

World Medical Association International Code of Medical Ethics
Dedicated conference on physician conscientious objection
4-5 July 2022
The Pullman Hotel at CBD Thamrin
Jakarta, Indonesia
PROGRAM



Day 1	
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Closed ICoME workgroup meeting
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch provided for all participants On-site registration
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Otmar Kloiber, WMA Secretary General • Dr. M Adib Khumaidi, President of the Indonesian Medical Association • Budi Gunadi, Ministry of Health, Indonesia • Anies Baswedan, Governor of Jakarta
Session 1 Chair: Dr. Ravindra Wankhedkar, treasurer of the WMA, India Co-chair: Indonesian Medical Association	
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Introduction to the International Code of Medical Ethics (ICoME) and the revision process, followed by reading of the current draft of the ICoME paragraph focused on physician conscientious objection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ramin Parsa-Parsi, Chair of WMA ICoME revision workgroup; German Medical Association
2:45 – 3:05 p.m.	Introduction: Addressing physician conscientious objection in a pluralistic society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Urban Wiesing, ICoME workgroup ethics advisor; University of Tübingen, Germany
3:05 – 3:25 p.m.	Regional perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Henry Okwuokenye, Medical Council of Nigeria
3:25 – 3:45 p.m.	Coffee break

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Day 1	
Session 2	
Chair: Dr. Mvuyisi Mzukwa, Chair of Board, South African Medical Association	
Co-chair: Indonesian Medical Association	
3:45 – 4:25 p.m.	Mandated referrals or other limits to physician conscientious objection Keynote: Prof. Angela Ballantyne, University of Otago, Wellington, New Zealand (20 mins.) Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Alberto Giubilini, The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, UK (virtual) (15 mins.) • Leah Wapner, Secretary General, Israeli Medical Association, Israel (10 mins.) • Discussion
4:25 – 5:05 p.m.	In defense of permitting physicians with a moral objection to a practice not to refer patients Keynote: Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, Director, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, USA (20 mins.) Responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jung Yul Park, Chair of the WMA Finance and Planning Committee, South Korea • Balancing conscientious objection: The Dutch approach Dr. René Héman, President, Royal Dutch Medical Assoc., Netherlands • Discussion
5:05 – 5:10 p.m.	Presentation of abstract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared autonomy and physician conscientious objection Dr. Peter Johannes Manoppo, Bioethicist and General Surgeon
5:10 – 5:25 p.m.	Ethical limits to a physician's right to conscientious objection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Otmar Kloiber, WMA Secretary General
5:25 – 5:30 p.m.	Closing remarks and housekeeping announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesian Medical Association
7 p.m.	Dinner

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Day 2	
Session 3	
Chair: Dr. Kar Chai Koh, President, Malaysian Medical Association	
Co-chair: Indonesian Medical Association	
9:00 – 9:05 a.m.	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pukovisa Prawiroharjo, Indonesian Medical Association
9:05 – 9:15 a.m.	Brief recap of day one <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Otmar Kloiber, Secretary General of WMA
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	A balanced approach to physician conscientious objection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons to be a moderate in the physician conscientious objection debate Prof. Robert Card, State University of New York Oswego, USA (virtual) (15 mins.) • Prof. Mark Wicclair, University of Pittsburgh Center for Bioethics and Health Law, USA (virtual) (15 mins.) • Dr. Patrice Harris, Past President, American Medical Association, USA (15 mins.) • Discussion
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Summary and briefing for group discussion on physician conscientious objection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marit Hermansen, Chair of the WMA Medical Ethics Committee, Norway
10:15 – 10:35 a.m.	Coffee break
Session 4	
Moderator: Dr. Marit Hermansen, Chair of the WMA Medical Ethics Committee, Norway	
10:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Moderated panel discussion with keynote speakers and Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, Director, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, USA • Prof. Angela Ballantyne, University of Otago, Wellington, New Zealand • Dr. Henry Okwuokenye, Medical Council of Nigeria
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Closed ICoME workgroup meeting
4 p.m. onward	Sightseeing tour and dinner provided by the Indonesian Medical Association

Annex

The paragraph below on conscientious objection has been extracted from the current revised draft of the ICoME and has been included to serve as a reference for discussion. All paragraphs of the current revised draft of the ICoME are still subject to change.

Paragraph	Text
28	<p>The physician has an ethical obligation to minimise disruption to patient care. Conscientious objection must only be exercised if the individual patient is not discriminated against or disadvantaged, and the patient's health is not endangered.</p> <p>If a physician intends to exercise a conscientious objection to a specific treatment or procedure, the physician must inform the patient of this objection. If it is not practicable for the patient to see another physician who will perform the treatment or procedure, the physician must initiate, without delay, arrangements for the patient to consult with a suitably qualified physician or authorised health care professional who does not object to the treatment or procedure.</p> <p>The physician must minimise distress for the patient and must not disrespect the patient on the grounds of the patient's conviction. The physician must respect other physicians' and health professionals' conscientious objections provided they are in line with this Code.</p>