Message from the Guest Editors

The World Association for Medical Law (WAML) is expanding, getting more new members both from the old democracies and from the newly emerged states. We are honored to serve as the Guest Editors of this edition introducing the latest developments of legal medicine/health law education in different parts of the world and presenting the views of experts on some burning issues falling within the domain of health and medical law. We hope it is interesting for the reader to get acquainted with both the best practices of professionals from the countries we are from and with the experience of those from the states recognized as being leaders in medical/health law, legal medicine, science, education and practice.

Georgetown University, from which the article is offered for your attention, is known as an innovator in legal education. The O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law is a place where many medical law-related concepts were born. Another center for medical law and bioethics education and science is located in Israel. The reader of this Newsletter will be able to learn about educational initiatives in Israeli Forensic Psychiatry, the interrelation of which with Medical Law, has become increasingly important.

It is also worth learning about research and educational activities at the Center for Biomedical Law of the University of Coimbra, Portugal. Medico-legal science has also been developing in Eastern Europe. The Educational Committee report describes the meetings that were held in Kiev (Ukraine), St. Petersburg (Russia) and Warsaw (Poland) as well as the topics on which they were focused.

The article, written by Dr. Kamenslaya, offers some insight into health care quality assurance and liability, for the provision of health services of proper quality, in Russia. The paper by Dr. Pospelova is devoted to legal risks associated with the donation and transplantation of human organs and tissues in the Russian Federation. There are different approaches to a person’s consent, to the removal of organs and tissues for transplantation after his/her death in various countries, so the reader may find the discussion useful.

The reader will also receive information about future meetings endorsed by the WAML that serve as platforms for sharing experience and exchanging ideas.

We wish you good reading!

Prof. Yuri Sergeyev, WAML Governor (Russia),
Dr. Radmyla Hrevtsova, WAML Governor (Ukraine)
Some Facts and Thoughts on the Measures Required for Improving Health Care Quality by Health Care Institutions in the Russian Federation

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) experts, the problem of causing harm to patients’ life and/or health, as a result of improper health care delivery, is one of the major problems for national health care systems. In 2011, the WHO envoy for patient safety, Sir Liam Donaldson, said the following at the press conference: “If you were admitted to hospital tomorrow in any country … your chances of being subjected to an error in your care would be something like 1 in 10. Your chances of dying due to an error in health care would be 1 in 300”. In 2002, the WHO member states adopted the Resolution of the World Health Care Assembly for Patient Safety urging member states to pay the closest possible attention to the problem of patient safety. The latest developments in health care in Russia are marked by a reforming of the system of legal regulation in the sphere of health care. Starting in 2010, new legislative acts of primary importance were adopted. The Federal Law “On the Fundamentals of Public Health Care in the Russian Federation”, of 21 November 2011, No. (the “Fundamentals”) made the first attempt, at the legislative level, to define the quality of medical care that is a core concept of health care. According to the definition offered by the law, the quality of medical care is an aggregate of characteristics reflecting the timeliness of medical care delivery, correctness of the choice of prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation methods, in the process of medical care delivery, and the degree of achieving the expected result.

Being the contractors of medical services, Russian health care institutions face the same problems and risks in the process of their activity as those faced by healthcare institution worldwide, including the issue of defining the quality of health care services and ensuring the highest standards of its provision. There have not been universal approaches to this problem, so the experience of every country is worthy of discussion.

Patients’ claims arising from the quality of medical aid delivery

In the Russian Federation, there has been a steady increase in the number of claims against medical institutions related to the quality of medical care. Independent experts estimate the possible number of claims of harm to patients’ life or health, as the result of medical care delivery, is approximately 320 thousand cases per year. Based on the data from the Federal Health Care Supervisory Agency, there has been a high level of citizens’ claims during the last 10 years (over 65% of written claims) regarding issues of delivery and quality of medical care. The last 10 years have been characterized by a considerable growth of new criminal, civil cases and pre-investigation checkups of medical personnel all over the country – 4 to 13 times on an average. Based on the data of the Russian Center of Forensic Expert Examinations, the amount of expert examinations regarding inadequate medical care delivery has been growing steadily since the year 2000.

