



World Association For Medical Law

January Issue

January-March

www.thewaml.com

Interactive Index

Editor's Note January 2023 1

WAML President's Report 1

WAML Secretary General
Report 3

WAML Executive Vice
President Report 4

Treasurer Report 5

WAML Meeting Planning
and Administration 6

30th Congress World
Association for Medical
Law 2026 Welcome in
Antwerp, Belgium! 13

Future Meetings 15

Editor's Note January 2023



Hon Richard S Wilbur

MD JD FCLM FACP FRSM FACPE
Member of the National Academy of Medicine
Editor WAML Newsletter

This Issue of the Newsletter is devoted to the Gold Coast, Australia 2022 World Congress. Our first in three and a half years. After such an unusually long interval, the changes in organizational leadership were correspondingly more than usual. Long serving President Thomas Noguchi retired and was named Past President to sit with the Board of Governors. Dr Noguchi has been with the WAML since its early days and has headed it since the Zagreb Congress in 2010. His leadership has inspired all of the many who have associated with him in these 12 ½ years of his Presidency. He was replaced as President by Prof Roy Beran of Australia, the longtime Editor of the WAML Journal and the organizer of the 2022 Congress. Luis Ravanal of Chile succeeded former Executive Vice President Vugar Mammadov. Adv. Jonathan Davies of Israel replaced Dr. Ken Berger of Canada as Secretary General. Prof Berna Arda of Turkey was reelected

Treasurer. There were also both new and reelected Governors: Mustafa Aslam – Pakistan, Cécile Bensimon – Canada, Toma Birmontiene – Lithuania, Eduardo Dantas – Brazil, Sanjin Dekovic - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Anne-Marie Duguet – France, Nicola Glover-Thomas - United Kingdom, Charles William “Bill” Hinnant – USA, Radmyla Hrevtsova – Ukraine, Vugar Mammadov – Azerbaijan, Rosa Teresa Meza Vasquez – Peru, Olaolu Osanyin – Nigeria, Svetlana Pospelova - Russian Federation, Henriette Roscam Abbing – Netherlands, Janne Rothmar Herrmann – Denmark, Judit Sandor – Hungary, Shigeki Takahashi – Japan, Thierry Vansweevelt - Belgium

Antwerp, Belgium was selected as the 2026 World Congress site. Details of all these developments are in this issue.

WAML President's Report



Roy G Beran AM
President of WAML

The conclusion of the 26th World Congress for Medical Law (WCML) heralds a new dawn for the World Association for Medical Law (WAML) with a new Executive Committee and new members of the Board of

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

Governors. Prof Thomas Noguchi, the past president of the WAML, left large shoes to be filled and the new administration hopes that it will be up to the task. It is only a week since the conference, on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia, when this presidential report is being prepared, and already there has been a flurry of exchanges from various people seeking change and the Executive Committee held an informal meeting at the QT Hotel, during the 26th WCML, to delineate some of the priorities and tasks that lie ahead.

What is clear is that the 26th World Congress was a great success for which everyone associated with its planning and execution can be justly proud. The Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra (GCCO) provided a beautiful and culturally pleasing introduction on the night before the official opening of the Congress. This was followed by a further cultural exchange with a traditional welcome to country and the playing of the indigenous instrument, the digeridoo, and a viewing of the Bond University's display of modern indigenous art. Bond University excelled itself in making the delegates all feel extremely welcome and the Vice Chancellor and President of Bond University, Professor Tim Brailsford, made special mention and welcome to those attending the 26th WCML in his address, at the start of the GCCO recital, as did the respective deans of medicine and law, at the subsequent reception. A special thank you must go to Prof Nick James who was receptive of the idea of Bond University being a major sponsor of the conference and his team were invaluable to the overall success of the meeting.

Bond University was not the only sponsor of the meeting and we also must acknowledge and thank Tourism and Events Queensland; Destination Australia – Gold Coast; and the Australian Centre for Health Law Research from the Queensland University of Technology for having faith in the WAML and the WCML. Without their support the congress would not have achieved its goals to which its success testifies. None of this would have happened were it not for the energy and enthusiasm of Norma Swain who was pivotal in Australia bidding for the Conference. She guided the fabulous Local Organising Committee in its many tasks for which the WAML should be eternally grateful.

