



International Geneva

Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION | WMA

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Founded in Paris in 1947, the World Medical Association (WMA) is an international organisation representing physicians. It works towards ensuring the highest possible standards in medical education and medical ethics among physicians, thus providing quality healthcare for all populations. WMA provides ethical guidance, and engages in global advocacy on the field of medical ethics, human rights and public health. One of the main achievements of WMA is the recommendations guiding physicians in medical and biomedical research on human subjects.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- medical ethics
- public health
- human rights of patients and physicians in providing and receiving care
- health systems
- advocacy and health promotion
- representing physicians and promoting their role in public health globally

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

WMA provides ethical guidance to physicians through its declarations, resolutions and statements. These also help to guide national medical associations, governments and international organisations throughout the world. They cover a wide range of subjects, including an International Code of Medical Ethics, the rights of patients, research on human subjects, care of the sick and wounded in times of armed conflict, the use and abuse of drugs, family planning and pollution. WMA is also active in the area of health-related human rights, medical education, human resources planning for healthcare services, patient safety, public health policy and projects such as tobacco control, immunisation, democracy-building for new medical associations, leadership and career development for medical professionals, advocacy for physicians and patients' rights, and occupational health and safety.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

The main decision-making body of the WMA is the annual General Assembly, which consists of national members, council representatives and associate member representatives. The chairperson of the council, currently Dr. Ardis D. Hoven, is the political head of the organisation. The president of WMA is Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura, and the Secretary-General is Dr. Otmar Kloiber. The secretariat is located in Ferney-Voltaire, France and employs a staff of 9.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

WMA's funding is provided by the annual contributions of its members.

PUBLICATIONS

See: <https://www.wma.net/publications/>

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