Factors impeding enhancement of the quality of medical care delivery and influencing the frequency of conflicts

Though many of the factors impeding the health care services quality improvement are similar for many health care systems, there are differences between countries. The Russian health care system does not have a comprehensive approach towards resolving the issues connected with causing harm to patients’ life or health as a result of improper medical care delivery. The major issues that need to be addressed are as follows:

- lack of funding for special research to analyze the risks of causing harm to patients’ life or health in the process of medical care delivery, as well as for programs of risk management in the field of health care;
- the need for information, clarification and educational development programs for the issues of quality and safety of healthcare activity for the consumers and contractors of medical services;
- the lack of regular monitoring of data on unfavorable outcomes of medical care delivery, their frequency, types, reasons, severity and consequences;
- the absence of a unified methodical approach towards gathering, codification and classification of information and the keeping of a system of reports regarding the causes of harm to patients’ life or health;
- the lack of monitoring of law-enforcement practice(s) in cases of compensation for harm caused by inadequate medical care delivery and evaluation of cumulative economic consequences of inadequate medical care delivery;
- the absence of a system of legal and organizational mechanisms assuring effective consideration of patients’ complaints and resolution of conflicts arising in the process of medical care delivery.
Legal consequences of improper medical care delivery in Russia.

The Fundamentals establish the patient’s right to compensation for harm caused to health in the process of medical care delivery. According to Russian laws, health care institutions and professionals shall be held liable for causing harm to life and/or health in the process of medical care delivery to Russian citizens. Harm caused to citizens’ life and/or health, in the process of medical care delivery, shall be subject to compensation by the health care institutions, according to the procedure established by laws. Compensation for harm caused to life and/or health of citizens will not exempt healthcare employees from also being liable under the laws of the Russian Federation.

Traditionally, there are four forms of legal liability for the breach of healthcare laws, depending on the types of a breach in Russian Federation:
• Disciplinary liability;
• Administrative liability;
• Civil liability; and
• Criminal liability.

Statistical data, presented by experts, show that there is a considerable prevalence of civil liability in the breaches of law in the field of health care:
• criminal liability- 14.8%
• civil liability- 75.9%
• other forms of liability - 9.3%.

At the present time, there are many judicial prec-
Forensic Psychiatry is an example of a legal medicine field that raises various ethical conflicts and dilemmas. Ethical challenges appear in regards to patients with severe mental illness, who present limited or non-existent insight into their psychiatric state; patients that present low compliance with medical treatment or medical consultation. Ethical Dilemmas revolve around the concepts of autonomy and its correlation with the patient’s well-being. The doctor’s loyalty to the patient may conflict with his/her commitment towards society. These ethical dilemmas and conflicts are part of the forensic psychiatrist’s daily work.

The clinical, ethical and legal conflicts that arise in relation to the mentally ill seem to have attracted the interest of judges in the psychiatric system in recent years.

In the last 4 years, Dr. Bergman-Levy coordinated seminars on forensic psychiatry for judges at the Bee’r Yaa’kov Mental Health Center. Dr. Oren Asman dedicated a large portion of his Doctoral Thesis to the evaluation of mental competence in Israeli Courts, including the Jewish (Rabbinical) and Islamic (Shar’i) court.

A specialized seminar is now in preparation for Religious courts judges in relation to forensic psychiatry in their courts together with the Zefat Bioethics Forum at the Zefat Academic College.

The Israeli Forensic Psychiatric system includes hospitalization facilities specializing in complex patients, such as the maximum security division at the “Sha’ar Menashe” Mental Health Center, treating patients that were not criminally liable for their mental illness and the division for Forensic Psychiatry in the Israeli Prison Services specializing in the treatment of inmates with psychiatric illnesses. Two relevant associations dealing with forensic psychiatry in Israel are the Israeli Forensic Psychiatry Association, dealing with professional advancement of forensic psychiatrists, and the Israeli Psychiatry Association, which is involved with legislative matters and represents the interests of psychiatrists before various policy and decision makers in the country.

Over the years, various academic courses were conducted regarding forensic psychiatry in Israel for psychiatrists as well as advocates. In January 2013, the 7th year of the Psychiatry and the Law course for LLM students given by Dr. Oren Asman was completed at the Haifa University. In June, 2013, a specialized course on Forensic Psychiatry was directed by Dr. Tal Bergman-Levy and was completed under the academic supervision of Prof. Peter Selfen and Prof. Shmuel Fenig. The course took place as part of the Continuing Medical Education Program at the Tel Aviv University Medical School. Various experts in forensic psychiatry (Medical Doctors, Jurists and other professionals) lectured in this course, including our WAML members: Dr. Shmuel Wolfman, Dr. Tal Bergman-Levy and Dr. Oren Asman. The topics of the course included, among other issues, ‘Psychiatry in the Prison Setting’, ‘Mental Health Legislation’, ‘Patients’ Rights’, ‘Legal Competence’, ‘Psychiatric Expert Witnesses’ and ‘Damages for Psychiatric Symptoms’.

