

Dear Participants of the Annual Congress,

Esteemed Guests,

It is both my honor and pleasure to welcome all of you to the 27th World Congress for Medical Law in Vilnius, Lithuania. Today, we gather in the spirit of collaboration and pursuit of excellence, bound by our shared commitment to advance the ever-important field of medical law.

We are immensely grateful to the World Association for Medical Law President and the Board for choosing Mykolas Romeris University (MRU) as the host partner for such an important Congress.

Using the opportunity, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, partners, and everyone who has contributed their time and energy to make this event possible. Your support plays a vital role in nurturing the intellectual curiosity that is the hallmark of this congress.

This year's congress promises to be an unparalleled assembly of minds, with legal scholars, healthcare professionals, bioethicists, human rights activists, and policymakers from various countries and disciplines. This opens a forum for meaningful discussions and insights on the complex legal landscapes governing healthcare, innovations in ethics, legal regulation, and patient rights which transcend borders and cultures.

In these changing times, as societal norms shift and diseases emerge and re-emerge, our roles have become increasingly crucial. From addressing issues related to the legality of experimental treatment to the ethical implications of genomic medicine, to the ongoing struggle for equal healthcare access, this congress serves as an ideal platform to scrutinize and discuss these pressing issues.

Our rapidly changing world, coupled with current challenges such as the Covid pandemic, security threats caused by brutal Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and technological development, necessitate careful monitoring, evaluation, and regulation to counter possible threats to our existence, freedom, and democracy. Now more than ever, our societies and countries require academic communities and universities to act as agents of change, generating, supporting, and promoting sustainability and social innovations while contributing to the decision-making process with their knowledge and expertise.

Medical law is a fascinating interdisciplinary field as advances in medical research and new technologies constantly redefine the boundaries of medicine. As new health issues emerge and patient rights increasingly take center place, complex medico-legal dilemmas arise in clinical practice, in the realities of human health, and in the relationships between patients and healthcare professionals.

Balancing the interests of patients, healthcare providers, and society is paramount, ensuring that medical practices remain ethical, safe, and fair. Understanding medical law is pivotal for both medical professionals and patients as it fosters transparency, accountability, and fairness in the medical field.

Medical law and social sciences play a vital role in shaping a new reality for public benefit. I am confident that your valuable research will explore its potential for the implementation of justice, public health, and welfare.

There is no doubt that health is our greatest wealth. A healthy population is a key condition for the productivity and prosperity of any country. The purpose of safeguarding public health constitutes a substantial public interest.

The globalization of law and the transposition of international standards, particularly those developed by the European Court of Human Rights, the WHO, and the Court of Justice of the European Union in the area of human (patients') rights, into national law constitute an important and challenging task for medical law specialists. This task can only be successfully fulfilled through constant international cooperation.

As we embark on this journey of enlightenment over the coming days, I am reminded of the timeless quote by Hippocrates, "Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity." In this spirit, let us remember that our ultimate goal is not just to master the law or understand medicine, but to serve humanity better.

Thank you. Let us embark on this journey together.