The GCCO did not limit its involvement to the recital, at Bond University, and two of its leading musicians also attended the opening ceremony and provided background music while delegates took their seats for the opening ceremony. It was delightful to receive a special video message from the Director General of

the World Health Organisation, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesu, and a special communication from Prof Vasyi Kostytsky, the Ukrainian President of the International Association of Medical Law. This combined with a message from the President of the WAML, Prof Noguchi, and the Programme Chair, set the tone for a great meeting in which the concept of casual interaction and exchange was strongly encouraged, both academically and socially.

The Opening Ceremony was immediately followed by first Plenary Session, examining the Covid Pandemic, with presentations from The President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher, New Zealand Appellate Court Judge, His Honour David Collins and a special review of the WAML Newsletters, dealing with the Covid Pandemic, by the Honourable Richard S Wilbur, the Editor-in Chief of the WAML Newsletter. This was followed by a day of high level presentations, both platform and poster, after which was the WAML General Assembly at which all the outstanding and new Governors' positions were ratified. That was followed by an independently scrutineered, secret ballot resulting in the elections of a new Executive Committee comprising: Roy G Beran, President; Jonathan Davies, Secretary General; Luis Ravanal Zepeda, Executive Vice President; and the re-election of Berna Arda as Treasurer. These results were fully accepted by those in the room and Governors who were present via zoom, heralding a new chapter in the history of the WAML.

The second day of the WCML commenced with a Plenary session dealing with concussion and traumatic brain injury with speakers that included BRIG Isaac Seidl, the Director General for Army Health Services, Professor John Devereux, a Rhodes Scholar, Military Magistrate and expert in tort law and Professor Dennis Cordato, neurologist to the Cronulla Rugby League Club. This was followed by a lively panel discussion which included questions from the floor and was elevated by the inclusion of Dr Brendan Nasser, an ex-Wallaby/elite sportsman who represented Australia in Rugby. Again, these were followed by wonderful presentations, both platform and poster. The last day of the Congress covered both miscellaneous topics and new technologies and, to accommodate the wealth of material, required simultaneous, concurrent sessions. Before the concurrent sessions the third Plenary explored new technologies and provided thought provoking presentations from: Prof Wendy Bonython, from Bond University, examining the legal situation; Lauren Sanders who presented on military innovations, being a serving colonel in the army and

a researcher at the University of Queensland; and Prof Erwin Loh, representing the St Vincent Hospital Group throughout Australia, and providing insight into artificial intelligence. These were followed by free presentations, be they platform and poster. In the afternoon was the Closing ceremony and the Gala Dinner at which were presented the various prizes, including the Davies' Awards which remembers the memory of the current Secretary General's father, Professor A Michael Davies, a Public Health Doctor.

At the Closing Ceremony, the WAML flag was passed from the Current Programme Chair, for the 26th WCML, to the incoming Programme Chair, Prof Toma Birmontiene, for the 27th WCML. Professor Birmontiene stole the show with the most humorous and enlightening video about Vilnius, the venue for the next WCML, the message being to turn left at the Colosseum, in Rome, well maybe not!! There can be no doubt that the Vilnius 27th Congress has the potential to place Lithuania on the map for just so many people and, if her video is anything by which to judge the organisers, it has the hallmark of an absolutely fabulous opportunity to renew acquaintances, formed in Surfers Paradise, and to make new contacts and collaborators for new ventures into the future. This alone indicates that the WAML has a very bright and prosperous future in which the new administration will work tirelessly to ensure that democracy prevails and that the new Board of Governors will play a pivotal role in ensuring the success of all that WAML has to offer.

Should anyone who is reading this Newsletter have any ideas that (s)he feels would help grow and enhance the WAML, please contact the administration with those suggestions. The new administration welcomes all such suggestions and will examine them critically to seek ways in which they can be implemented.

Roy G Beran AM
President
World Association for Medical law

WAML Secretary General Report



Adv. Jonathan Davies
WAML Secretary General

The 26th World Congress for Medical Law (WCML) was a turning point for the World Association for Medical Law (WAML). First, because it was the first meeting post Covid 19 since WCML held in Tokyo in August 2019. Second, because Covid-19 pandemic posed the most significant public health challenge since the Spanish flu Pandemic in 1918 and will influence future health administration and economics globally and further to those our discussions during WCML and between them.