An important focus of the course was on Ethical Behavior of the forensic psychiatry specialists and an emphasis was put on the importance of developing an ethical sensitivity for the mental health experts while making decisions.

On the international level, The World Psychiatric Association Section on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics, which we are fortunate to be chairing together, in collaboration with the Israeli Psychiatric Association conducted a full day mini-seminar as part of the 8th international Conference on Bioethics Education held on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, Israel, by the UNESCO Chair for Bioethics in September 2012. Following the successful Psychiatry, Law and Ethics day we are now planning the next International Meeting on Psychiatry, Law and Ethics, which will take place on the first day of the 9th World Conference on Bioethics of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, to be held in Naples, on 19-21 November 2013. We have already received a large number of high level abstracts for the Psychiatry, Law and Ethics sessions, to be held during this meeting, and call for more interested experts wishing to take part and to present their work in this meeting to send us their abstracts in the near future.

Dr. Tal Bergman-Levy
Dr. Oren Asman

Report from the Georgetown University Kennedy Institute of Ethics

Thomas T. Noguchi, President of WAML

I have long wanted to take my time to review the bioethics subjects. This year, the Kennedy Institute of Ethics of the Georgetown University, in Washington D.C. sent me an invitation
to join the Intense Bioethics Course. This is the 39th year and the course on Bioethics: “Never More Relevant” was given from June 3 to 7, 2013. Five (5) solid days of intense lectures, discussions, question and answer sessions of philosophical discussion and comparisons with one’s own clinical experience.

There was ample time for networking at the welcome reception, and another reception for international attendees. We really enjoyed our breakfasts and lunches together in the same dining room, and the closing dinner was so nice, we really did not want to part.

There was a total of 120 registrants who came from all over the world, representing 33 countries. There were scholars from Kenya, Brazil, Japan, Korea, China, Australia and New Zealand.

Major lectures were given at the Intercultural Center (ICC), followed by small group meetings where a group moderator asked for any questions. Major lectures were given by nationally and internationally recognized speakers.

Opening remarks were given by the Director, Prof. Maggie Little, Librarian of the Bioethics Library which is the largest and most comprehensive library for Bioethics. A small breakout group discussion followed each major lecture. Professor Jim Childress gave the first of four major lectures, Principals and its Critics followed by a small group discussion. Our small group was moderated by Prof. Robert Veatch. On Tuesday, the lecture on autonomy was given by Prof. Rebecca Kukula, Beneficence and Non-malficence by Prof. Tom Beauchamp; Emerging Issues in Justice by Prof. Madson Powers. The Special topics were given on Wednesday. Devaluing the Vulnerable Patients, Organizational Ethics, Feminist Bioethics, Religious Ethics were discussed. On Thursday, the major lecture was given by Prof. Alexander Capron from the University of Southern California on Law, Ethics and Medicine. And in the afternoon, Prof. Robert Veatch spoke on Death and Dying. In the late afternoon, Prof. Laura Bishop gave a series of videos related to bioethics which were very interesting. The last day, on Friday, Research Ethics was given by Maggie Little, and in the afternoon Dr. Edward Pellegrino gave the most inspiring lecture on Bioethics in Master Class. His video tapes of the lectures to the first year medical students on occasion of the white gown ceremony were very moving.

I would like to recommend to all our members who are interested in bioethics, that you might consider attending this annual intense Bioethics course.

Thomas T. Noguchi

President’s Message

Historically, the World Association for Medical Law (WAML) held triennial meetings from 1967 until 1994, after which time they became biannual. The Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting was always held during the World Congress. During the non-congress year, the Governors travelled to a European city where the next Congress was to be held. The Executive Committee met one more time mid-year. Now, we use modern communication technology, and the EC members communicate by email, almost daily.

The Executive Committee meets by Skype monthly with the Administrative Officer and the Meeting Manager who prepares the minutes. Starting in 2013, the WAML BoG participated in online meetings, at least twice a year, most recently in April 2013.

