her visit on an academic project within the framework of the Twinning Initiative between the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and the University of Edinburgh. The experts in medical law from the University of Warsaw have also joined the meeting devoted to issues of medical professionals’ self-governance. The cooperation is to develop in scientific papers and practical recommendations.

Dr. Radmyla Hrevtsova, Advocate, Professor of Kyiv Medical University, Associate Professor of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Ukraine),

Dr. Jerzy Bednarski, Specialist of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery, Department of Human Anatomy of Medical University of Lublin, Poland.

Exploring Legal Liability in Intelligent Diagnosis from Taiwanese Point of View



Jeng You Wu, MD, MBA

1Wan Fang Hospital, Taipei Medical University, Department of Radiation Oncology

2Taipei Medical University, Graduate Institute of Biomedical Informatics, College of Medical Science and Technology

b94401107@g.ntu.edu.tw



Jou Lin PhD, Assistant Professor,

CTBC Business School, Department of Financial and Economic Laws, linijou@ctbc.edu.tw

Introduction

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in the medical field has primarily focused on intelligent diagnosis. This involves using machine learning and deep learning to analyze patient test reports and treatment records, enabling automated learning and prediction of diseases. While AI can significantly enhance the speed and accuracy of medical diagnoses, current regulations restrict its role to an auxiliary one, which brings up various legal liability issues. This newsletter explores these issues and the implications for the medical and legal fields.

The Rise of AI in Medicine

Artificial Intelligence has seen a surge in interest over the past decade. Initially considered impractical by many computer scientists, the development of deep neural networks (DNN) by pioneers like Geoffrey Hinton and Yann LeCun has transformed AI into a powerful tool for image recognition and predictive analytics. In medicine, AI relies on high-quality, large datasets to train neural networks that can make accurate predictions. However, the medical field poses unique challenges due to the abundance of unstructured data and inconsistent annotations.

Technical Aspects of Intelligent Diagnosis

Medical diagnosis traditionally involves a combination of patient history, physical exams, clinical blood tests, and imaging diagnostics, with potential follow-up through pathological biopsies. AI in intelligent diagnosis aims to bridge the experience gap among clinicians using big data, leading to the development of radiomics.

Radiomics quantifies imaging data to derive features useful for disease diagnosis and prognosis. This process involves:

1. **Data Collection:** Gathering imaging data from sources like X-rays, MRI, CT, PET, and ultrasound. Standardizing imaging procedures is crucial to minimize variability and support robust model building.
2. **Image Segmentation and Feature Extraction:** Marking regions of interest (ROI) and extracting quantitative features. Manual segmentation remains essential, particularly for small or complex regions.
3. **Model Building:** Using various machine learning algorithms to develop predictive models. These models undergo internal and external validation to ensure accuracy, measured through ROC curves and AUC values.

Legal Considerations

Traditional medical disputes often stem from negligence or the inherent risks of medical procedures. The introduction of AI in diagnostics could potentially reduce these risks, but it also raises new legal questions.

Tiered Medical Care

Advancements in medical technology have led to more complex disease and refined professional divisions. Tiered medical care involves referrals among physicians across different specialties and hospital levels, aiming to provide comprehensive patient care. However, disparities in diagnostic capabilities exist among

different hospital levels, affecting treatment outcomes. Data from the Ministry of Health and Welfare indicate varying five-year survival rates for cancer patients across hospital levels, highlighting these disparities.

Liability Standards

The Medical Act mandates that only qualified doctors can perform medical services, and they must personally diagnose and treat patients. Consequently, AI can only play an auxiliary role and cannot replace doctors. The responsibility for medical outcomes remains with the doctors, as AI lacks legal liability capacity.

The Medical Act also requires that medical services be performed with necessary diligence. In civil liability, negligence is judged by whether the conduct meets the standard of a reasonably prudent person in similar circumstances, considering the professional, risky, and unpredictable nature of medical practices.

Legal Challenges

Defining medical norms involves considering the standard of care, facilities, and conditions in the same field. AI-based diagnosis, even with supervised learning, may introduce biases from diverse data sources, raising questions about liability for diagnostic errors. Future medical practices may see doctors challenging AI databases with clinical discretion. Although AI assists in medical decision-making, the final decision and responsibility rest with doctors.

