



Zurich, June 4, 2018

Announcement and Call for Papers **9th Annual ICMM Workshop on Military Medical Ethics**

The ICMM Centre of Reference for Education on IHL and Ethics, the Medical Services Directorate of the Swiss Armed Forces, and the Zurich Center for Military Medical Ethics are pleased to announce the 9th ICMM workshop on Military Medical Ethics.

Ethics of Dealing with Risks in Military Medicine

20-24 May 2019 at the Congress Center Basel (CH)

Topic and Call for Papers

Uncertainty and risk are key features of the mission planning phase as well as the working environment of military and humanitarian medical personnel. Risks cannot be avoided during the planning on strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Risk assessment is a risky job itself and relies on uncertain intelligence and predicative models. Ethical questions arise early during planning as risks make it difficult to predict the outcomes and challenges of missions.

On the ground, health care personnel (HCP) have to make decisions under conditions of risk and uncertainty as a result of incomplete knowledge, the complexity of the situation, and the kinds of medical intervention needed. During missions, HCP are subject to (at least) two different kinds of risks. They risk being harmed themselves physically or mentally, and they also risk harming others and ethical misconduct. Both risks are reinforced by the uncertainty and duress of the working environment.

Our workshop proposes to analyze the moral and ethical dimensions of risks in military medicine and how they can be taken into account in military and humanitarian medical ethics.

We equally encourage reports from the field (e.g. case studies) as well as philosophical papers or legal analyses.

In line with the tradition of our preceding workshops, we also invite presentations that look at the main topic from a **perspective of humanitarian actors**.

Topics of presentations can include but are not limited to the following list

- **Planning: Strategic, operational, tactical**
 - Risk assessment and its ethical risk during mission planning
- **How much risk can military medical personnel be expected to take, for what reasons, and in what kind of situations?**
 - Treatment under fire. Complexity of the situation. Unsecure environment.
 - Disaster context with associated risks

- **When is it morally acceptable to expose patients to risks?**
 - Research, experimental treatment, new technologies, enhancement
 - Treatment beyond competencies due to lack of alternatives
 - Non-clinical context with scarce resources
- **Moral risks for HCP**
 - Complicity, dual loyalty, and ethical misconduct
 - Implication or condoning of unethical behavior
- **Risks of civil-military interactions and cooperation**
 - Risks for both sides when cooperating during conflict situations

- **Case studies:** reports of experiences from missions during which risk has had an influence on decisions and outcomes or played a decisive role are highly welcome.

Aims of the workshop and subsequent publication

- Let different actors voice their positions, issues, aims, and expectations.
- Recognition of the value of different approaches.
- Contribute to a dialogue between the different actors and foster productive exchange.
- Clarifying premises in ethical arguments to understand why and how opinions differ.

Formal requirements

- Presentations are expected to last **25 minutes** in order to leave time for discussions.
- The **presentations shall be later published in an edited volume of the “Military and Humanitarian Medical Ethics”** series at Springer.

Instructions for Submissions

Please submit your **paper proposals** via email to cfp@melac.ch **according to the following requirements:**

- **Abstract/ short description** of ~200-300 words
- **Short CV** of ~200-300 words
- **Deadline for submissions: July 31, 2018**

You can either use our **submission form or send your proposal in a similar document.**

- **Download abstract submission form via**
<https://melac.ch/images/PDF/Lili2019/SubmissionForm-MME2019.docx>
- We will notify all applicants by October 15, 2018 as to whether their proposals have been accepted.
- For all selected speakers, we cover the full conference fee, hotel, and travel expenses (economy class).

43rd ICMM World Congress 2019

The 2019 workshop will be held as a **separate session during the 43rd ICMM World Congress on Military Medicine**. Therefore, the location and duration of the workshop will be different than in previous years. It will take place at the Congress Center in Basel and will last from Monday, May 20 to Friday, May 25, 2019 (including a one-day social event).

Participants of the military medical ethics workshop are **expected to attend all sessions of the workshop**. They will have the opportunity to discuss with the congress participants from all over the world during selected plenary sessions of the world congress, during breaks, and on the social event day.

Conference publication

The results of the workshop shall be published in a **comprehensive book, edited in the “Military and Humanitarian Medical Ethics”** series and published by Springer.

All invited speakers at the workshop are expected to contribute to this volume and to hand in their papers for review after the workshop by the deadline date, 31. August 2019.

The proceedings from previous workshops and more information about our publications are available via <http://publications.melac.ch/>

Further information and Contact

Scientific organization

ICMM Centre of Reference for Education on IHL and Ethics (www.melac.ch)

ZH Center for Military Medical Ethics (www.militarymedicaethics.ch)

Dr. phil. Daniel Messelken

messelken@militarymedicaethics.ch

LtCol David Winkler, MD, PhD

melac@bluewin.ch

Workshop registration & logistics

Swiss Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate

Ms. Adele Renfer

Adele.Renfer@vtg.admin.ch