1. April 2013 Board of Governors Meeting

Prior to the Meeting, the Administrative Officer provided the members with the agenda and supporting material in the “Board Package”. The meeting was held online, and votes were cast from April 15 – 19, 2013. The Board approved:
1) The minutes of the 2012 Board of Governors Meeting in Maceio, Brazil
2) The Revised WAML Articles of Incorporation
3) President’s Report including the Executive Committee (EC) decision to hold an annual Congress starting the year after the 2014 Indonesian Congress. Prof. Andre Pereira will be the 2015 Program Chair in Portugal. Currently, the EC and Meeting Manager are

Georgetown University Kennedy Institute of Ethics
coordinating the 2015 program and Congress site. 
4) The Education Committee was officially appointed by the EC. The Chair of the Committee is Dr. Oren Asman.

History of Medical Law and Bioethics. I have been interested in starting documentation of the early developments of the Medical Law, legal medicine and bioethics in the World. I will be working with our Secretary-General Roy Beran as Co-Editor. We are interested in finding out from every country, when Medical Law and Bioethics began, how they developed, who were the people responsible for the activities and what were the names and founding dates of the national associations.

As we will be using the information technology, the Board approved communication by digital means (Go Green). The WAML will still use paper documentation for those who do not have good access to the internet.

2. The 2014 World Congress on Medical Law will now have a new website, The EC and the Education Committee along with the Meeting Manager are working with the host, Dr. M. Nasser. We are especially interested in developing a more effective abstract approval process.

Thomas T. Noguchi
President, WAML

World Association for Medical Law Secretary-General’s Report

Prof. Roy Beran, WAML Secretary General

We are almost up to the one-year milestone prior to the next World Congress on Medical Law (WCML), which will be held in Bali in 2014. The website is prepared and things are starting to heat up. The Executive Committee (EC) of the World Association for Medical Law (WAML) is exploring new methods for Abstract submission for the WCML and is working together with the local organising committee to ensure that this will provide an exciting and enticing program. Having been to Bali, on a number of occasions, I can truly recommend that all who read this newsletter should pencil in a trip to Bali in August 2014.

Bali will be the start of a new road for the WAML. Already we have identified Portugal as the venue for the WCML in 2015 and in 2016 we are heading to Hollywood in America. It is exciting to think that we are planning three WCML’s at the same time. We, on the EC, have made a commitment to ensure that all of these conferences will offer high academic content as well as providing an opportunity to network with some of the world’s leaders in our fields of legal medicine, health law and bioethics. Professor Nasser Muh, the Chair of our 20th WCML in Bali next year, has collected together the leaders of Indonesia’s health law and medical medicine fraternity to ensure that our World Congress also has a unique Indonesian flavour. The EC are delighted to be working with him and his team. There will be a prize for the best student contribution within the Scientific Program and the Indonesian organising team are actively encouraging the younger members of our disciplines to stand up and be counted within this World Congress. The WAML is proud to have Indonesia as the venue of our next meeting.

Bali will be the last time that the WAML will be using a strictly local organising committee to act on its behalf. Professor Nasser Muh, one of the Vice Presidents of the WAML, is our local representative on the ground and within the structure of the meeting he has a relatively free hand within the constraints set by the EC. We are keeping in close contact with him, the aim being one of co-operation and mutual respect. From what we have seen thus far, we are confident that the level of excellence will be self-evident to all who attend and will adequately complement the exotic intrigue that is Bali. After Bali the modus operandi for organising the WCML’s will dramatically change. The EC, through our meeting manager, Ms Denise McNally, will have a more direct “hands-on” approach to the orchestration of the conference. The scientific committee will be established by means of a Program Chair working in concert with both the EC and the Education Committee of the WAML and will be responsible for a high-level scientific content for the meeting. The meeting manager will, in consultation with the EC, deal directly with local venues and organise the appropriate facilities. This will translate into the WAML being in the driver’s seat of the conference but it will also result in the WAML assuming total responsibility and hence also accepting the complete risk for the financial management of the conference. Bali will act as a testing ground in which Professor Nasser Muh will work closely with the EC, and with Ms McNally, to help us better appreciate some of the organisation which he has put in place and to capitalise on the excellent groundwork that we anticipate will be generated from the Bali meeting. The local organising committee and the EC have established a clearly enunciated understanding, which accepts that the Indonesian team is acting.
on behalf of the WAML and will allow cross-fertilisation between our organising team and that which is on the ground, so that we can lay further foundations towards a path of success for the meetings in Portugal and the US. It is exciting to see how the WAML is growing in stature and in experience. Over the last few years we have had meetings in Australia, Korea, France, China, Croatia and Brazil and future meetings will be in Indonesia, Portugal and America. In 2014 we will explore opportunities for the meetings in 2017 and possibly even 2018, so the future path of the WAML is laid out in a transparent fashion. It can be seen that it is truly a world organisation holding its scientific meetings in all four corners of the world.