WAML is an organization specializing in Health Law, Bioethics, Forensic Medicine and Legal Medicine across the Globe. Founded in 1967 in Ghent, Belgium, affiliated with the WHO in Geneva and the International Criminal court in The Hague, Netherland. Since WAML's foundation, Medical Law and Public Health Law issues concern many more people globally.

Following the General Assembly (GA), the new Board of Governors (BoG) elected the following Executive Committee (EC) members; Professor **Roy Beran** – President; Adv. **Jonathan Davies** – Secretary General; Professor Luis **Ravanal Zepeda** – Executive Vice President; Prof. **Berna Arda** – Treasurer. The BoG also elected five regional vice presidents.

The aim of new EC is to lead WAML into the new era post Covid, where the emphasis of the discussions will be finding the balance point between old and new Medicine and balancing the focus between Human rights and Public Health.

We welcome new BoG members and wish them many years of contribution. Namely Dr. **Cecile Bensimon** (Canada), Adv. **Toma Birmontiene** (Lithuania), Dr. **Mustafa Aslam** (Pakistan), Dr. **William Hinnant** (USA) and Dr. **Shigeki Takahashi** (Japan).

On behalf of WAML members, I would like to thank Professor Tom Noguchi, past president of the WAML and the past Executive Committee (EC) members for their contribution to WAML. We thank you for your legacy!

Special thanks we owe to Dr. Dick Wilbur, Editor of WAML Newsletter and for his contributions in the different committees of WAML.

The new EC and BoG will seek collaboration with other organizations who share mutual interests, expand knowledge and discuss mutual issues that concern medical law associations, Bioethics and legal medicine organizations around the world. It will aim to young researchers and call for new members from all countries to join WAML.

On behalf of WCML participants, I would like to thank Professor **Roy Beran**, WCML Program Chair for organizing outstanding sessions in which we experienced cutting-edge presentations. First on the **Impact of Covid on legal medicine**, Justice **David Collins** (NZ High Court Appellant Judge) presented the global discussions between governments, health management and Judiciary trying to find the balance point between basic human rights such as the right of assembly/freedom/movement/religion/speech etc. and Public health measures and restrictions.

We listened to an excellent panel discussion on **Concussion and Trauma** and it's potential for legal medicine ramification. The third session was about **Medicine and Technology** looking into the future and its implications of AI on Legal medicine. Many of presentations and posters dealt with question as to who will be accountable for medical malpractice failures Doctors or Machine.

The **Davies award**, presented first in 2018 at WCML in Tel Aviv was dedicated to my late father Professor **Michael Davies** for his legacy and contribution to Public health. The purpose of the Award is to emphasize the influence of legal medicine on Public Health. We all witnessed how Covid 19 changed the attitude towards Public Health issues turning the pendulum from protecting Basic Human rights and National interests to a Public Health focus.

The **Davies Award** awarded to three outstanding presentations that collaborate with public health issues. First prize awarded to Dr. **David Ernest** (Australia) for his presentation titled "Family Veto in Organ donation in Victoria, Australia".

Second prize, awarded to Professor **Albert Lee** (Hong Kong) for his presentation "Equitable Access to supporting services for youth minimize the Impact of Covid 19". The third prize awarded to **Barry Solaiman** (Qatar) for his outstanding presentation; "Artificial Intelligence and healthcare: The Proliferation of global Guidelines in a Void of Legal Uncertainty"¹

We live in a global society where regional problems suddenly became global issues that concern all of us. Covid is not the only pandemic we face. Pandemics such as Diabetes, Obesity, Cancer, Medical errors and the ramifications of Global warming (i.e. water shortage). These pandemics cross borders and are indifferent to national or geopolitical interests.

WAML can serve as a platform for exchange of views between peers and the purpose of the **Davies Award** is to promote discussions on topics that influence Public Health Law issues for the benefit of the people of the World.

We will make an effort to expand representation of more governors to the BoG. I call professionals from all over the world that share multidisciplinary interests to join WAML and become a member.

Looking forward seeing you in Vilnius, Lithuania in August 2023!