Conclusion

Technological advancements continually challenge legal frameworks, which often lag behind. AI's development, though recent, introduces new liability issues to an already complex medical dispute landscape. While legislative efforts like the "Medical Dispute Handling and Medical Accident Compensation Act" are underway, AI integration necessitates further legal discussions to ensure a balanced coexistence of technology and liability.

This exploration underscores the importance of adapting legal systems to keep pace with technological advancements, ensuring both the benefits of AI in healthcare and the protection of legal rights.

Current Status of Medical Law in Latin America



Rosa Teresa Meza Vásquez

Master in Medical Law and Bioethics
Governor of the World Association for Medical Law – WAML



Giancarlo Jiménez Bazán

(Master in Medical Law and Bioethics,
President and founder of the Peruvian
Affiliate of the Latin American Association for
Medical Law. Main partner and co-founder of
Meza & Jiménez Attorneys at Law

The development of Medical Law in Latin America is progressing slowly, particularly in countries such as Peru where universities do not offer courses in this specialized field. As a result, students in medical and law schools lack foundational knowledge of Medical Law and its connections to Legal Medicine and Bioethics, the latter being its predecessors in a sequential triad with Medical Law.

In this sense, medical graduates lack the knowledge to manage medical risks in their daily practice, whereas law graduates, particularly those pursuing careers as judges or prosecutors, are not properly equipped to effectively analyze and solve cases involving medical complexities.

In this context, legal professionals responsible for resolving and deciding disputes in medical cases do not often understand the healthcare system's operations, the externalities involved in medical procedures, the responsibilities of each healthcare team member, and their interrelationships during patient care. Nor have they been educated about the rights and duties of the individuals that form the doctor-patient relationship to be able to handle litigious situations between these parties.

Additionally, they often do not fully grasp the importance of Clinical Practice Guidelines, which now have a broader scope than Medical Protocols. These guidelines place greater emphasis on medical criteria and case-by-case decisions made by physicians, acknowledging that doctors treat people, not just diseases, and that each patient is unique; thus, two individuals with the same disease may have different comorbidities and respond differently to the same treatment. Likewise, they do not know how to prepare and manage legal medical documents such as the informed consent, the medical record, and are unfamiliar with the standards of quality care and patient safety.

This situation complicates the fair resolution of disputes in medical cases due to the lack of foundational knowledge in Medical Law. There is significant work to be done in Peru and many other Latin American countries where Medical Law is not yet taught as an independent and mandatory university course for health professionals and lawyers. In this sense, it is essential to promote the knowledge and teaching of Medical Law to these professionals.

For those of us with knowledge about Medical Law and deeply involved in this topic, the creation of Peru's first law firm specializing in this field has been the first step. The second step was introducing Bioethics—a key component of the sequential triad—at graduate level, while the third step was the opening of the Peruvian Affiliate of the Latin American Association for Medical Law. In collaboration with the law firm, this association has been organizing conferences, round tables, international seminars, and congresses on Medical Law nationwide. It has also invited

renowned professors from Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, and Spain to share their expertise and deepen our understanding of Medical Law.

We believe that continuous education is crucial for advancing toward better horizons of change. Thus, we hope to soon offer courses in collaboration with the World Association for Medical Law to further disseminate and promote Medical Law in our country and Latin American countries.

Concise Note on the 2nd Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference 'Medical Sciences in the Service of Justice and Law Enforcement'



Michał Piotr Kaszubski, M.A.
Zakład Prawa Medycznego

Instytut Ekspertyz Medycznych w Łodzi

The 2nd Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference 'Medical Sciences in the Service of Justice and Law Enforcement' was successfully held on 13-14 June 2024 in Łódź, organized in partnership with the International Centre for Criminological Research and Expertise in Białystok. This conference served as a significant platform for specialists from various fields to explore the intricate

relationship between medicine and law, emphasizing the critical role that medical sciences play in the realm of justice and law enforcement.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to high-risk medical procedures. The session began with opening remarks and presentations by the heads of various Institute of Medical Expertise (IEM) departments, setting the stage for a day of insightful discussions. The morning sessions covered a range of topics, including perinatology, pediatric cardiac surgery, pediatric cardiology, and anesthesiology. Each presentation provided an in-depth look at the latest advancements and challenges in these fields, highlighting the importance of precision and care in high-risk medical scenarios. Following a discussion and break, the afternoon sessions continued with presentations on vascular surgery, transplantology, pediatric oncology, plastic surgery, and pediatric gynecology. These sessions underscored the importance of innovative medical procedures and their implications for patient care. The day concluded with a discussion period, allowing participants to engage with the speakers, ask questions, and share insights.