On a personal note I have been actively involved in the preparation of a Textbook on Legal and Forensic Medicine to which many of the members of the WAML have contributed. It is my pleasure to advise all of you that the editing is now complete, the compilation has been organised with cross-referencing of chapters, and the book has moved into production with the hope that it will emerge within the next few months. Professor Noguchi, the President of the WAML, has written one of the Forewords to the book, thereby giving a uniquely WAML flavour. I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who contributed to the book for your hard work, your tolerance and patience to see the gestation and finally parturition of this, our combined child. It is my sincere hope that this book will be seen as one of the jewels in the crown of literature within the arena of legal and forensic medicine and will be a credit to each and every one of you as individuals and to the WAML, which served as a network to bring us all together. The WAML, together with the Australasian College of Legal Medicine, served as the springboard to make this book a reality and it has been my absolute pleasure to act as the fulcrum about which each of you laboured towards what I hope will be a very successful project.

I finish this Secretary-General’s message as I always do, pointing out that the WAML belongs to you, its members. It is only as strong as you make it and only as vibrant as the energy you instil into it. The EC are your servants and the WAML your association. I ask each of you to work towards making it the type of organisation that all of us can, and are, proud to say belongs to us.

Yours,

Roy G Beran
Secretary-General
World Association for Medical Law

Future Meeting Planning for the WAML

As the World Association for Medical Law (WAML) distributes conference management responsibilities I will ensure the venues meet the needs of the WAML membership along with its financial considerations. As of April 2013, the WAML has gone Green so all handouts/information will be sent electronically.

Save the Date!

Following the 20th World Congress on Medical Law (WCML) in Bali, August 25-29, 2014, the system for organizing WCMLs will change with the WAML assuming greater managerial control. This should not be interpreted as any form of criticism of the current system and the Board of Governors (BoG) and the Executive Committee (EC) are very excited about the planning for Bali. Planning for Bali is well advanced and I am sure you have already penciled in the dates and are planning your trip to this exotic location so I won’t dwell further on our forthcoming 20th WCML.

Following the Bali meeting the WAML will move to annual WCMLs with the first of these being:

The 21st Annual WAML World Congress
Lisbon, Portugal
August 2 – 6, 2015

The Congress will commence with a Welcome Reception Sunday evening August 2, 2015. The Welcome Reception is the perfect venue to meet with colleagues and visit the exhibits. We encourage everyone to attend. The Opening Ceremony will be the morning of Monday, August 3, 2015. The Congress will conclude Thursday, August 6, 2015, followed by a Gala Dinner. André Dias Pereira will be your Program Chairman and we look forward to seeing you in Lisbon, Portugal.

The 22nd Annual WAML World Congress
Los Angeles, California (USA)
August 7 – 11, 2016

The Congress will commence with a Welcome Reception Sunday evening August 7, 2016, followed by the Opening Ceremony the morning of Monday, August 8, 2016 and concluding August 11, 2016 followed by a Gala Dinner. We encourage everyone to attend.

WAML has secured the Millennium Biltmore Hotel http://www.millenniumhotels.com/millenniumbilmoresla/ as your Congress venue. Congress attendees will receive a special room rate of $199 single or double
and complimentary guest room wireless internet. WAML recommends staying at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel where the program and all functions will be provided. Everyone enjoys meetings in a comfortable conference venue, offering quality service and support, not to mention you will be in the center of the conference activity. Hotel rates are negotiated based on the number of the expected attendees and the meeting space, to ensure the best value per dollar for the conference and those attending. If the conference does not meet the sleeping room commitment, WAML will incur additional expenses, so please plan to support the conference and WAML by staying at the conference hotel.

Thomas Noguchi will be your Program Chairman and we look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles, California (USA).

Denise McNally WAML Administrative Officer and Meeting Planner

Report of the WAML Education Committee

Oren Asman, WAML Educational Committee Chair

In this report I would like to relate to The World Congress for Medical Law and its management and to several international meetings with WAML members’ participation and involvement that were conducted recently in Ukraine, Russia and Poland.

