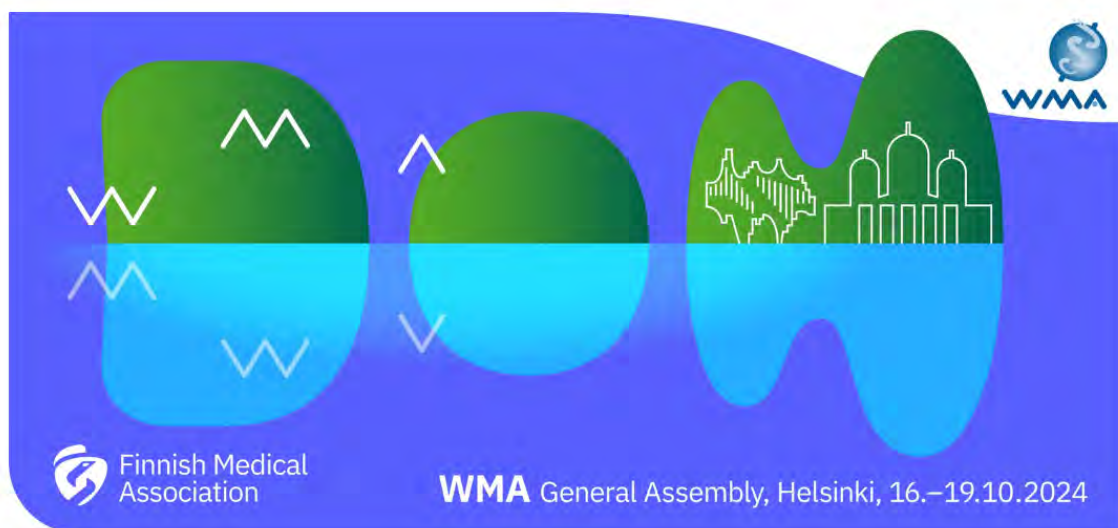




WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



 Finnish Medical Association

WMA General Assembly, Helsinki, 16.-19.10.2024

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Message from the WMA President

I am pleased to be able to write briefly for our WMA Annual Report. There is no doubt that the high point of the WMA year in 2024 was the adoption of the revised version of the Declaration of Helsinki on the 60th anniversary of its birth – in the city where it was first unveiled.

Many thanks should go to the workgroup which worked tirelessly to deliver this document in a remarkably short time of a little over two years. Considering the many significant changes, this was no mean achievement. The reactions from the research community have been generally positive and welcoming.

The WMA also sent a team to monitor negotiations at COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. We are somewhat disappointed with the slow rate of progress and the failure to place health at the forefront of negotiations. However, these negotiations represent one important tool in mitigating the deleterious effects of anthropogenic climate change, and we will continue to monitor, engage and speak out.

Another important issue drawing our attention has been the stuttering progress towards an accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. At our General Assembly in Helsinki, a revised statement on this matter was adopted, and we have released a press statement outlining the crucial areas for world leaders to focus on in this matter.

Unfortunately, the last year has been one of even more open armed conflict, with continuing violence in the Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen and Gaza. The scale of death and destruction demands our attention. However, the WMA maintains its credibility by speaking on issues pertinent to its expertise and objectively proven. This is why we do not rush out with a new press statement every week. However, we have issued statements on the maintenance of medical neutrality and the safeguarding of healthcare facilities and

personnel and will continue to respond as new issues arise.

We have issued a statement about the use of single-use plastics. It is time the medical community starts to do the work of reducing our impact on the ecosystem. The situation is too dire to ask for special concessions for medical devices, packaging etc.

The medical profession and healthcare systems are going through significant upheavals now. Migration of healthcare professionals is increasing, presenting significant challenges especially to lower income countries, which see their laboriously and expensively trained people leave for greener pastures. The WMA is now preparing a report on physician migration, the data collection phase of which is drawing to a close.

We would not be doing the work we are doing if we were not fundamentally optimistic. However, our optimism must be tempered by realism. Without participation in policy debates and formulation, undesirable changes may be adopted widely. I therefore reiterate the call I made in Helsinki for every doctor to remain engaged not only in patient care but also policy making, whether directly or through your national medical associations or, of course, the World Medical Association.

Dr Ashok Philip
WMA President



Policies adopted at the General Assembly 2024, Helsinki

- [WMA Declaration of Helsinki – Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Participants](#) (revised)
- [WMA Declaration of Kigali on the Ethical Use of Medical Technology](#) (revised)
- [WMA Declaration on Prevention and Reduction of Air Pollution to Improve Air Quality](#)
- [WMA Statement on Assisted Reproductive Technologies](#) (revised)
- [WMA Statement on Epidemics and Pandemics](#) (revised)
- [WMA Statement on Human Papillomavirus Vaccination](#) (revised)
- [WMA Resolution on Anti-LGBTQ Legislation](#)
- [WMA Resolution on Organ Donation in Prisoners](#)
- [WMA Resolution on Plastics and Health](#)
- [WMA Resolution on the Protection of Healthcare in Israel and Gaza](#)

Policies reaffirmed by the 226th Council Session, Seoul, April 2024 and the 227th Council Session, Helsinki, October 2024

- [WMA Declaration of Hong Kong on the Abuse of Older People](#) (with minor revision)
- [WMA Guidelines on Promotional Mass Media Appearance by Physicians](#) (with minor revision)
- [WMA Statement on Adolescent Suicide](#) (with minor revision)
- [WMA Statement on Non-Discrimination in Professional Membership and Activities of Physicians](#) (with minor revision)
- [WMA Resolution on the Revocation of WHO Guidelines on Opioid Use](#) (with minor revision)
- [WMA Resolution in Support of an International Day of the Medical Profession](#)
- [WMA Resolution in support of the Turkish Medical Association](#) (with minor revision)

WMA General Assembly 2024 in Helsinki, Finland

The 75th General Assembly of the WMA, held in Helsinki, Finland, from 16-19 October 2024, brought together delegates from 50 national medical associations to address urgent issues facing the medical profession today.