An integration banquet in the evening provided an opportunity for attendees to network, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among specialists from diverse fields.

The second day focused on the intersection of medical practices and legal frameworks, exploring how laws can guide and regulate medical procedures to ensure justice and ethical standards. The day began with a keynote speech by Professor Tomaszewski, an

esteemed specialist on expert witnesses and an associate of the Ministry of Justice. Presentations covered a variety of topics, including the legal and criminological aspects of organ transplantation, the role of criminology in protecting human life, and forensic-psychiatric assessments. These talks provided valuable insights into how legal principles are applied in medical contexts to uphold justice and ethical practices. Additional presentations focused on medically assisted procreation, the importance of accurate expert witness opinions in legal proceedings, and the legal ramifications of unintentional false expert opinions. These topics highlighted the critical role of law in ensuring the integrity and reliability of medical testimony in court. The conference concluded with panel discussions, a summary of the key points, and a wrap-up session, followed by lunch. This final segment allowed participants to consolidate their learning and discuss potential future collaborations. The conference offered numerous benefits to the participants, fostering a deeper understanding of the symbiotic relationship between medical sciences and the justice system. The diverse range of topics covered, from high-risk medical procedures to the intricacies of medical law, provided attendees with a comprehensive overview of current trends and challenges. This knowledge is invaluable for professionals seeking to enhance their expertise and stay updated with the latest advancements in their fields. The conference facilitated networking opportunities through discussions, panel sessions, and the integration banquet. These interactions allowed participants to build professional relationships,

discuss potential collaborations, and exchange ideas in an informal setting. The practical aspects of the presentations, including case studies and real-world applications, provided attendees with actionable insights that they can apply in their professional practice. This practical focus ensures that the knowledge gained is not just theoretical but can be directly implemented to improve patient care and legal processes.

The 2nd Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference 'Medical Sciences in the Service of Justice and Law Enforcement' was a definite success, providing a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and professional growth. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and offering deep insights into both medical and legal domains, the conference has made a significant contribution to the ongoing dialogue between these critical fields. Participants left with a richer understanding of how to integrate medical sciences with legal principles to serve justice and improve patient outcomes, highlighting the importance of such interdisciplinary gatherings in advancing both fields.

WAML President's Report



Roy G Beran AM
President of WAML

It seems like only yesterday that we all met in Vilnius and yet the 28th World Congress for Medical Law (WCML) is just around the corner, between the 20th and 23rd July. The 28th WCML will be held in conjunction with the inaugural meeting of the World Association for Medical Law (WAML) ASEAN/Pacific-Australasian Regional Affiliates Organisation meeting, on the 24th July, all being hosted by the Batam Internasional University in Batam, Indonesia. The host hotel will be the Harmony One Hotel in Batam, although I am aware that colleagues are also staying at other hotels close by.

Last month I travelled to Jakarta and Batam and had the pleasure of meeting the Indonesian Minister for Law and Justice who was very supportive of the conference as well as meeting the Rector of the University and its Dean of Law, both of whom seem very excited to be involved with the conference. The Mayor of Batam is also looking forward to greeting the delegates and appeared very supportive.

We already have received ~80 abstracts for the conference but the WAML has extended the time for receipt of further abstracts, till mid-June, acknowledging that the 28th WCML had to be moved

from Toronto, for a host of reasons that were beyond the control of the current WAML leadership. Professor Nasser Muh and Dr Bahtiar, the heads of the Local Organising Committee, are to be commended on providing an alternative venue on short notice and they deserve the full gratitude of the WAML for making this happen. To think that we already have close to 100 submitted abstracts, with a couple of weeks to go, is truly encouraging. I hope to meet and greet as many of you as possible in Batam and, if there is anything that the Local Organising Committee or the WAML Administration can do, to make your trip to Batam better, please let us know.

Batam is a short boat ride from Singapore and perhaps the easiest way to get there is to fly into Changi Airport, in Singapore, and take the shuttle bus to the pier, to catch the ferry, and to take the boat for a short 50-minute ride to Batam. The Harmony One Hotel is just a few minutes from the boat terminal. An alternative approach is to fly to Jakarta and change planes to fly to Batam but I have been strongly advised that the Singapore option is better. Everything seems to be in place for a great conference which should provide the right balance between academic excellence and social and cultural interaction. Nasser and Bahtiar, our local representatives, appear to have established a great mixture of both.

