

**The 3rd Open Expert Meeting
on the Revision of the Declaration of Taipei
on Ethical Considerations regarding Health Database and Biobanks**

1-2 June 2026
The Vatican City



ההסתדרות
הרפואית בישראל
Israeli Medical
Association



**Revising the WMA Declaration of Taipei: *Health Databases and
Biobanks***

Equity, Global Challenges and Ethical Considerations

Day 1 – Monday, 1st June

08:30 – 09:00 | Registration

09:00 – 09:20 | Opening Remarks

Msgr. Renzo Pegoraro, Pontifical Academy for Life

Dr. Jacqueline Kitulu, President, World Medical Association (WMA)

Moderators – Rev. Pablo Requena and Dr. Otmar Kloiber

**09:20 – 10:10 | Keynote – Health Databases and Biobanks in relation to Equitable
Healthcare**

To establish a shared understanding of how health databases and biobanks contribute to scientific discovery, public health innovation, and clinical care—and how inequities can arise within these systems.

Speaker

- Prof. Alena Buyx - Former Chair, German Ethics Council

10:10 – 10:30 | Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00 | Session 1 – Ensuring Equity in the Collection and Use of Health Data and Biospecimens

To explore practical and ethical strategies to promote fairness throughout the data and biospecimen lifecycle. Identifying gaps in existing guidance and proposing clearer equity-oriented obligations for data custodians and researchers.

Speakers

- Prof. Stefano Semplici, Tor Vergata University Rome
- Prof. Dr. Dominique Sprumont, WMA Ethics Advisor
- Prof. Carlo Maria Petrini – Bioethics Unit, Italian National Institute of Health (ISS)

12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:00 | Session 2 – Ethical Challenges of Equal Representation in Biobank Research

Moderators – Dr. Laura Palazzani and Dr. Christofer Lindholm

To address persistent underrepresentation of marginalized, vulnerable, and minority populations in biobank research and its ethical consequences. Ensuring that biobank research benefits are scientifically valid and socially just for all populations.

Speakers

- Dr. Oren Caspi, Director of Heart Failure Unit and the Cardiovascular Research and Innovation Unit, Cardiology, Rambam Health Care Campus
- Dr. Heidi Stensmyren, WMA Past President, Karolinska Institute
- Dr. William Sullivan – Joseph P. Kennedy Sr. Chair in Bioethics, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University

15:00 – 15:15 | Coffee Break

15:15 – 16:45 | Session 3 – Equity in Data Access: Sharing the Benefits

Moderators – Dr. Jeff Blackmer and Prof. Zion Hagay

Panel Discussion

To examine how benefits derived from health databases and biobanks can be shared fairly with contributing individuals and communities. Moving from extractive models of research toward reciprocal, community-centered benefit sharing.

Speakers

- Prof. Jacques Simpore – (Burkina Faso) National Council of Genetics – WHO
- Dr. Corné Baatenburg De Jong, ReumaNederland
- Prof. Lara Bloom– IAPO - Patients Representative

16:45 – 17:00 | Closing Remarks (Day 1) - Prof. Diana Ferro

Day 2 – Tuesday, 2nd June

Moderators: Dr. Jack Resneck and Dr. Manfred Lutz

09:00 – 10:30 | Session 4 - Stakeholder Engagement: Inclusive Ethical Decision-Making

Roundtable Discussion

To emphasise the importance of meaningful engagement with all stakeholders in shaping ethical policies for health databases and biobanks.

Speakers

- Prof. Dr. Eugenijus Gefenas, Chair of the European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC)
- Ms. Karla Childers, Vice President, Bioethics, Policy & Partnerships, Johnson & Johnson, IFPMA
- Prof. Federico de Montalvo, Comillas Pontifical University

10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:15 | Session 5 – Global Governance to Promote Equity and Justice

Moderators – Adv. Leah Wapner and Dr. Ramin Parsa-Parsi

To explore governance mechanisms that ensure equitable and ethical oversight of health databases and biobanks across borders. Ensuring global governance structures do not perpetuate inequities.

Speakers

- Prof. Maria do Céu Patrão Neves – President, National Ethics Council for Life Sciences / Ethics Committee Expert, European Commission
- Prof. Dr. Andreas Reis – Health Ethics & Governance Unit, Research for Health Department, WHO Geneva
- Prof. Dr. Mounir Farag – WHO/EMRO Regional Adviser Strategies & HSS / Regional Coordinator GAVI/GFATM/PHR

12:15 – 12:45 | Closing Remarks: Finalising Recommendations

- Dr. Ramin Parsa-Parsi, WMA Secretary General
- Msgr. Renzo Pegoraro, Pontifical Academy for Life

12:45 – 14:15 | Lunch

14:30 – 17:00 | Closed Workgroup Meeting