1 You can find abstracts of award winning Presentation in "Program and Abstract Book" at

<https://wafml.memberlodge.org/resources/Documents/2022%20Program%20and%20Abstract%20Book.pdf>

WAML Executive Vice President Report



Luis Ravanal MD
WAML Executive Vice President

Dear colleagues, we are approaching six decades of existence since WAML was created in 1967, and we thank our predecessors for their work and dedication.

Today we begin a new era after the election of the new Executive Committee, which we hope will live up to those who preceded us, with the firm conviction that we can still do much more.

Among the objectives of this new Executive Committee is to reinforce the work initiated by our predecessors, with a greater impetus in the diffusion of WAML at the international level, making known the activities and importance of our organization in the development and integration between medicine and law at a global level, but with special emphasis at the regional level, particularly in Latin America which represents a wide variety of countries and cultures that have not been integrated. Therefore, we will strengthen efforts and design measures to encourage the incorporation of new members to the organization, so that we can share our experiences and knowledge in the field of medical and legal, and human rights.

Today with the development of new technologies and communication channels, we have the opportunity to transmit this wonderful experience and interact without borders and without distinction of nationality, motivated by a common interest for the benefit of society worldwide. The success of WAML depends on the cooperative work of all those who integrate it. We also need that all those who participate play a more active role, so that we can really live the integration and be proud to belong to such an important organization in the international arena.

As pointed out by our president Dr. Roy Beran, we must start by making transparent the activities that WAML has developed and will develop in the future, this is one of the obligatory goals within the new process that we undertake as an Executive Committee, in order to improve the administrative management, and also, advance in its modernization, for this is essential the active and integrated participation of the Board of Governors in decision-making. We know that there are many opportunities for collaboration that must be identified and others to exploit from agreements that already exist and those that could be developed in the immediate future, to continue growing.

So let's get to work, the world is ours, welcome to WAML, to a larger and universal WAML.

Luis Ravanal MD. Mcs.

Executive Vice President, World Association for Medical Law

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

Dear colleague

As the treasurer, I would like to give general information about the financial situation of WAML by making use of the report I prepared for the general assembly, at the beginning of a new working term.

The main income sources of WAML are; annual dues, congresses, royalty for our Journal and some irregular income such as donations.

The largest and most regular sources of income for WAML are annual membership fees and congressional revenues. Congresses alone generate revenue; It is very important as they also enable to gain new members during congresses. Congress could not be held during the Covid 19 Pandemic. The 2020 Toronto-Canada and 2021 Istanbul-Turkey Congresses had to be postponed. For this reason, in the last three years, WAML has been deprived of this important source of income and the opportunity to gain new members from the countries where the congress was held has disappeared.

Our official journal, Medicine and Law is a very important prestige element for us. It has reached the 41st volume, is regularly published and has international recognition. It is a candidate for entry in important academic-scientific indexes such as Web of Science or Scopus, it is still in ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index) by Clarivate Analytics. Our members can access the journal free of charge. Although there are royalty checks that our publisher - Hein pays for the Journal, this amount changes every year; does not constitute a fixed and regular income heading; changing from \$2,168.53 to \$ 9, 903.22

Donations; looks a very rare source for WAML.

Net income for 2022 is \$ 51,676.91. The previous years are as follows; in 2017 (\$37,032); in 2018 (\$20,466), in 2019 (\$38,772).

Total Income(2022); \$ 165,570.50

Relevant to expenses of WAML; the regular ones are such as administrative, graphic, congress preparations. The relevant tables have been attached. In the context of all these; WAML takes care not to spend other than very necessary expenses.

Total expense (2022): \$ 113,993.06

Total balance; Bank of America combined statement, \$293,684.80 (October 2022)

As a result; WAML, has extremely limited economical sources. With respect to the membership dues we have to focus some effort to increase our member number base and consider whether there is a more effective ways of collecting annual payments. The resumption of world congresses on an annual basis, starting from December 2022, will directly increase our income. As the treasurer, I should gladly state that Gold Coast congress was closed with profit. The acceptance of our journal to Web of Science is expected to indirectly increase the income of the Association.