These last few months have provided a turbulent backdrop for the world with peace seeming still a long way away. The WAML reaffirmed its apolitical nature with the passing of a resolution to remain beyond any political discourse. The main focus of the WAML is to foster the better understanding

of health law, legal medicine and bioethics and to offer a commitment to enhanced research in these fields and to offer support for those involved in studies thereof. Through the WAML Education Committee, the WAML has started offering its webinars which complement the Newsletter and the WAML Journal. The WAML has assumed its position as a leading light in its fields of interest and it behoves all of us to thank those who played a pivotal role in providing these academic endeavours, especially the members of our WAML Education Committee who also co-opted others, outside of the Board of Governors (BoG), to contribute to our educative activities.

As has been established over recent years, the Journal, Medicine and Law, will only publish the abstracts that were both accepted and presented, at the relevant WCML, to avoid the questionable use of the Journal to publish accepted abstracts that the authors submitted, that were accepted but the authors had no intention of attending nor presenting at the meeting. It is reassuring that we have a committed guest editor for the 2025 focused issue of the Journal, to be published in March 2025, which should overcome the problems encountered in 2024. The Journal continues to be a valued flagship of the WAML and, as its Editor-in-Chief, I thank all those who have contributed to the Journal, either as authors or referees.

As mentioned earlier, one of my aims, when assuming the Presidency of the WAML, was to establish 6 Regional Affiliate Organisations, with the inaugural such meeting, for the ASEAN/Pacific-Australasian region linked to the 28th WCML. It is truly an exciting time trying to build the international links for the WAML. The South American

Affiliate held its inaugural meeting in late 2023 and there continue to be moves to look to develop an African Affiliate. This has been a very ambitious enterprise which is still in its infancy but has the potential to foster closer ties, both between local organisations, within each region, and with the international community within the WAML family.

It is a real pleasure to interact with people who have expressed a wish to join the WAML family. Every week, we receive contact from people who want to be part of that which we offer and, with that type of support, our future looks very bright. The Executive Committee (EC) has adopted the approach of adopting true transparency and publishes the minutes of the EC meetings which also serves to allow the BoG to appreciate what is going on behind the scenes and to know how the EC is dealing with day-to-day activities of the WAML. The current EC will continue to follow this approach which involves more people being committed to the principles of the WAML than has previously the case.

I conclude this report with an invitation, to all those who are not yet committed to attend the 28th WCML in Indonesia, to capitalise on the extended time, provided to receive final submissions. This is your opportunity to submit abstracts and to join us in a great location and a wonderful conference. We are confident that the 28th WCML will surprise those who were sceptical and will be a delightful and educative meeting that will surpass expectation.

Roy G Beran

President

The World Association for Medical Law

WAML Secretary General Report



Adv. Jonathan Davies

Secretary General report for March
Newsletter

Reflections of the Democratic decision
making process in the WAML

This report before we convene in Batam at the 28th World Congress for Medical Law will sum-up the Executive Committee (EC) activity in the last year and a half since it was elected.

The current EC has made a lot of progress since the Gold Coast meeting with the leadership of our President Roy Beran, and is in the process of reshaping WAML both academically and demographically.

EC is seeking to enlarge the Board of Governors (BoG). We intend to accept three more governors at Batam and the BoG will be represented by more than 30 countries. This can be a turning point for the WAML after the amendment of the Bylaws that cancelled the cap of number of Governors who can serve on the BoG.

The President offered to establish six Regional Affiliate Organizations, but unfortunately, the wars in Ukraine and Israel have postponed the plan.

The current Bylaws allow more involvement of the BoG in the day-to-day activities of the EC. The EC

meets in average of every one to two months and reports to the BoG with full transparency despite the world turbulence.

Since the 27th WCML, the BoG has held two extraordinary online meeting and is planning to conduct a BOG online meeting at the 28th WCML at Bat

The first extraordinary was an extraordinary meeting following the motion for Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) Agenda put forward by Barry Solaiman of Qatar.