Attendees at the WMA General Assembly, Helsinki, October 2024.

President's Report

The Council received the report of WMA President, Dr Lujain AlQodmani (Kuwait Medical Association), on her activities from May to September 2024. Dr AlQodmani referred to the key priorities of her presidency: support for National Medical Associations, relations with the World Health Organization, climate change, gender equality, Universal Health Coverage, and safety of healthcare personnel and facilities in conflicts. Dr AlQodmani outlined WMA work on the climate and health agenda, particularly regarding the COP30, which will be held in Brazil in November 2025.

Secretary General's Report

In addition to the written Council Report, the Secretary General, Dr Otmar Kloiber mentioned that the WMA had two opportunities to be part of OECD surveys from the health section, which makes influential recommendations on the structure of health policy and health systems. The first survey was on artificial intelligence (AI), which has resulted in a [working paper](#). The second survey was on the financialisation of outpatient services, with the report to be

published in the near future. He also strongly encouraged National Medical Associations to take advantage of these opportunities when they arise.

Chair of Council's Report

In his report, Prof Jungyul Park noted the many challenges, both global and local, that WMA members face, such as violence against health professionals, climate change, achieving universal health coverage, racism and other human rights abuses, and polarisation. He urged WMA members to continue to tackle these challenges with determination and collective wisdom.

Ceremonial session

Dr Niina Koivuviita, President of the Finnish Medical Association, extended a warm welcome to WMA leadership, colleagues, and distinguished guests. She referred to the Declaration of Helsinki, which has guided ethical standards for medical research involving humans for six decades. Next, the Honorable Mr Alexander Stubb, President of Finland, welcomed attendees of the General Assembly to Finland and Helsinki, noting that sixty years

ago, the WMA convened there to adopt the ethical principles that continue to guide medical research today.

Chair of Council, Prof Park paid tribute to Dr Lujain AlQodmani, the 74th President of the WMA. He stated that Dr AlQodmani has shown passion and enthusiasm as well as whole-hearted empathy and sympathy, coupled with tireless commitment and dedication.

In her Valedictory Address, outgoing WMA President, Dr Lujain AlQodmani, highlighted the immense challenges that physicians face, citing international conflicts, climate change, economic crises and violations of human rights. She said that as physicians, our duty is not just to our patients but to the health and well-being of all. Dr AlQodmani said that as the fifth woman to be elected President of the World Medical Association, she was deeply aware of the honour and the responsibility of representing others who still lack a seat at the table.



Dr Jackie Kitulu, Dr Ashok Philip and Dr Lujain AlQodmani.

Dr Ashok Philip took the oath of office and was installed as the 75th President of the World Medical Association.

In his Inaugural Address, Dr Philip spoke of the necessity for the medical profession to stay actively engaged in the evolution of healthcare delivery and health systems, to ensure the best outcomes for patients and to safeguard professional autonomy. He stated that while policy and planning could be seen as tedious work and “take us away from direct patient care, but in the long term it protects our patients, and that is what we have sworn to do.”

He detailed threats to the professional autonomy of physicians, threats which have been exacerbated by increasing healthcare costs as life expectancy increases. Dr Philip said that steps towards removing or excluding physicians from healthcare delivery teams, ostensibly to handle shortages of medical professionals, but as cost cutting measures, must be resisted.

New WMA President-Elect – Dr Jacqueline Kitulu

Dr Jacqueline Kitulu, former president of the Kenyan Medical Association, was elected as President-Elect of the World Medical Association. Dr Kitulu will take up her post at the 76th WMA General Assembly in Porto, Portugal in October 2025. Dr Kitulu promised to lead WMA with transparency, compassion and unwavering commitment.

Inequalities in health and healthcare – how to tackle them?

The WMA Scientific Session addressed inequalities in health and healthcare, and how to tackle them. The Keynote Speech, “Social Justice and Health Equity” was given by Sir Michael Marmot, WMA Past President. This was followed by sessions on “How can prevention provide more equity in healthcare?”, “Advancements in healthcare – how to make access to health care more equitable?” and “How to mitigate the effects of climate change on inequalities?”

The Hungarian Medical Chamber (HMC) was admitted to the World Medical Association Constituent Membership.



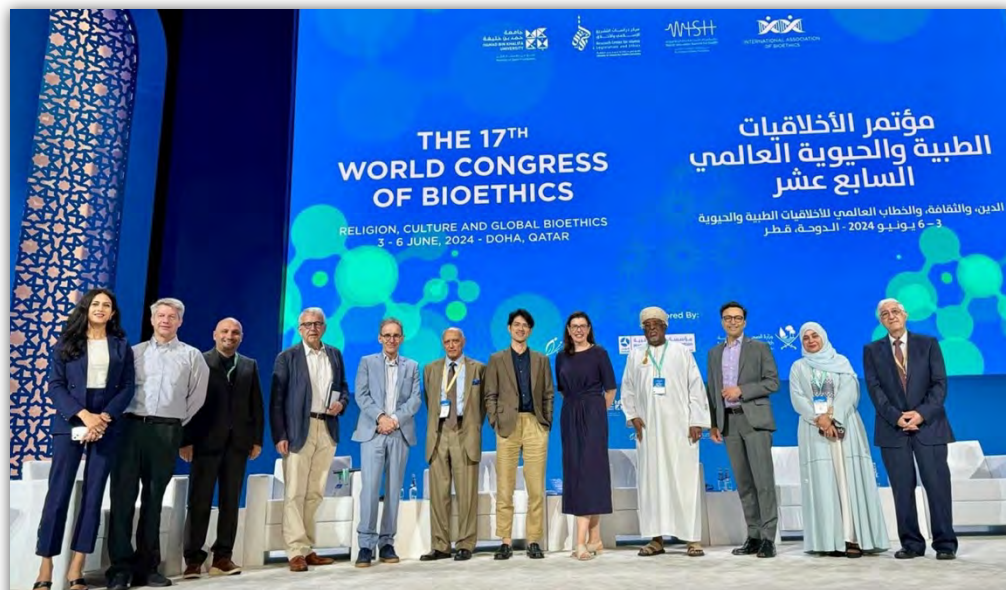
Scientific Session: Advancements in healthcare – how to make access to health care more equitable? Panelists: Dr Markku Satokangas, Finland; Dr Diana Marion, Kenya Medical Association; Dr Jesse Ehrenfeld, American Medical Association; and Moderator, Dr Ashok Philip, Malaysian Medical Association.