Wish you prosperous new year

Prof. Berna ARDA

**Do you have an
idea, comment,
or suggestion?**

WAML Meeting Planning and Administration



Denise McNally,
WAML Administrative Officer and Meeting Planner

26th World Congress for Medical Law (WCML)



The QT Gold Coast Hotel, site of the 2022 WAML Congress, which represented the 26th World Congress for Medical Law (WCML) first face to face meeting in 3 years since the pandemic. December 5 – 7, 2022.5 – 7, 2022.

WAML Board of Governors and Officers

The leadership will see new Governors and a change of Officers.

Please contact
Denise McNally
worldassocmedlaw@gmail.com



2022 Executive Committee Meeting (Thomas Noguchi, Berna Arda, Vugar Mammadov and Richard Wilbur) (Kenneth Berger was unable to attend the Congress)

2022 Board of Governor Reception



2022 Board of Governor Reception (In attendance from left to right – Marriam Gul Thaheem, Mustafa Aslam, Jonathan Davies, Luis Ravanal, Toma Birmontiene, Denise McNally, Vugar Mammadov, Berna Arda, Richard Wilbur, Thierry Vansweevelt, Roy Beran, Mitsuyasu Kurosu and Cécile Bensimon)

The meeting was filled with a wide variety of interesting and education presentations related to Impact of COVID on Legal Medicine, Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury and Medicine and Technology. Following the usual morning/afternoon meetings of the Board of Governors, the meeting officially began with the opening Welcome Reception off property at Bond University for a performance by the Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra at Basil Sellers Theatre, followed by a Welcome to the Country, digeridoo playing, indigenous art display and reception.

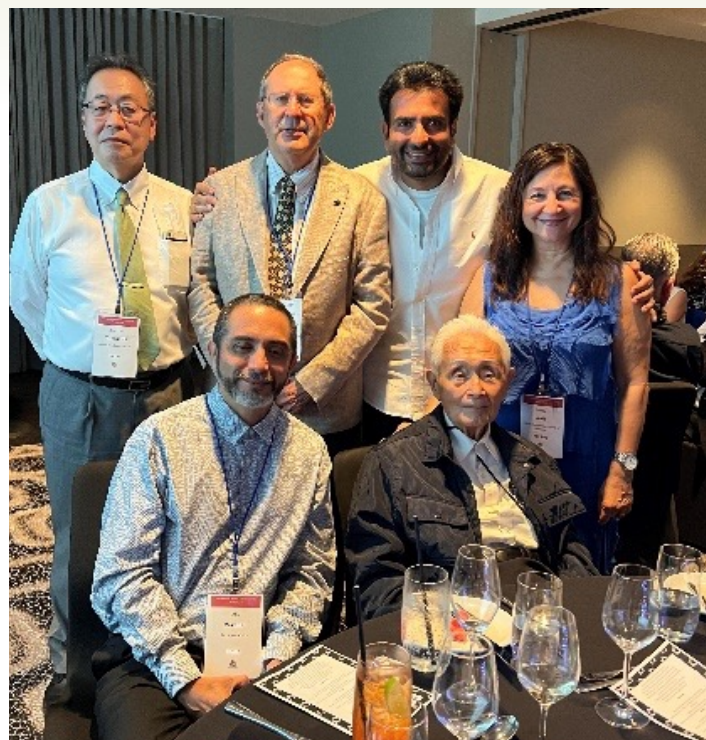


Program

Prior to the start of the Program members of the Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra played as members were registering and taking their seats.



Program Chair Professor Roy G. Beran opened the meeting with the words for the “Traditional Owners of the Land” and the passing of the WAML Flag.



Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

The Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony took place the evening of the last day.



The members attending the Congress from the Education Committee judged the Young Scientist Award Contenders and the Davies Award Contenders. The Judges were Chair, Vugar Mammadov and Members Rosa Teresa Meza Vasquez, Thierry Vansweevelt and Ian Freckelton.

Early Career Presentation Award Winners:



Victor Schollaert for his outstanding paper presented at the 2022 Annual WAML Congress. **The Use of Robots in Neurosurgery and the Problems of Civil Liability from a Belgian and European Perspective.** One Year WAML Membership and a Complimentary Congress Registration for 2023 or 2024.



Weronika Wojturska for her outstanding paper presented at the 2022 Annual WAML Congress. **How Risky is Risk Sharing Agreement? Practical Aspects of RSA in Reimbursement of a Health Technology.** One Year WAML Membership and a Complimentary Congress Registration for 2023 or 2024.