The EC has adopted the AC recommendation and decided that the following Statement will apply to all members of the WAML:

“The World Association for Medical Law, Board of Governors approves the following Standard Operating Procedure:

Neither the WAML nor any person, on behalf of WAML, makes any political statement, whatsoever, concerning conflicts around the world;

The WAML returns to its purpose which, according to the By-laws, is to encourage the study and discussion of health law, legal medicine, public health and bioethics, for the benefit of society and the advancement of human rights, in accordance with Article 2 of the By-laws.

Governors of WAML will respect the purposes of the WAML, as mentioned in the By-laws, the WAML being a non-political organization, and will refrain from any political statements, during their role as a WAML representative or in any discussions conducted within the WAML activities and/or between

academic activities between themselves and in any social media outlets that identifies such person as a WAML representative or uses the banner or database of the WAML.

Keeping WAML as an open forum of academic and scientific debate, in an environment of respect and fraternity between all its associates, who may have conflicting views concerning various themes, is important to contribute to peace and development of all members of the international society and for the benefit of society and the advancement of human rights”.

The current EC suggests incorporating the above SoP in to the Bylaws as part of the WAML purposes.

The Second extraordinary BoG discussed WAML's database and adopted the SG recommendations to consolidate the Database that refers to a collection of resources and information pertaining to medical law and ethics.

This is a huge progress for the BoG, Taking in mind that the previous EC did not organize any online meetings.

The current EC also calls for more proactive involvement of the BoG members.

Governors must represent their countries and know the terms for serving as a BoG member. EC recommended amending the Bylaws to sanction members that do not attend meetings to allow other members of the Association to take part in contributing to a new WAML.

Some of the current governors have been serving too many years on the BoG, some of them are the sole representatives of their country.

We need to see new Governors serving on the BoG and more members in the WAML from the different countries. Therefore, the current EC has encouraged members of the BoG to act as ambassadors of the WAML and to make it a condition to continue serving on the BoG. We expect BoG members act to enhance the WAML and represent their region of the world. This could be a breakthrough for the BoG to be more active in the day-to-day activities of WAML.

We are in the processes of reorganizing WAML committees. EC has approved the merging of the Social Media Committee into the Education Committee.

Education Committee chaired by Prof André Dias Pereira, has already conducted a worldwide webinar on different medico – legal topics and has suggested the creation of a summer school in Coimbra University. The main topics will be legal medicine/ health law, Public health Law and more.

The EC has received a suggestion to create a Professional Practice committee that can include practitioners from both disciplines – Medicine and Law - interacting and collaborating on different issues.

The Bylaws Committee, Chaired by Dr. Dick Wilbur has already presented amendments of the bylaws approved by the BoG at the 27th WCML in Vilnius and now has been asked to present another set of amendments.

We live in a global society where regional problems suddenly became global issues that concern all of us. These phenomena call

into question our commitments to such foundations of democratic societies as autonomy and equality, transparency, solidarity, fairness, and the rule of law.

Dealing with crises in the Public Health sector requires collective action. Covid pandemic illustrated that the willingness to self-isolate and vaccinate in order to avoid the spread of the pandemic based on solidarity and humanity; that is, on a sense of community and identification, which leads to willingness to act for common good. On the other hand post vaccination side effects led to growing criticism around the world, and that could be challenging for health systems.

As I wrote previously, WAML can serve as a platform for exchange of views between peers and promote discussions on topics that influence Public Health Law issues for the benefit of the people of the World.

On behalf of the EC, I wish WAML members good health, prosperity, and keep safe. Many of the Governors cannot attend the 28th WCML and so we hope to see them on the Zoom.

Treasurer Report



Prof. Berna ARDA (MD MedSpec PhD)
Ankara University, Faculty of Medicine
History of Medicine and Ethics Dept.
Chair, Women's Studies Dept. , Ankara
University - TURKEY

Hello,

In this newsletter issue, I would like to write about a new course I am teaching at Ankara University Faculty of Medicine. I have been working as an academic staff member at the school of medicine from which I graduated since 1987. Undergraduate medical education includes both medical ethics - medical law, and history of medicine which are structured in a spiral manner from the first year to the last year in both Turkish and English medicine programs.

Elective courses have been added to the curriculum for medical education in the country in recent years, in the form of a new type of courses other than mandatory courses. Among the elective ones offered by our department in the 4th grade, there are courses devoted to a medical history subject such as “Medicine in the Medieval Era” and a medical law/ethics subject such as “End of Life and Ethics”. 45 students attend each of these courses.