The WMA at major international Ethics conferences

World Congress of Bioethics

The biannual World Congress of Bioethics held its 17th meeting in Doha, the capital of Qatar, from 3 to 6 June 2024. The WMA had the opportunity to bring its policies to the discussion in a World Medical Association Symposium that was entitled: “What are the limits of plurality for the global healthcare

professions?” Led by WMA Ethics advisor Professor Urban Wiesing, Dr Ramin Parsa-Parsi of the German Medical Association, and WMA Secretary General Dr Otmar Kloiber, the seminar was intended to focus particularly on the Arab interpretation of our deontological concepts. The session was chaired by WMA President Dr Lujain AlQodmani.



WMA Symposium, “What are the limits of plurality for the global healthcare professions?” Speakers and panellists, in Doha, at the 17th World Congress of Bioethics. (Image: 17th World Congress of Bioethics WCB)

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

This conference was held from 24 to 27 July in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. It was organised by the International Chair in Bioethics (ICB), and featured two special sessions arranged by WMA. The first session addressed the “Duties and Rights of Health Professionals During a Pandemic”.

Mrs Annabel Seebohm, Secretary General of COCIR and former WMA General Council member, along with Dr Otmar Kloiber, discussed the tension between expectations and ethical obligations for health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the limits of those duties and obligations, and the rights and treatment of health professionals in reality. Professor Rui Nunes, the head of ICB, led the discussion.

In a special session on the last conference day, Dr Jack Resneck, the Chair of the WMA Declaration of Helsinki Workgroup, gave an overview of the revision process of the Declaration of Helsinki with a special focus on the work on placebo use in clinical trials and the principles around post-trial access to care.



Dr Jack Resneck Jr., Chair, Declaration of Helsinki Revision workgroup, addresses 16th World Conference in Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law, Brasilia, with Dr Otmar Kloiber and Prof. Rui Nunes, Chair of the ICB.

The discussion was accompanied by WMA Past-President Dr Miguel Jorge, former WMA Council Member Dr Florentino Cardoso, Dr

Ramin Parsa-Parsi, Dr Otmar Kloiber and the chair of the International Chair in Bioethics, Prof Rui Nunes.

The WMA at other external events

Vienna Congress 2024

The WMA was again invited to the annual Vienna Congress, held from 28-29 January 2024. The Conference, organised by David Ungar Klein, offered room for discussions, presentations, and workshops on transforming our economies and societies with artificial intelligence. It addressed aspects from health system resilience and supply chain security to science and democracy skepticism. The Vienna Congress brings together politicians, Nobel laureates, scientists, economists, engineers and leaders from civil society to contribute their views on the topics. For WMA its President, Dr Lujain Alqodmani and the Secretary General, Dr Otmar Kloiber attended

the Conference and spoke about healthcare system resilience and the growing skepticism in science and public health.

The World Government Summit

The World Government Summit 2024 was held in February in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This high-level meeting focuses on aspects of public governance and its modernization. The 2024 session was dominated by the strong rise of artificial intelligence. The President, Dr Lujain AlQodmani, and the World Medical Association Secretary General were invited to panels, discussions and presentations about urban health and its medical and public health aspects.

International consensus of healthcare leaders looks to the future

Ten years ago, the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO), the ICN–International Council of Nurses, the International Hospital Federation, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the World Medical Association, and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) established the International Consensus Framework for ethical collaboration in health. This is a tool which aims to improve patient outcomes through ethical collaboration. It is the only global platform of its kind, routinely convening global health bodies.

On Global Ethics Day, 16 October 2024, under the theme 'Ethics Empowered', the members of the international Consensus Framework celebrated 10 years of the Framework as a lighthouse for ethical collaboration for the benefit of patients.

They coauthored a blog post [Celebrating a decade of ethical collaboration: An international consensus of healthcare leaders looks to the future](#). This posts renews the commitment of the partners to address pressing health challenges in the complex and fast-evolving healthcare environment, renewing our commitment for high quality care for patients.



Partners of the International Consensus Framework for ethical collaboration in health (Image: (c) Jeremy Spierer)

Declaration of Helsinki 2024 Revision

The 2024 revision of the Declaration of Helsinki, Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Participants, was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly, 60 years since the original Declaration was first adopted.

This was after a thorough, 30-month revision process by the WMA Declaration of Helsinki Revision workgroup with representatives from 19 countries. Heartfelt thanks are expressed to everyone who was involved in the revision process in any way.

Under the leadership of Dr Jack Resneck Jr., Chair of the WMA Declaration of Helsinki revision workgroup, the revision team concluded that some areas of the document had to be updated to ensure the Declaration’s continued relevance. The 2024 Declaration of Helsinki revision sees increased protection for vulnerable populations, improved transparency in clinical trials, and stronger

commitments to fairness and equity in research.

Substantive changes to the Declaration of Helsinki can be categorised in two areas. The first area is participant-centred inclusion, respect and protection, including recognition of participant vulnerability, calls for community engagement, pursuit of global justice, obtaining informed consent, and use of participant-centred language. The second area of substantive changes covers research beneficence and value, including the pursuit of “individual and public health”, upholding scientific rigor and integrity, and considered distribution of benefits, risks and burdens.

“Previously, the Declaration of Helsinki addressed WMA members and constituents. The new version of the Declaration says that as physicians, it’s part of our moral obligation to ensure that our patients and the participants in research are respected and treated with dignity.”