Naoual El Yattouti for her outstanding poster presented at the 2022 Annual WAML Congress. **How Much Room Is There for the Healthcare Provider's Own Beliefs in Hospital Settings?** One Year WAML Membership and a Complimentary Congress Registration for 2023 or 2024.



Audrey Lebret for her outstanding poster presented at the 2022 Annual WAML Congress. **Sharing Kidneys Through Algorithms: Ethical and Legal Aspects of Developing Cross-Donation Programmes in Europe.** One Year WAML Membership and a Complimentary Congress Registration for 2023 or 2024.

Davies Award Presentation on Public Health & Law Winners:



Davies Award Winners (Professor Albert Lett, Jonathan Davies, Dr. David Ernest and Dr. Barry Solaiman)

Dr. David Ernest for his outstanding paper presented at the 2022 Annual WAML Congress. **Family Veto in Organ Donation in Victoria, Australia.** \$1,500 USD Award sponsored by the Davies Foundation.

Professor Albert Lee for his outstanding paper presented at the 2022 Annual WAML Congress. **International Platform for Alternate Dispute Resolution to Resolve Medical Disputes: New Era for International and Comparative Health Law Evidence Based Standards.** \$1,000 USD Award sponsored by the Davies Foundation.

Dr. Barry Solaiman for his outstanding paper presented at the 2022 Annual WAML Congress. **Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare: The Proliferation of Global Guidelines in a Void of Legal Uncertainty.** \$750 USD Award sponsored by the Davies Foundation.

Congratulations to all the Award Winners, as well as all of the presenters who participated in the competition!

Following the WCML in Queensland, The Australasian College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) had their Satellite Dinner Meeting in Sydney (10 December). Sir Stamford at Circular Quay in the Elizabeth Room, the luxury, five star hotel was the site for the academic

dinner meeting. Sir Stamford at Circular Quay is located downtown in the heart of Sydney's CBD, overlooking the Royal Botanic Gardens, adjacent to Circular Quay and the Sydney Opera House.



Newly-elected Board of Governor and Officers



Executive Committee 2022-2024

*PRESIDENT - **Roy Beran** (Australia)

*SECRETARY-GENERAL - **Jonathan Davies** (Israel)

*EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT - **Luis Ravanal** (Chile)

*TREASURER - **Berna Arda** (Turkey)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mustafa Aslam (2026) - Pakistan

Cécile Bensimon (2026) - Canada

Toma Birmontiene, VP (2026) - Lithuania

Eduardo Dantas (2026) - Brazil

Sanjin Dekovic (2026) - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Anne-Marie Duguet (2026) - France

Nicola Glover-Thomas (2026) - United Kingdom

Charles William “Bill” Hinnant, VP (2026) - USA

Radmyla Hrevtsova (2026) - Ukraine

Vugar Mammadov (2026) - Azerbaijan

Rosa Teresa Meza Vasquez, VP (2026) - Peru

Olaolu Osanyin (2023) - Nigeria

Svetlana Pospelova (2026) - Russian Federation

Henriette Roscam Abbing (2026) - Netherlands

Janne Rothmar Herrmann (2026) - Denmark

Judit Sandor (2026) - Hungary

Shigeki Takahashi, VP (2026) - Japan

Thierry Vansweevelt, VP (2026) – Belgium

Join us for the 27th World Congress on Medical Law (WCML)

August 2 – 4, 2023

Vilnius, Lithuania

<https://www.waml2023.eu/>

Submit your abstract:

<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/5375/submitter>



Congress Themes

1. Protection of Patients' Rights - Challenges and Responsibilities of the State and Civil Society

- The legal and ethical limits of scientific developments and progress in medicine.
- Technological developments and patient data protection. The right to privacy versus public interest.
- The role of Civil Society in raising awareness and disseminating information to promote patient rights.
- Fostering more effective resolutions for disputes between patients and healthcare institutions. Contemporary issues pertaining to healthcare service provider liability.

2. Transformations in Healthcare Systems as an Inevitable Process in Achieving Excellence

- International organisations and new initiatives to adjust national healthcare systems in the face of global challenges. The role of healthcare policies in fighting the global challenges – pandemic, climate crisis.
- Fostering sustainability in healthcare systems.
- Redesigning the legal frameworks of national healthcare systems following the latest achievements of biomedical science and fighting social and economic inequalities.