Since last year, I started teaching a new elective course in the spring semester titled “I am choosing my career - being a member of the medical ethics team” in the 5th grade at the school of medicine. A total of 8 students took it, six women and two men. The program between February 14 and June 5 was prepared with a content that introduced and informed my own academic field. Therefore, the syllabus included seminars and literature presentations; these were under the titles “Physician’s oath and its meaning in the 21st century”, “Asclepius in Anatolian medicine”, “Ethical committees in the field of medicine”.

Apart from the seminars, what could I have these 5th grade students do as a sort of practices? Moreover, since I have been a part of the academic team that has been working on a national index for scientific publishing in Turkey for many years, we also focused on what ethical criteria a scientific journal should comply with in academic publishing and what criteria “Tubitak-Ulakbim” expects to be paid attention to. We also provided theoretical information on medical ethics and medical law expert requests from the courts. Then, the students practiced on fictional cases and tried to write report based on the relevant legislation. Ethics committee membership is one of the important functions of our field. How should an ethics committee application file be prepared, what should be taken into consideration, what are the indispensable points in the evaluation process of an application..etc. Another topic is the potential for cooperation with chambers of medicine while working as an academics in the field of medical ethics. It is possible to work in honorary committees of professional organizations and to serve as an investigator or expert in investigations conducted by medical chambers of medicine. Therefore, preparing a fictional investigation file was another practice that the students worked on.

So we came to the end of the semester. I don't know if any of the young physician candidates who choose this elective course will want to specialize in the field of medical ethics and medical law in the future. But being with students at the medical school and carrying out educational activities with them is very good for me as

a senior professor, it makes me feel much more energetic and dynamic. Working with physician candidates also renews my hopes for my profession and my country. I wanted to share this educational experience shortly with you.

See you in Batam soon

Prof. Berna ARDA;
(MD MedSpec PhD)

Ankara University Faculty of
Medicine

Ankara - TURKEY

WAML Meeting Planning and Administration



Denise McNally,
WAML Administrative Officer
and Meeting Planner

Join us for the 28th World Congress on Medical Law (WCML)

July 20 – 23, 2024

Held in conjunction with the 1st WAML
ASEAN-Pacific - Australasian Regional
Affiliates Organization Meeting

Batam, Indonesia

Program Chair:
M. Nasser MD. Doctor of Law

Head of Organizing Committee:
Dr. Bahtiar Husain MD. LLM

Theme: Medical Crimes is not General Criminal

Topics:

- Public Health Law
- Health and Human Right
- Medical Error and
Pharmaceutical Error
- Medical Negligence and
Medical Dispute

Program will take place at Batam University

*Shuttle service from Harmoni One
Hotel to Batam University will be
provided.*

Supported by:

- University of Batam
- Australasian College of Legal
Medicine
- Ministry of Law and Human
Rights
- Parliament of Republic of
Indonesia
- Indonesia Bar Association

Important Dates

**Registration: Early Registration
until July 17, 2024**

Congress dates: July 20 – 23, 2024

**Register for WCML
(July 20 – 23, Batam,
Indonesia):**

[https://wafml.wildapricot.org/
event-5582982/Registration](https://wafml.wildapricot.org/event-5582982/Registration)

REGISTRATION RATES:

1. **WAML Member: \$350**
2. **Local Attendees: \$200**
3. **Non-Member: \$400**
4. **Student: \$200**

Visa Information - <https://wafml.wildapricot.org/2024-Visa-Information>

About Batam, Indonesia: <https://wafml.wildapricot.org/About-Batam-Indonesia>

Book Hotel Accommodation: Harmoni One Hotel - Batam. Deluxe (35 USD) and Superior-twin bed (30 USD). <https://www.accomodation-section.com/>

TRAVEL TO INDONESIA: <https://wafml.wildapricot.org/Travel>

VISA Information: World Association for Medical Law - 2024 Visa Information

For assistance, please email WAML: worldassocmedlaw@gmail.com

Visit our website: <https://wafml.wildapricot.org/28th-World-Congress-for-Medical-Law-Batam-Indonesia>

Executive Committee Meeting, Board of Governor Meeting and Program Dates during 2024 WCML (Batam, Indonesia)