Dr Jack Resneck Jr., Chair of the WMA Declaration of Helsinki revision workgroup

Declaration of Helsinki Regional and Topical Expert Meetings

Location	Date	Topic
Tel Aviv, Israel	December, 2022	West Asian regional meeting on the implications of big data, machine learning, and augmented intelligence
São Paulo, Brazil	February, 2023	Latin American regional meeting on ethical considerations on the use of placebo
Copenhagen, Denmark	September, 2023	European regional meeting on emerging trial designs
Tokyo, Japan	November, 2023	Pacific regional meeting on research during pandemics and other public health emergencies
Vatican City	January, 2024	Topical conference on research in resource-poor settings and global justice
Johannesburg, South Africa	February, 2024	African regional meeting on vulnerability, community inclusiveness, and post-trial access
Munich, Germany	May, 2024	Topical conference on specific and particularly vulnerable groups
Washington, DC, USA	August, 2024	North American regional meeting on remaining challenges, final consolidation, and maximizing impact



Declaration of Helsinki Revision workgroup meeting, Helsinki, October 2024.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the health workforce

During 2024, the WMA collaborated with the Health Division of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to carry out a survey of medical associations' perspectives on the integration of AI tools.

Survey and interviews

The survey aimed to contribute to the debate on AI from the perspective of healthcare providers, whose role is essential to healthcare systems. This investigation, led by the OECD, was facilitated through a comprehensive questionnaire that the WMA secretariat distributed to its constituent members.

To complete its research, the OECD conducted interviews with healthcare professionals and AI experts. A total of 18 medical associations participated in the survey, representing countries from North and South America, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Some of the key findings indicate that the benefits of AI in healthcare outweigh the risks for most medical associations, while an overwhelming majority are concerned about the ethical issues that could arise from AI applications in medical practice.

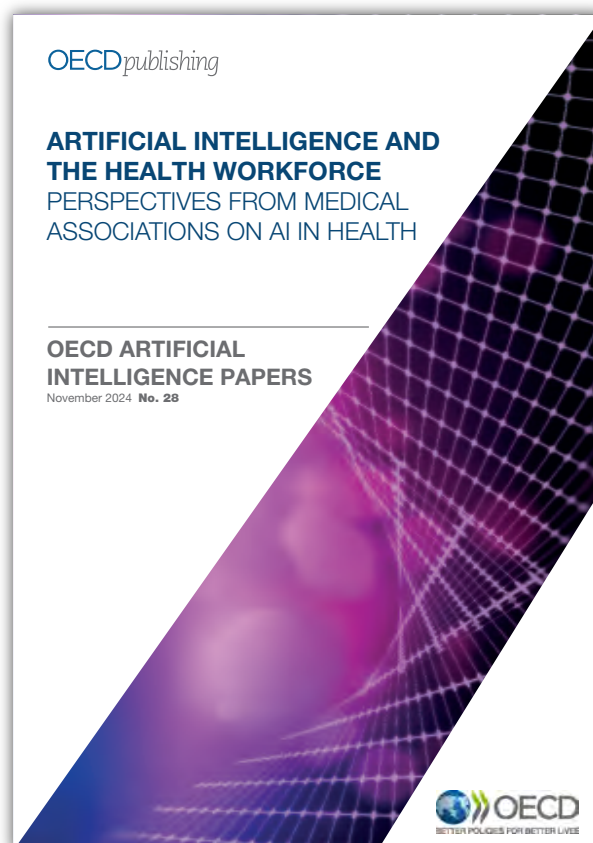
While health professionals are not worried about being replaced by AI, they are concerned that AI tools could be designed and implemented without them.

Working paper

The survey resulted in an OECD working paper: [Artificial Intelligence and the health workforce : Perspectives from medical associations on AI in health](#).

Webinar

This was followed by a webinar on 22 November 2024 with a panel of experts who discussed innovative solutions and the



evolving landscape of AI in healthcare, across various countries.

Two representatives of WMA member medical associations took part in the event: Dr Jesse Ehrenfeld, Past President of the American Medical Association; and Dr Mzulungile Nokinda, CEO of the South African Medical Association.

See more

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/live/TtQrBTjQ4D8>

Publication: [Artificial Intelligence and the health workforce | OECD](#)

The WMA at the Climate Change Conference in Baku, COP29

Members of the World Medical Association (WMA) attended the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Baku, Azerbaijan from 11 to 23 November 2024.

The WMA Delegation was made up of four onsite and three virtual delegates, coming from the United States, Kuwait, Egypt, Austria, Mexico, Luxembourg, and India. It was led by Dr Lujain AlQodmani and Dr Ankush Bansal. Due to a limitation imposed by the COP 29 host, only one person could be credentialed as an in-person WMA delegate for each day of the conference. Therefore, this COP had about equal representation of WMA onsite and online delegates.