1. World Congress for Medical Law management

In order to take the congress organization one step forward, the EC decided to divide the conference management into 2 elements: Scientific management and organizational management.

1. The Scientific management is mainly focused on:
   a. Choosing the theme, sub-themes
   b. Reviewing abstracts and selection of the ones fitting for oral or poster presentation.
   c. Planning of sessions and workshops
   d. Planning the students competition and appointing the international judges panel
   e. Submitting relevant parts of the conference for accreditation as Continuing Medical and Legal Education, etc.

2. The meeting management is mainly focused on:
   a. Choosing the venue
   b. Negotiating with the hotel
   c. Planning the social events
   d. Planning the organizational matters relating to ceremonies, gala dinner etc.

As we are now using the services of our meeting manager, Ms. Denise McNally, who is dealing with the selection of the Congress Venue, and negotiating with various conference management companies and hotel to find the most suitable, trustworthy and cost-beneficial venue for WAML, I would like to focus here on the scientific element of the conference and the role of the Education committee in its advancement:

1. Choosing the Scientific Conference Chair:

In the past, The BoG used to vote for a congress president that dealt both with the scientific and with the organizational management of the congress. The new congress management system separates these 2 roles. The Education committee will discuss various candidates for the role of the chair of the scientific committee of the WCML based on the candidate’s experience with leading local and international scientific committees and other relevant criteria and present its recommendations to the EC which will submit its recommendation to the BoG members for their choice.

2. Managing the abstract submission and review with an automated abstract submission system.

We have reviewed several automated online abstract submission systems and have decided to use the Oxford Online Abstract Submission system for the WCML meetings. This system will allow an effective, timely and easy to use platform for abstracts submission, review, acceptance or rejection, and also for producing an updated online Abstract book of the conference. This may be a real step forward with the level of the service we provide to our conference registrants and will allow us to keep a regular standards in all our World Congresses.

3. Conducting a Students Competition

In order to encourage participation and further interest of early career scholars in the fields of medical law, forensic and legal medicine and bioethics, the call for papers for the congress will also include an option to submit an abstract to the students/early career competition. WAML will allocate funds for the first, second and third prizes. The participation fee in the congress for the 3 winners will be reimbursed or covered by the WAML.

II. Several Meetings and conferences held lately

In Europe with WAML representatives participation and involvement

26-27 April International Conference in Kiev, Ukraine

Ukrainian WAML Governor and Member of the Education Committee, Dr. Radmyla Hrevtsova, organized the International Conference “Protection of Rights of Health Care Professionals as a prerequisite for Patients’ Rights Protection” sponsored by the Academy of Advocacy of Ukraine in Kiev on 26-27 April 2013. The meeting was endorsed by the
WAML and supported by the Public Council at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the Union of Lawyers of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Doctors’ Association, the Ukrainian Medico-Legal Association and other organizations. The conference was attended by over 200 participants from various countries. Among them, WAML Vice President Dr. Eduardo Dantas, Ukrainian members Dr. Zoryana Chernenko, Dr. Sergii Antonov, Ms. Inna Golovan-chuk and Israeli Governor, Dr. Oren Asman.

The topic of the conference attracted a lot of attention as the challenge of balancing the promotion of patients’ rights with the protection of the rights of health care providers seems to be a relevant concern in various countries around the world.

The speakers at the plenary and parallel sessions discussed the status of protection of social and professional rights of medical workers, especially in the course of provision of certain types of medical services, the measures taken in this direction within the framework of healthcare system reforms, the activities aimed at educating patients and healthcare professionals and many other burning issues.

15-18 May 2013 International Legal Forum in St. Petersburg
More than 2,500 participants from 63 countries attended the 3rd St. Petersburg International Legal Forum, including 21 official delegations, heads of international courts and authoritative international organizations. This year, for the second time already, WAML had several representatives presenting in the congress. In The Session on “Legal responsibility of doctors and other medical professionals” we had 4 WAML members presenting, including Dr. Andre Den Exter (Netherland), Dr. Alexei Goryianov (Russia), Dr. Igor Akulin (Russia) and Dr. Oren Asman (Israel).

The session provided a comparative platform for the discussion on Medical Negligence, Insurance, Criminal and other liabilities of medical professionals and its influence on Risk Management, health care management and administration. Another Session of interest to our WAML members related to Forensic evidence from an international perspective.