3. New Challenges for International Cooperation in the Field of Legal Medicine (Forensic Medicine)

- International cooperation in mitigating natural and man-made disasters.
- New challenges for legal medicine in combating terrorism, organised crime, war crimes.
- Technological and scientific research innovations in legal medicine

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 2023 membership dues were due by December 31, 2022. 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!

30th Congress World Association for Medical Law 2026 Welcome in Antwerp, Belgium!



Professor Thierry Vansweevelt
WAML Vice President, Governor and 30th
Congress Program Chair

At the WAML Congress In Gold Coast, Australia, the Board of Governors granted the WAML- Congress in 2026 to **Antwerp, Belgium.**

Why Antwerp?

In 2026 it will be the 30th WAML-conference. A historic moment to look back and look forward. Since the founder of the WAML, Raphaël Dierkens, was a Belgian, it is really thrilling to organize the 30th WAML-conference in Belgium.

The University of Antwerp is well-known for its Health Law program and its very high performing Health Law and Ethics Chair (www.ahlec.be), which is unique for Belgium., additionally many Belgians attend the WAML-conferences. The programme of the conference in 2026 will be innovative and creative!

The University of Antwerp is located in the historical city centre, near to historical monuments, hotels and restaurants.

The city of Antwerp is very accessible. Antwerp Central Station has excellent high speed train connections to Paris, London and Amsterdam. Of course, there are also excellent connections to Brussels airport (only 40 km to Antwerp). More than 50 airlines fly to Brussels airport from all over the world.

Antwerp is a tolerant cosmopolitan city where 170 nationalities live. According to the Lonely Planet, Antwerp is probably the most continuously cool city on Earth!

It is the Belgian capital of fashion and design and has been awarded the title of Diamond Capital, because it has the oldest and largest diamond centre in the world. There is a truly impressive 16th century cathedral, a wonderful Royal Museum of Fine arts with the largest collection of Flemisch masters like Rubens, Jordaens, Van Dijck, next to Van Gogh, Fouquet, Modigliani and Rodin. If you love culture, it is impossible to get bored in Antwerp.

Don't forget to visit the riverside fortress, one of the world's oldest Zoos, the market square at Antwerp medieval heart, and one of the more than 1.000 restaurants and cafés.

Of course, we will organise a social programme after the conference to visit other cities in Belgium, like Bruges (Venice of the north), Brussels and Ghent.





World Association
for Medical Law

SAVE THE DATE

August 2-4

2023

**The 27th Annual WAML
World Congress**

Vilnius, Lithuania
www.thewaml.com

FUTURE MEETINGS

Of Affiliated National Associations and
Collaborating Organizations

American College of Legal Medicine

February 24 – 26, 2023

Orlando, FL (USA)

Website: [Events - American College of Legal Medicine \(aclm.org\)](http://Events - American College of Legal Medicine (aclm.org))

Australasian College of Legal Medicine

March 25 – 26, 2023

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Website: https://legalmedicine.com.au/aclm_event/2023-annual-scientific-meeting-awards-dinner/

National Association of Medical Examiners - 2023 Interim Meeting

**"Collaborative Forensic Pathology with
Forensic Anthropologists and Biologists"**

Program Chairs: Theodore T. Brown, MD

and Jason H. Byrd, PhD

April 11, 2023

1:00pm - 5:00pm CST

Website: <https://www.thename.org/interim-meetings>

27th Annual WAML World Congress

August 2 – 4, 2023

Vilnius, Lithuania

Website: www.thewaml.com

57th Annual National Association of Medical Examiners Meeting

October 13 – 17, 2023

San Jose, California (USA)

Website: <https://www.thename.org/annual-meetings>

28th Annual WAML World Congress

August 8 – 11, 2024

Toronto, Canada

Website: www.wcml2020.com

www.thewaml.com

58th Annual National Association of Medical Examiners Meeting

September 19 – 23, 2024

Denver, Colorado (USA)

October 13 – 17, 2023

Website: <https://www.thename.org/annual-meetings>

29th Annual WAML World Congress

August 6 – 8, 2025

Istanbul – Turkey

Website: www.thewaml.com



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