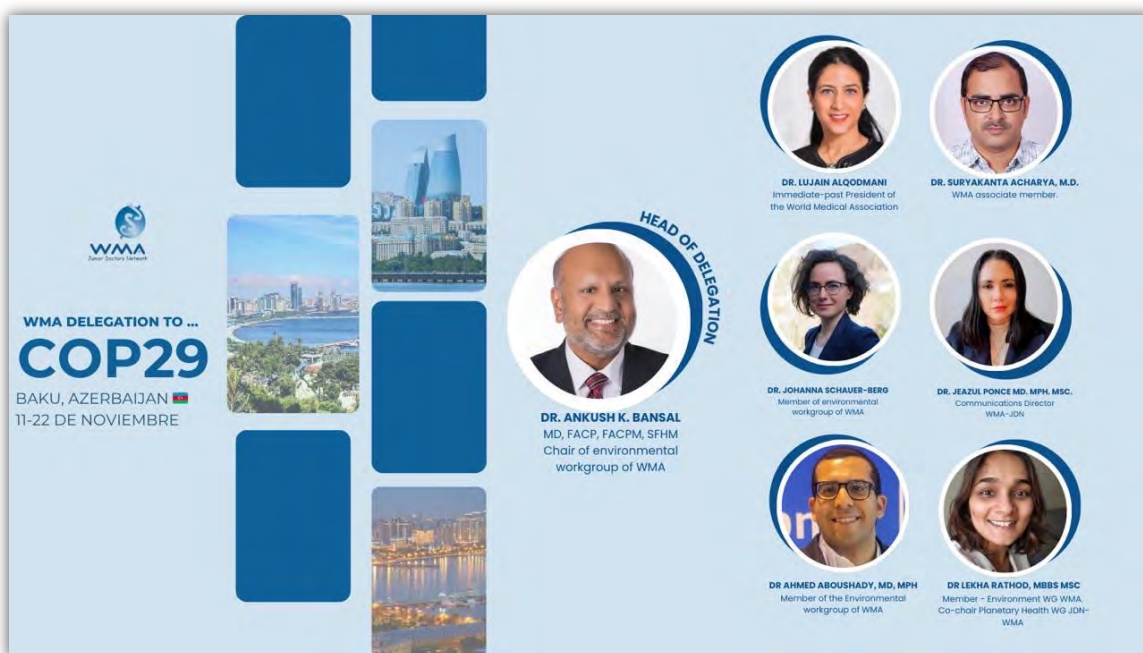
The most notable development for climate change and health from the conference was a start to finance the proposal for low- and middle-income countries to develop and scale up mitigation and adaptation strategies, funded by high-income countries.

The ask was for USD 1.3 trillion per year. However, the final agreement was for a ramp-up, from private, public, multilateral and “alternative” sources to USD 300 billion per year by 2035.

The deal omitted sub-targets, plus eliminating or reducing fossil fuel subsidies, and the principle of “polluter pays”. This will likely be insufficient for health mitigation and adaptation strategies, falling short of the WMA Declaration of Delhi on Health and Climate Change (rev. 2017).

Furthermore, the “just transition work programme” which aims to guarantee a right to health and a clean, healthy, sustainable environment, in keeping with the WMA Resolution on Protecting the Future Generation’s Right to Live in a Healthy Environment (2020) did not move appreciably forward towards adoption. Instead, it has been postponed to the June 2025 62nd Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB62) meeting in Bonn, Germany.

Discussion on national adaptation plans was also further postponed. Unfortunately, many references to “female empowerment”, “inter-



The WMA Delegation to COP29, Baku, November 2024.

sectionality” and “gender response” policies were modified to limit such policies to “gender equality”.

However, there was some progress on the global goal on adaptation to the climate crisis. Implementation indicators were refined in language terms and indicators related to the education and the health of young people were discussed.

Several national member states provided information about climate policy and implementation within their borders and in partnership with other countries. For example, the United States stated to the WMA delegation that 29% of all U.S. healthcare facilities are tracking emissions. Furthermore, the U.S. is working with the U.K. NHS, Norway, and Germany on global supply procurement interventions to reduce Scope 3 emissions. However, with the change in federal policy towards climate change with the new U.S. presidential administration, much work will depend on state actions and existing federal partnerships with international partners.

Due to the reduced permitted attendance at COP 29, the WMA delegation was unable to plan for and secure speaking engagements at roundtables or side events.

The WMA delegation cooperated with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, academics, students and scientists in the climate and health space from around the world, through the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA) and daily policy meetings. The WMA delegation contributed to these meetings based on monitoring of negotiation meetings, party outreach, and analysis of health presence at COP 29.

WMA delegation to the COP29

In Baku

Ankush K. Bansal, MD
Lujain AlQodmani, BMSc, MBBS
Ahmed Aboushady, MD, MPH
Jeazul Ponce Hernandez, MD, MPH, MSc

Online

Suryakanta Acharya, MD
Lekha Rathod, MBBS, MSc
Johanna Schauer-Berg, MD, MPH

The WMA calls for a fair plastic treaty

In October at the General Assembly in Helsinki, WMA members adopted a new [resolution on plastics and health](#) denouncing the challenges posed to health by plastic pollution.

This timely policy was adopted ahead of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5), held at the end of November, to develop a [legally binding international instrument on plastic pollution](#).

In its resolution, the WMA calls on countries to “commit to a just Plastic Treaty to end plastic pollution, address the impacts of plastics on human and planetary health, and

consider the role of plastic products in the health sector”.



Antimicrobial resistance advocacy and events

In 2024, the focus of health policy advocacy was on addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting (HLM) on AMR took place prior to the September General Assembly in New York. In the lead up to the meeting, the WMA was engaged in negotiations on the HLM AMR outcomes document, emphasising both the importance of healthcare system strengthening and the essential role of health professionals in the fight against AMR.

AMR – Looking Towards UN General Assembly and Beyond

The WMA and the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub (Global AMR R&D Hub) hosted an expert roundtable on AMR on the sidelines of the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2024. The event brought together more than 50 global AMR experts. They discussed four key themes: “Access & Innovation”, “Health Systems & Health Workforce Education”, “Stewardship” and “One Health”. The discussion focussed on what participants viewed as missing from the Zero Draft political declaration of the UN High-Level Meeting on AMR.



WMA and Global AMR R&D Hub AMR expert roundtable during the 2024 World Health Assembly.

[From Policy to Action: Successful Implementation of Multisectoral AMR Programs in low-income or middle-income countries LMICs.](#)

In September, two days before the UN High-Level Meeting in New York, the World Medical Association and the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) hosted a side event which was attended by politicians, AMR experts, health professionals and researchers.

More than 60 participants shared their experiences, lessons learned, and discussed the urgent actions needed to scale up global and national efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance, to protect the health for all, and to leave no-one behind.