Health Law Seminar, 8-12 May 2013, Gdansk, Poland (Brazilian Governor, Dr. Dantas; Polish Governor, Adv. Lojko).
A health law conference was organized in Poland together with The European Law Student’s Association (ELSA). 2 of our Governors attended this meeting, and apart from the WAML endorsement for this meeting, and lectures of our governors, Dr. Eduardo Dantas drafted an draft MOU with the ELSA board regarding various fields of cooperation with the WAML. These 3 congresses, held in East European countries, may be an example of the rapid development of Health Law, Medical Law and Forensic Medicine in this part of the world and the constant support and role of WAML and its members in these developments. The Education Committee and the Executive Committee strive to strengthen our involvement further more and support such meetings and projects in the future as well.

Dr. Oren Asman, Adv.
WAML Educational Committee Chair

CENTRE FOR BIOMEDICAL LAW UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA PORTUGAL

Dr. André Dias Pereira, Centre for Biomedical Law, University of Coimbra, 3004-545 Coimbra, Portugal

The Centre for Biomedical Law is the oldest and most dynamic research institution in the field of Health Law in Portugal, editing the Lex Medicinae – Portuguese Journal on Health Law and providing a monographic collection, with 20 publications on Medical Law, Health Law and Pharmaceutical Law. The Centre for Biomedical Law (CDB) was created by the Academic Board of the
The Centre is a scientific institution devoted to research on the vast field of Health Law, promoting research and education in Health Law (not only among lawyers but also among doctors, nurses and all people working in the Health system). Members of the CDB collaborate with other organizations, notably, with the Faculties of Medicine, Psychology and Education Sciences and Economics, in the University of Coimbra, the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences the Coimbra Centre for Bioethical Studies and the Medical Association. Internationally, academic and scientific links are maintained with some International and European institutions, such as the World Association for Medical Law (WAML) and the European Association of Health Law, as well as some intense bilateral relations with a number of European institutions, including, among others: the Institut für Medizin- und Arzteimittelrecht (Göttingen, Germany); the Institut für Deutsches, Europäisches und Internationales Medizinrecht, Gesundheitsrecht und Bioethik, of Heidelberg and Mannheim (Germany); the Center for Etik og Ret (Copenhagen, Denmark); the Sheffield Institute of Biotechnological Law and Ethics (England), the Interfacultair Centrum voor Biomedische Ethiek en Recht Leuven (Belgium) and the Catedra Interuniversitaria Genoma y Derecho (Bilbao, Spain), the European Centre on Tort and Insurance Law (Vienna, Austria) and the Association pour la recherche droit medical (Toulouse, France). The CDB is also well-known in Brazil and has close academic ties with several academics and institutions. The CDB has been a member of several interdisciplinary projects funded by the European Commission in many areas related to the Health Law. The CDB also has received grants for several projects funded by other national and international institutions such as: Foundation for Science and Technology, Council of Rectors of Portuguese Universities, British Council, private entities and others.

Education
In 1998, the CDB became a non-profit organization and the Centre opened its doors to other members. It is now proud to number, among its membership, some distinguished professionals from the fields of Law and Health in Portugal and abroad. Postgraduate studies in Medical Law
This course aims to provide its students with specialist legal training in Medical Law. The course is divided into several modules: Medical Liability; Informed Consent; Medical Confidentiality and Medical Records; Clinical Trials and Law; Genetics & Law; and Assisted Reproductive Techniques & Law. Postgraduate studies in Pharmacy and Medicinal Products Law
Since 2002, the CDB has had one of the few postgraduate courses in Pharmacy and Medicinal Products Law in Europe, including topics such as: Economics and Management of Medicinal Products; Clinical Trials on Human Beings and Research with Animals; International and European Law on Medicinal Products; Biotechnological Patents; Publicity of Medicinal Products; and Civil Liability of the Pharmaceutical Industry. With respect to Pharmacy Law, the course teaches, for example, the Ownership of Pharmacies; Pharmaceutical Deontology, Confidentiality and Data Protection; Pharmacist’s Civil, and Criminal and Disciplinary Liability. Colloquiums and Short Courses
The CDB has organized public discussion on the major topics of advances in medical science at interdisciplinary colloquiums on Assisted Reproduction, Transplant, Analysis of the Human Genome, HIV and AIDS, Mental Health Law, Clinical Trials and Medical Liability. Its members are also regularly invited to take part in debates organized by other institutions interested in biomedical subjects. In September 2001, the CDB hosted the Intensive Course on Medical Law / Cours Intensif de Droit Médical, bringing some of the most distinguished Professors from the finest Universities and Biomedical Law Research Centers to Coimbra. The course was attended by a large number of undergraduate and postgraduate students from Europe, Brazil and Africa. It comprised about 50 hours of classes and was designed to explore the various branches of Medical Law in depth.

