HRVATSKO KATOLIČKO LIJEČNIČKO DRUŠTVO (HKLD)
CROATIAN CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (CROCMA)

FEAMC
EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS
FEDERATION EUROPÉENNE D'ASSOCIATIONS MÉDICALES CATHOLIQUES

HEALING WITH INTEGRITY: A SUMMER SCHOOL FOR YOUNG MINDS IN MEDICINE
First Summer School of Medical Ethics for Young Adults

organized by the European Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FEAMC)
and the Croatian Catholic Medical Association (CroCMA)

Dear Young Colleagues and Friends,

The European Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FEAMC) is pleased to announce and invite you to participate in the **First Summer School of Medical Ethics for Young Adults**, which will be held **from 30 August to 6 September 2026** on the island of Lošinj, Croatia, in cooperation with the Croatian Catholic Medical Association (CroCMA).

The Summer School is designed for young people interested in exploring some of the most challenging ethical issues in contemporary healthcare and medicine. The program will address topics such as: ethical challenges in obstetrics and gynecology (including reproductive medicine), substance addiction, end-of-life care, vaccination, and other important bioethical questions.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend lectures delivered by international experts in medicine and bioethics, engage in small-group discussions, participate in spiritual activities, and enjoy fellowship with colleagues from different countries and professional backgrounds.

Accommodation and full board will be provided at the **Betanija House** in the village of Ćunski on the island of Lošinj, including seven nights' accommodation and three meals per day. The house also includes a chapel where prayer and spiritual activities will take place. Each day will include free time for rest and swimming at the beautiful beaches of the Adriatic Sea, as well as short excursions to the nearby historic towns of Osor, Cres, and Mali Lošinj.

Who Can Apply?

The Summer School is intended for: medical and healthcare students, young physicians, dentists, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals aged 18–35. Priority will be given to members of national Catholic medical associations.

Application

Applications can be submitted via the following link (**no later than 15 June 2026**): https://feamc.eu/healing-with-integrity-a-summer-school-for-young-minds-in-medicine/

Applications should include:

- a motivation letter explaining the applicant's interest in the Summer School,
- a recommendation letter signed by the president of a national association or a member of the FEAMC Executive Committee (attached in PDF).

The number of participants is limited to 35.

Applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process and practical details regarding travel and accommodation **no later than 30 June 2026**.

Registration Fee

The participation fee is **350 EUR**, which includes:

- accommodation,
- full board for seven days,
- participation in all program activities.

Travel expenses are not included in the registration fee. Participants may request financial support from their national associations.

The registration fee must be paid within 7 days of receiving confirmation of acceptance, and **no later than 10 July 2026**.

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

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- Rok Čivljak: president@feamc.eu | +385 91 4012547

We warmly invite you to join us for a week of learning, reflection, spirituality, friendship, and professional growth in the beautiful surroundings of the Adriatic coast.

We look forward to welcoming you to Croatia.

Organizing and Scientific Committee

Prof. Rok Čivljak, Zagreb, Croatia

Prof. Vincenzo Defilippis, Bari, Italy

Prof. Frans van Ittersum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Prof. Dariusz Gąsecki, Gdańsk, Poland

Prof. Jozef Glasa, Bratislava, Slovakia

Dr. Diogo Cunha e Sà, Lisbon, Portugal

Summary of the Summer School

Day 1 marks the opening of the Summer School of Medical Ethics, bringing together participants, faculty, and organizers in a shared space of learning and reflection. The introductory sessions will present the goals, structure, and key themes of the program, emphasizing interdisciplinary dialogue, critical thinking, and ethical sensitivity in medical practice. The day will conclude with Holy Mass, offering a spiritual foundation for the week ahead.

Day 2 focuses on the foundations of medical ethics and ethical decision-making in clinical practice. Participants will explore the secular c.q. mid-level consensus principles of autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice through lectures by both a physician and a theologian-priest. These principles will be explored through Christian anthropology and Christian principles of respect for human life, the therapeutic principle, the principle of proportionality, the principle of freedom and responsibility, the principle of sociality and subsidiarity, and the principle for solving dilemmas. The second session introduces Christian anthropology and reflects on the human person as a unity of body, and soul, endowed with freedom, as well as principles of Catholic medical ethics supported by discussion of real clinical cases in small groups.

Day 3 addresses ethical challenges in obstetrics and gynecology, particularly situations involving the well-being of both mother and unborn child. Discussions will examine morally sensitive clinical decisions, human dignity, and compassionate patient care, including the psychological and emotional experiences that may follow abortion.

Day 4 begins with a testimony by the married couple Mlakar, a physician and nurse, sharing their experiences related to reproductive ethics and the value of human life. The second session focuses on ethical questions in pediatric care, including consent, vulnerability, parental authority, and the long-term welfare of children.

Day 5 explores the ethical implications of antimicrobial resistance and the responsibility of healthcare professionals in preserving effective treatments for future generations. The following session examines substance addiction with emphasis on human dignity, stigma, responsibility, and compassionate, holistic care.

Day 6 is dedicated to ethical questions surrounding end-of-life care, including brain death, organ donation, and assisted suicide. Participants will reflect on informed consent, patient freedom, fairness, vulnerability, and the responsibilities of healthcare professionals when facing difficult medical and moral decisions.

Day 7 opens with a discussion on the ethics of vaccination, considered both as an act of solidarity and an issue of conscientious objection. The Summer School concludes with participants' evaluations and reflections aimed at improving future editions of the program.

Confirmed Faculty (in alphabetical order):

1) **Andrea Koščec, MPharm**
   Croatian Catholic Medical Association, Secretary-General
   Zagreb, Croatia
2) **Dariusz Gąsecki, MD, PhD**
   Professor of Neurology, Medical University of Gdańsk
   Gdańsk, Poland
3) **Frans van Ittersum, MD, PhD**
   Professor of Nephrology, Amsterdam University Medical Center
   Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
   Amsterdam, Netherlands
4) **Ivan Zmijanović, MD**
   Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
   Šibenik, Croatia
5) **Jozef Glasa, MD, PhD, PhD.**
   Professor of Medicine and Bioethics
   Slovak Medical University in Bratislava
   Bratislava, Slovakia
6) **Kate Kondratuk, MD**
   Assistant Professor, Pediatric Dermatology
   Associate Pediatric Dermatology Fellowship Program Director
   Medical College of Wisconsin/Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
   Wisconsin, USA
7) **Marta Čivljak, MD, PhD**
   Professor of Public Health, Faculty of Health Studies
   Catholic University of Croatia
   Zagreb, Croatia
8) **Nicola Petrosillo, MD, FESCMID**
   Professor of Infectious Diseases
   Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Campus Bio-Medico
   Rome, Italy
9) **Nikolina Mlakar, RN, and Lovro Mlakar, MD**
   General Practitioner / Family Medicine Physician
   Varaždin, Croatia
10) **Renzo Pegoraro, MD, PhD**
    Professor of Bioethics
    President, Pontifical Academy for Life
    Rome, Italy
11) **Rok Čivljak, MD, PhD**
    Professor of Infectious Diseases, University of Zagreb School of Medicine
    University Hospital for Infectious Diseases
    President, FEAMC & CroCMA
    Zagreb, Croatia
12) **Vincenzo Defilippis, MD, PhD**
    Professor of Clinical Risk Management, Azienda Sanitaria Locale Bari
    FEAMC Past President
    Bari, Italy