United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance

WMA president Dr Lujain AlQodmani attended the United Nations High-Level meeting on AMR. The outcome of the one-day meeting was the [Political Declaration on AMR](#). In this document all countries commit to reduce the number of global deaths from AMR by 10% by 2030. Most countries have developed their own national action plans to tackle AMR, adapted to their specific situations. The implementation of these action plans is key and will be monitored closely.

On human health, the declaration sets a more ambitious target that at least 70% of antibiotics used for human health globally should belong to the [WHO Access group antibiotics](#). These have relatively minimal side effects and lower potential to cause AMR.

Furthermore, the declaration requests investment “in the training, development, recruitment and retention of a competent, skilled workforce in human, animal and plant health and the environment”.

Health workforce advocacy

5th round WHO Global Code of Practice Reporting

In 2010, WHO member states adopted the [WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel](#). The Code aims to regulate, monitor, and manage the international recruitment, mobility, and migration of health and care professionals. It incorporates two key governance mechanisms. First, member states are required to submit a report on their implementation of the Code every three years. Second, a review of the Code's relevance and effectiveness is conducted every five years through a member state-driven process. In 2024, the fifth round of reporting occurred, to be followed by the third review in 2025. These milestones present valuable opportunities for member states and non-state actors to engage with the Code, contribute input and evidence to enhance both its effectiveness and implementation.

The World Medical Association (WMA) is part of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the Third Review of the WHO Global Code of Practice. The EAG held its first meeting in Geneva in June 2024, where discussions centered on the governance process for the third review, evidence on health professional migration, and initial considerations for the WHO Secretariat. The second meeting took place in the Philippines in November, with discussion of the proposed changes and improvements to the Code, which will be



Meeting of Expert Advisory Group for the Third Review of the WHO Global Code of Practice, Manila, The Philippines.

presented to WHO member states during the Executive Board of WHO.

Towards the Global Code of Practice

The World Medical Association together with WEMOS, Public Services International (PSI), Medicus Mundi International and other partners, organized a side event on this topic during the World Health Assembly 2024.

The audience agreed that WHO Code remains highly relevant in providing guidance in the governance of international recruitment and health and care workforce migration. However, there are gaps and challenges in its implementation that need to be addressed. Health professionals have the right to migrate, however the negative impact on the health system for the source countries needs to be mitigated.



Towards the Global Code of Practice panel discussion (Image: PSI Public Services International)

NCDs and Workforce Dynamics: Empowering Tomorrow's Health Workforce

The WMA, in collaboration with members of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), hosted a side event at WHA77 on this topic. Dr Jim Campbell, Director, Health Workforce Department, WHO, emphasized the need to adapt healthcare delivery models to address the escalating NCD crisis. He highlighted the importance of prioritizing prevention and health promotion, fostering strong teamwork across professions, and

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ensuring the optimal distribution of tasks within the workforce.

Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Director, Department for Noncommunicable Diseases, Rehabilitation, and Disability, WHO, was the second keynote speaker. She underscored the critical role of a well-trained and adequately staffed health workforce in combating NCDs. She noted that a robust workforce could save millions of lives, from conditions like hypertension, which often remains undetected until it's too

late. Dr Mikkelsen also stressed the interconnected, long-term nature of NCD management, pointing out that these conditions cannot be addressed in isolation and require cross-professional collaboration. Redesigning healthcare to better respond to NCDs, she explained, may include greater use of digital health solutions and delivering care in non-traditional settings, as demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Safeguarding healthcare facilities and personnel in areas of conflict, in accordance with international law

Following increasing numbers of attacks on health professionals and facilities, the WMA



joined with its World Health Professions Alliance partners when the WHPA called on health professionals worldwide to sign this [Open letter](#). It called for all parties in conflicts to safeguard health facilities and personnel, in accordance with international laws.

“International humanitarian law requires the active protection of healthcare facilities and personnel, humane treatment for the wounded and sick, and prohibits the misuse of healthcare facilities and vehicles for military purposes. Healthcare facilities, ambulances, and health professionals must never be targeted.”

WHPA: Celebrating 25 years with a new strategy

The World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) of which WMA is a founding partner, marked its 25th anniversary with a new strategy which calls for sustainable health workforces and strengthened health systems.

The WHPA brings together the global organizations that represent the world's dentists, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists and physicians. It speaks for over 41 million health care professionals in more than 130 countries.



Dr Lujain AlQodmani, WMA President, addresses the WHPA 25th Anniversary event, held in May 2024 on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly.

WMA interventions to the World Health Assembly and the WHO Executive Board

The WMA closely follows the activities of the World Health Organization, including its governing meetings, which take place in January and May each year. Having an official observer status with the WHO, the WMA can submit policy statements to its Executive Board and to the World Health Assembly.

Statements submitted to the 77th World Health Assembly (May 2024)

- [Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases](#)
- [Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses](#)
- [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](#) (constituency statement)
- [Global Health and Peace Initiative](#)
- [Social determinants of health](#)
- [Climate change, pollution and health](#) (constituency statement)



WMA Junior Doctors Network delegation to the WHO World Health Assembly 2024

Statements submitted to the 154th Executive Board session (January 2024)

- [Universal health coverage](#)
- [Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases](#)
- [Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses](#)
- [Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [Climate change and health](#)

2024 WMA public statements, declarations and open letters

- 2 January [Open letter to Iranian authorities, in support of Dr Djalali](#)
- 12 March [Open letter calling for the safeguarding of healthcare facilities and personnel in areas of conflict, in accordance with international law](#)
- 26 March [WMA contribution to the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls to the UN General Assembly on women and girls in sport](#)
- 12 June [WMA Open Letter to the Gambian authorities](#)
- 16 July [WMA Statement 10th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body \(INB\) for a WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](#)
- 31 October [Open letter to Iranian authorities calling for abolition of corporal punishment](#)
- 12 December [WHPA Call to Invest in health professionals for high-quality primary health care to achieve universal health coverage \(UHC\)](#)

Public Relations

WMA has issued a significant number of press releases in support of its members and when a human rights violation in the health sector was brought to its attention. These press releases are published on the WMA website, in the WMA social media channels and newsletter.