The Coimbra International Symposium: “Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine: updated or outdated?” took place at the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra (Portugal) in July 2011. It was undertaken in association with the European Summer Course on Health Law and Bioethics of the University of Toulouse –. The Executive Committee of the WAML has endorsed and co-sponsored this program and several Governors and members of the WAML participated in this Symposium. Moreover, President Noguchi gave a speech (by video), introducing the role of the WAML. As a symbol of the high respect that the CDB has been afforded among its peers in Europe, the IV European Conference on Health Law will take place in Coimbra, Portugal, from October 9th to 11th, 2013. The CDB is honored to host the Conference of the European Association of Health Law, under the
general theme of European Health Law & Patient Safety (http://eahlconference2013.org). So far the organization has received over 100 abstracts and has distinguished keynote speakers and other high profile academic participants.

The Centre for Biomedical Law is developing a close cooperation with the WAML and is happy to assist WAML in its connection with European Partners as well as with Portuguese Speaking countries, namely Brazil and some African countries (Angola, Mozambique, and others), whose development will also bring new challenges and achievements in the field of Health Law.

Prof. Dr. Guilherme de Oliveira, Director of the Centre for Biomedical Law Coimbra International Symposium, July 2011: in the photo there are 3 Governors of the WAML (Prof. Anne-Marie Duguet, Adv. Radmila Hrevtsova, Adv. André Pereira) and Prof. Guilherme de Oliveira.

Dr. André Dias Pereira
Centre for Biomedical Law, University of Coimbra, 3004-545 Coimbra, Portugal

WAML President’s Message

Thomas T. Noguchi,
President of WAML

From the four corners of the earth we will make our bi-annual pilgrimage to Indonesia, to the beautiful city of Bali, impelled by our reverence for, and devotion to, the services of Legal Medicine, Health Law, Biolexology, Ethics and Bioethics. We hail from scores of countries; our cultures vary, we worship different Gods, our medical law rules are far from uniform; our medical ethics norms are separately distinctive; but as supporters and developers of medical law, we are all of one mind. We realize and are convinced that the rule of law, in general and inclusive of medical law, is an essential component of social harmony, whenever people live side by side. Moreover, bioethics, in general and inclusive of medical ethics, supplies the very foundation stone on which every individual’s behavior, within his or her society, must be firmly cemented. Our biennial congresses present members of the medical, legal and ethical professions with golden opportunities to strengthen the ideas which we share in common, to evaluate contradictory points of view and to exercise tolerance, open-mindedness and scholastic acumen. Our stay in Bali will afford us an opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas, to strengthen ties with our younger members and to re-unite with our life-long friends. It is my fervent hope that this, our Twentieth Congress, will inspire us with the will and determination to devote even more time and labor to the propagation of medical law in the many of the world’s environments to which we shall be returning.

It gives me great pleasure to express our appreciation and thanks to our Indonesian colleagues for the excellent preparation of this meeting. There can be no doubt that the beauty of Bali and the generous hospitality of our hosts will inspire us with the will to achieve the objectives which have brought us from afar to what I believe will be a highly productive happening.

Thomas T. Noguchi
President, WAML
FUTURE MEETINGS
Of Affiliated National Associations and Collaborating Organizations

V All-Russian Meeting (National Congress) on Medical Law
November 20-21, 2013
Moscow, Russia
Email: association@med-law.ru
Website: http://www.med-law.ru/

Summer School on Health Law and Ethics
June 24 – July 5, 2013
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Website: www.erasmusobservatoryonhealthlaw.nl/en/

European Association of Health Law - 4th Conference
October 9-11, 2013
Coimbra – Portugal
Email: cdb@fd.uc.pt
Website: www.eahlconference2013.org

UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 9th World Conference
November 19-21, 2013
Naples, Italy
Website: www.isas.co.il/bioethics2013

WAML Newsletter Production Team

Guest Editors:
Prof. Yuri Sergeyev,
WAML Governor (Russia)
Dr. Radmyla Hrevtsova,
WAML Governor (Ukraine)

Editor-in-Chief:
Richard S. Wilbur, MD JD

Coordinator:
Denise McNally

Graphic designer:
Raul Vergara