

International Geneva  
**Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors**

**Council for International Organizations Of Medical Sciences | CIOMS**

[www.cioms.ch](http://www.cioms.ch)

1 Route des Morillons | CH-1218 Le Grand-Saconnex, Geneva

Tel +41 22 791 64 97 | mail: [info@cioms.ch](mailto:info@cioms.ch)

**BACKGROUND AND MISSION**

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) is an international non-profit organization established jointly by WHO and UNESCO in 1949. CIOMS mission is to advance public health through guidance on health research including ethics, medical product development and safety. Through its membership, CIOMS is representative of a substantial proportion of the biomedical scientific community. In 2018, the membership of CIOMS included 41 international, national and associate member organizations, representing many of the biomedical disciplines, national academies of sciences and medical research councils.

**AREAS OF INTEREST**

- Bioethics
- Pharmacovigilance
- Health policy, ethics and human values
- Medicine development and use
- Vaccine safety

**HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES**

CIOMS contributes to the field of bioethics through the issuing of international guidelines for the application of ethical principles in various key areas including biomedical research involving human subjects, and for epidemiological studies, developed in conjunction with WHO. It also facilitates international dialogue in the area of health policy, ethics and human values, and works on issues related to the medical product development and safety, issuing recommendations on the monitoring and assessment adverse reactions caused by medicines and vaccines. In 2019, CIOMS has active working groups developing guidelines in the areas of Patient Involvement in the Development and Safe Use of Medicines, Drug-induced Liver Injury, and Clinical Research in Resource-limited Settings. In 2019, CIOMS has issued several translations of its 2016 *International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans*. In 2018, it published its *Guide to Vaccine Safety Communication*. Other recent publications include *Guide to Active Vaccine Safety Surveillance* (2017), *Evidence Synthesis and Meta-Analysis for Drug Safety* (2016) and *Development and Rational Use of Standardised MedDRA Queries (SMQs): Retrieving Adverse Drug Reactions with MedDRA* (2016).

**GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

CIOMS is administered by an executive committee comprising a maximum of 14 elected

members from international and national medical or scientific organisations. The secretary general of CIOMS is Dr Lembit Rägo and the president is Prof Hervé LeLouet.

#### **FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET**

CIOMS is funded through membership dues, publication sales and contributions in support of working groups and conferences.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

For CIOMS' publications see: <https://cioms.ch/shop/>

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