WMA 2024 Press releases

17.12 [The World Medical Association remains deeply concerned about the International Federation of Medical Students Association's suspension of its Israeli member organization](#)

12.12 [Quality care by health professionals is a cost-effective path to UHC: World Health Professions Alliance](#)

05.12 [WMA calls for ban on medical, nursing and midwifery training for women in Afghanistan to be lifted](#)

25.11 [The World Medical Association urges global commitment for a just Plastic Treaty to safeguard human and planetary health](#)

19.11 [WMA joins call for Dr Nadezhda Buyanova's immediate release and for all charges against her to be dropped](#)

18.11 [Global physician leader calls for stronger financial and political commitments to put health at the center of COP29 negotiations](#)

04.11 [WMA calls on Member States to adopt binding commitments on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response](#)

01.11 [The World Medical Association calls on Iranian authorities to cease corporal punishment and comply with their international obligations on civil and political rights](#)

23.10 [The World Medical Association General Assembly 2024 in summary](#)

21.10 [Revised Declaration of Helsinki adopted by the global medical community, strengthening ethical standards in clinical research involving humans](#)

18.10 [Physicians urged to actively participate in healthcare policy and health systems change to safeguard professional autonomy: New Global Physician leader](#)

27.09 [On World Rabies Day, WVA and WMA unite to call for "Breaking Rabies Boundaries"](#)

24.09 [WMA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024 – HELSINKI](#)

22.09 [WHPA calls for more investment in the health workforce at UN Summit of the Future](#)

19.08 [WMA calls for governments' cooperation in mpox public health emergency](#)

19.08 [On World Humanitarian Day, health professionals call for protection in conflicts](#)

10.07 [WMA condemns attack on Ukraine children's hospital and repeats call for healthcare to be safeguarded in conflict zones](#)

27.06 [The World Medical Association expresses its deep concerns about the violence at the protests in Kenya](#)

25.06 [The World Medical Association calls on Gambian authorities to urgently halt the repeal of the ban on female genital mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

26.05 [New WHPA strategy champions collaboration for sustainable health workforces](#)

20.04 [WMA Council adopts resolution on the protection of healthcare in Israel and Gaza](#)

19.04 [WMA Stands Against Oppressive Anti-LGBTQ Laws in Uganda](#)

19.04 [WMA calls for international solidarity in opposing UK proposed legislation on migrants' rights](#)

18.04 [WMA Urges Gambia to Reject Bill Lifting Ban on Female Genital Mutilation](#)

24.03 [WMA President Expresses Solidarity Following Terror Attack in Moscow](#)

12.03 [Health professionals call for protection in conflicts](#)

03.03 [World Medical Association Clarifies Position on Collective Action and Condemns Government Interference in Korean Medical Association](#)

01.03 [World Medical Association Stands Firm in Support of Korean Medical Association Amid Government-Induced Crisis](#)

16.02 [WMA Takes Stand Against Humanitarian Violations, Calls for Urgent Action in Gaza](#)

15.01 [Global Collaboration for Ethical Medical Research: WMA, AMA, and PAV Unite in Vatican City](#)

03.01 [Medical Ethics Under Threat: Physician Leaders Urge International Response for Dr. Djalali's Release](#)

Constituent Membership

Physicians around the world are typically represented by the national and territorial medical associations of their regions. Such associations are broadly representative of the physicians of their country by virtue of their membership, with their voting membership being limited to physicians and medical students. They are not subject to or directed by any office or agency of government.

The WMA currently has a total of 115 members as of December 2024. There is a detailed membership list on the [WMA website](#).

Benefits of membership

1. Recognition and acceptance as a member of an international organization such as the WMA lends the power of a

global community to a National Medical Association (NMA). This underlines the importance and relevance of the NMA.

2. The WMA is in official relations with United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization, which gives NMAs and Associate Members access to these international bodies.
3. By participating in debates with colleagues from all over the world, NMAs and Associate Members have the opportunity to collaborate on ethical guidance and leadership in health care.
4. Information and knowledge can be sourced from the WMA, which can contribute to the optimal efficacy of NMAs and individual physicians.
5. NMAs and Associate Members can make use of the WMA's products and services.

Associate Membership

Associate membership is limited to physicians (as defined in the WMA Bylaws) and medical students who are properly enrolled in a recognised medical school, who have applied for such membership and who have paid the amount of dues prescribed for such members.

Associate membership is available to these individual physicians and medical students, whether or not their National Medical Association is a Constituent Member of the World Medical Association.

The WMA currently has more than 2,000 active Associate Members as of December 2024. The registration page is available on the [WMA website](#).

Benefits of membership

1. The privilege of attending and participating in WMA annual assemblies.
2. Introductions to professional leaders in your field and opportunities to visit

medical and health institutions abroad.

3. Information on medical meetings abroad.
4. A service department which will assist you in meeting your colleagues both at home and abroad.
5. A membership certificate for display
6. WMA secretariat consultation, service and small meeting center.
7. Preferred access to the WMA Education Portal for Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development.
8. Publications of the World Medical Association.
9. Access to internal discussion documents on policy development.

