

Memorandum of Understanding between the World Medical Association (WMA) and the International Chair in Bioethics (ICB)

BACKGROUND

Background on the World Medical Association (WMA)

1. The World Medical Association (WMA) is an international organization representing physicians. It was founded on 17 September 1947. The mission of the WMA is to serve humanity by endeavouring to achieve the highest international standards in Medical Education, Medical Science, Medical Art and Medical Ethics, and Health Care for all people in the world. The WMA is an independent confederation of free professional associations with currently 115 National Medical Association members.
2. The WMA provides a forum for its member associations to communicate freely, to co-operate actively, to achieve consensus on high standards of medical ethics and professional competence, and to promote the professional freedom of physicians worldwide. The WMA provides ethical guidance to physicians, National Medical Associations, governments and international organizations through its policies on a wide range of subjects, including an International Code of Medical Ethics, the rights of patients, research on human subjects, care of the sick and wounded in times of armed conflict, torture of prisoners, the use and abuse of drugs, family planning and the environment.

Background on the International Chair in Bioethics (ICB)

3. The International Chair in Bioethics (ICB) is an international organization. It was founded in 2001. The mission of the ICB is to serve humanity by endeavouring to achieve the highest international standards in Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law Education. The ICB is an independent organization that is based on an international network with currently more than 240 Units on five continents.
4. The ICB provides a forum for its members to communicate freely, to co-operate actively, to achieve consensus on high standards of Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law Education.
The ICB runs Professional Departments and an International Forum of Teachers (IFT) with currently more than 1200 members.

Background on ICB and WMA collaboration

5. The WMA has a long-standing history of collaboration with the ICB that has significantly intensified on the international level, particularly with collaboration at the International Conference on Bioethics and, more recently, on the ICB Department of Education online activities.
6. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to reaffirm the collaboration between the ICB and the WMA with a view to include further issues deemed of common interest to both organisations.

OVERVIEW OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Purpose of the MoU

7. This memorandum of understanding is designed to develop and consolidate the cooperation between the WMA and the ICB and foster understanding on topics of common interest, including health law, medical ethics and its education. By sharing experiences, the two organizations will be able to define effective strategies to further mutual internal and external development.

Shared Responsibilities and Collaboration

8. The ICB and the WMA agree to cooperate and consult each other on questions of mutual interest by inclusion in their regular communications
9. Each organisation will invite a representative of the other party to participate as an observer in its statutory meetings in so far as they are not being held as in camera meetings.
10. Registration charges for these meetings will be mutually waived.
11. Both organizations will maintain a section on their respective websites containing information about the other organization, including a logo, a short description and a link to the other organization's website.
12. The WMA will list the ICB as a WMA Cooperating Centre
13. This MoU does not constitute as such any agreement on cost sharing, common liability or any other financial contributions to each other's organization or its activities.

Sharing Resources and Social Media

14. Both organizations agree to publicise publications and other resources deemed relevant to each other, and are encouraged to share each other's work via (social) media platforms (i.e., Twitter, Facebook. blogs, website, etc.) with their members.
15. The WMA and the ICB commit to support each other in the usage of social and traditional media, where relevant. Definitions of collaboration in this area must be agreed in a project-based context.
16. The designated point of contact for each organization shall be responsible for sharing information about their organization's activities and disseminating information to the members of its respective organization.
17. Any usage of logos or other elements of the corporate identity by the partnering organization must be approved by the other party before being published.
18. Ownership of publications and information shall remain with the party that provides it.

Specific Responsibilities of the ICB

19. The ICB recognizes the WMA as the leading organization representing physicians worldwide.
20. Where appropriate, the ICB will provide time and space during its statutory meetings for ad hoc interventions on matters of common interest and on opportunities for collaboration between the ICB and the WMA.

Specific Responsibilities of the WMA

21. The WMA recognizes the ICB as a global network of scientists and academic educators on bioethics, medical ethics and health law.
22. Where appropriate, the WMA will provide time and space during its statutory meetings for ad hoc interventions on matters of common interest and on opportunities for collaboration between the ICB and the WMA.

FINAL PROVISIONS


23. For the purpose of the MoU:
 - The WMA will be represented by its Secretary General.
 - The ICB will be represented by the ICB Head
24. Adjustments to this memorandum of understanding can be made at any time, upon approval by both organizations.
25. This agreement can be terminated by either organization at any time, provided three months' notice is given, including a detailed explanation of the reasons for this decision.
26. This memorandum of understanding is signed in duplicate.

ICB Head

WMA Secretary General

23 April 2021, Haifa, Israel

23 April 2021, Ferney-Voltaire, France



Prof. Amnon Carmi

Dr Otmar Kloiber