- Friday, July 19, 2024 – Executive Committee Meeting
- Saturday, July 20, 2024 – Board of Governor Meeting
- Saturday, July 20, 2024 – International Seminar

- Saturday, July 20, 2024 – Welcome Reception 28th WCML
- Sunday, July 21, 2024 – Congress Program 28th WCML
- Sunday, July 21, 2024 – WAML General Assembly
- Monday, July 22, 2024 – Congress Program 28th WCML
- Tuesday, July 23, 2024 – Congress Program 28th WCML
- Tuesday, July 23, 2024 – Gala Dinner 28th WCML

1st WAML ASEAN-Pacific - Australasian Regional Affiliates Organization Meeting

- Monday, July 24, 2024 – Organization Meeting

Membership Dues

The purpose of the World Association for Medical Law (WAML) is to encourage the study and discussion of health law, legal medicine, ethics and forensic medicine for the benefit of society and the advancement of human rights.

Membership in WAML is Annual and your 2024 membership dues were due by December 31, 2023. Membership dues are \$150. If you received a notice that your membership has lapsed you still have the ability to login to your profile, generate a dues invoice and pay.

WAML members enjoy many benefits which include access to quarterly E-Newsletters, discount registration fees to the WAML Congress, notice of upcoming events, active website information, the “Medicine and Law”

electronic Journal and discounted access to activities of affiliated organizations.

We encourage you to log into the WAML website <http://wafml.memberlodge.org/> and pay. After logging in choose ‘View Profile’ (located top right), click ‘Membership’ and then “Renew’. You also have the option to pay by check or wire transfer.

If your membership dues are paid, thank you!

Do you have an idea, comment, or suggestion?

Please contact
Denise McNally
worldassocmedlaw@gmail.com



CYRIL H. WECHT, M.D., J.D.

March 20, 1931 – May 13, 2024
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Cyril was a close friend of mine as well as a leading expert in forensic pathology.

I had the immense pleasure of knowing Cyril for over 50 years. We met and became good friends along with Bill Eckert from Wichita, Kansas during an American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) meeting in ice cold Chicago in the middle of February in the 1960s.

He was very determined in pursuing his goals and went to medical school where he first obtained a forensic pathology degree and on top of that got a law degree. While he graduated with a law and MD degree, I completed my forensic pathology residency in 1963.

Our eagerness to create mutual connections with international colleges led us to attend many meetings. We both worked to expand our reach, I in Los Angeles 1956-57, was involved in the process of converting LA county into a medical examiner system (my chief was Dr. Theodore J. Curphey); Cyril was busy converting the traditional coroner system and spent a lot of time in introducing the medical examiner way of thinking. The system change was not easy, but Cyril was fearless and attacking opponent and was able to convert Pittsburgh into the ME system. At that time Philadelphia was the only city to have an ME system in the State of Pennsylvania.

Cyril worked with professors of Duquesne University and many other educational institutions to expand forensic medicine into forensic sciences and criminalistics and creating degree programs. At the time many universities with forensic science degrees were just working with educators and suddenly there was a nation-wide expansion of the forensic sciences through Cyril's efforts.

Cyril was an outstanding professional and I would always say to myself, "Cyril can do it!". Not very many people can do it the way he did and all he accomplished. Cyril was truly a giant in our field and I was very fortunate to work with him."

Thomas T. Noguchi, M.D.

WAML Immediate Past President

FUTURE MEETINGS

Of Affiliated National Associations and Collaborating Organizations

28th Annual WAML World Congress

July 20 – 23, 2024

Batam, Indonesia

Website: [WAML- 28th Annual World Congress on Medical Law, Batam, Indonesia](#)

16th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics, and Health Law

July 24 – 26, 2024

Brasilia, Brazil

Website: <https://www.bioethicsbrasilia2024.com/>

58th Annual National Association of Medical Examiners Meeting

October 13 – 17, 2023

San Jose, California (USA)

Website: [Annual Meetings \(thename.org\)](#)

29th Annual WAML World Congress

August 6 – 8, 2025

Istanbul – Turkey

Website: www.thewaml.com

30th Annual WAML World Congress 2026

Antwerp, Belgium

Website: www.thewaml.com



WAML Newsletter Production Team

Editor-in-Chief:
Richard S. Wilbur, MD JD

Coordinator:
Denise McNally

Graphic designer:
Raul Vergara

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