Financial Report

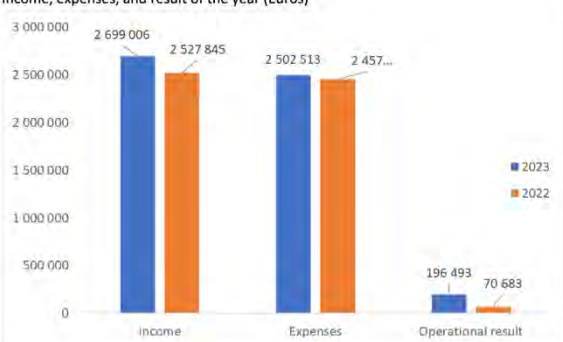
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER FOR THE YEARS 2023 AND 2022

Assets	2023	2022
Current assets	T€	T€
Cash	7 207	5 525
Accounts receivable	84	154
Prepaid expenses	66	85
Non current assets		
Real Estate - net	8	17
Furniture, fixture and office equipment - net	56	60
Total assets	7 421	5 841
Liability and equity		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	409	356
Deferred Income	61	18
Provisions and reserves	1 095	973
Funds		
Travel stipend fund	45	33
Earmarked funds	2 269	392
Association equity		
Other Equity	3 542	3 346
Total liability and equity	7 421	5 841
Net result for the year	196	71
Total Association equity	3 542	3 346

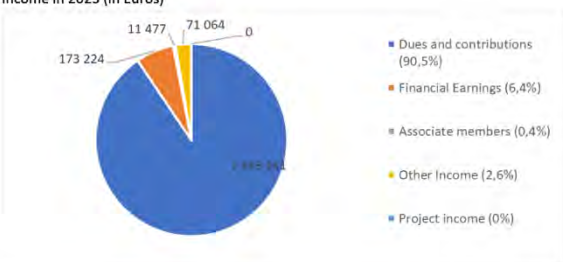
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEARS 2023 AND 2022

	2023	2022
Income	T€	T€
Dues and contributions	2 443	2 434
Financial earnings	173	21
Associate members - Net	11	10
Other income	71	63
Project income	-	-
Total income	2 699	2 528
Expenses		
Administrative overhead		
- Staff expenses	1 409	1 338
- Office expenses	136	163
- Other expenses	436	423
Meeting expenses		
- Council Session	137	190
- General Assembly	191	150
- Other meeting expenses	68	125
Financial items		
- Financial cost	5	5
- Foreign currency gains/losses	12	-9
Changes in provisions/funds		
- Transfer from/to provisions	70	56
- Transfer from/to funds	0	0
Taxation	37	15
Total Expenses	2 501	2 457
Net result for the year	196	71

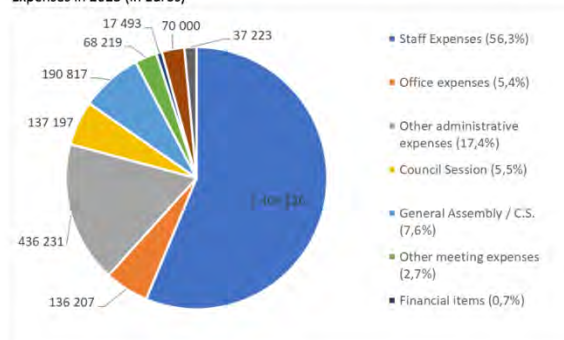
Income, expenses, and result of the year (Euros)



Income in 2023 (in Euros)














Expenses in 2023 (in Euros)



*Ukraine Medical Help Fund, was founded in March 2022, by the European Forum of Medical Associations (EFMA), the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) and the World Medical Association, in cooperation with the Polish Chamber of Doctors and Dentists, the Slovakian Medical Association and the Slovakian Medical Chamber, the Japan Medical Association, the French Medical Association and the State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony. The primary purpose of the fund is to provide medical supplies and other equipment to maintain health care in Ukraine in cooperation with the Ukrainian Medical Association as well as member and partner organizations in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries.

Total donations have accumulated to 4 252 856,03 Euros (49 807,77 Euros were received in 2024). Using these donations, medical supplies have been purchased and delivered for 2 705 183,09 Euros (330 727,09 Euros were used in 2024). The fund is still live and further donations are welcomed.

WMA Leaders

 <p>Dr Ashok PHILIP President Malaysia</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>	 <p>Dr Jacqueline KITULU President-Elect Kenya</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>	 <p>Dr Lujain ALQODMANI Immediate Past President Kuwait</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>
 <p>Dr Jung Yul PARK Chair of Council Korea</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>	 <p>Dr Otmar KLOIBER Secretary General</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>	 <p>Dr Tohru KAKUTA Vice-Chair of Council Japan</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>
 <p>Mr Rudolf HENKE Treasurer Germany</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>	 <p>Dr Steinunn THÓRDARDÓTTIR Chair of the Medical Ethics Committee Iceland</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>	 <p>Dr Jack RESNECK Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee United States</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>
 <p>Dr Zion HAGAY Chair of the Socio-Medical Affairs Committee Israel</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>	 <p>Dr Jacques de HALLER Chairperson of the Associate Members Switzerland</p> <p>Curriculum Vitae</p>	

WMA Secretariat

Dr Otmar KLOIBER, Secretary General
 Dr Julia TAINIJOKI-SEYER, Senior Medical Advisor
 Clarisse DELORME, Senior Advocacy Advisor
 Yoonsun PARK (Sunny), Head of Operations
 Magda MIHAILA, Communications and Media Manager

Janice BLONDEAU, Communications and Media Manager
 Roderic DENNETT, Spanish Translator
 Marie FERREIRA, Technical Assistant
 Anne-Marie DELAGE, Office Secretary
 Marielle GUIRLET, PhD. WMA Archive Coordinator
 Radhia SMAALI, Maintenance



WMA 2024 Annual Report
World Medical Journal



Future Meetings



229th WMA Council Session, Montevideo 2025

Start date: April 24, 2025

End date: April 26, 2025

Location: Montevideo, Uruguay

WMA General Assembly, Porto 2025

Start date: October 8, 2025

End date: October 11, 2025

Location: Porto, Portugal



17th World Conference in

Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law

Start date: November 24, 2025

End date: November 26, 2025

Location: Ljubljana, Slovenia



232nd WMA Council Session, Belgrade

Start date: April 23, 2026

End date: April 25, 2026

Location: Belgrade, Serbia

WMA General Assembly 2026 in the Netherlands

Start date: October 7, 2026

End date: October 10, 2026

Location: The Netherlands



13, ch. du Levant, CIB – Bâtiment A,
01210, Ferney-Voltaire, France



wma@wma.net



Phone: +33 4 50 40 75 75



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