

Zürich, November 2022

Call for Papers – 12th 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 **12th ICMM Workshop on Military Medical Ethics** on the topic

Medical Neutrality in Theory and Practice

15-17 June 2023 | Hotel Seaside (Spiez, CH)

Topic & Call for Papers

During armed conflicts and other emergencies, medical services shall not be interfered with. This is the main tenet of what has been labelled “medical neutrality”. This principle is grounded in International Humanitarian Law as well as in Human Rights Law and it can be justified by ethical rationales such as the principle of Humanity and ordinary medical ethics. Health workers often understand medical neutrality as an obligation not to engage in anything else other than medical outcomes.

Medical neutrality is often disrespected: Health care providers and health facilities are under attack, laws sanction the provision of health care to so-called insurgents or terrorists, health care is withheld or provided according to non-medical criteria, and philosophers have questioned that health care can always be provided without considering the moral status of those to whom it is provided.

Our workshop shall provide an opportunity to discuss medical neutrality and the related concepts like impartiality from a variety of perspectives. Presentations could cover topics within the following list but need not be restricted to it. Ethical aspects of the principle of neutrality.

- Ethical aspects of the principle of neutrality.
- How is medical neutrality implemented in practice? Operationalizing medical neutrality.
- Can health care be provided without effectively providing military advantage?
- Neutrality and military necessity.
- Neutrality and impartiality – differences and their relationship.
- Neutrality and protection of health care personnel.
- Does medical neutrality provide a justification to provide medical care to anybody?
- The relationship of neutrality and other humanitarian principles.
- Historical perspectives on medical neutrality.
- Medical neutrality and the limits of what HCP are allowed to do.
 - Participation in weapon development?
 - Providing medical care to further non-medical ends?
- Political activism of health care providers and the principle of neutrality.

We equally encourage **field reports** (e.g., case studies, experience briefings, policy analyses) as well as **philosophical papers** and **legal background analyses**. In line with the tradition of the workshop series, we invite presentations that take the **perspectives of both military and humanitarian health care providers**.

Instructions for Submissions

To submit a proposal, please prepare

- an **abstract of your presentation** (max 300 words)
- a **short biography/ CV** (max 150 words)

and submit it via the **online submission form** on <https://apply.melac.ch/>

→ **Deadline for submissions: January 15, 2023**

→ We will notify all applicants by February 15, 2023 at the latest whether their proposals have been selected. For all selected speakers, we cover conference fee, hotel, and travel expenses (economy class).



For any **questions** with regard to the call for papers or the process of submitting please contact Daniel Messelken (messelken@ethik.uzh.ch).

Conference publication

The results of the workshop shall be published in a volume within the **“Military and Humanitarian Medical Ethics”** series, published by Springer. Publications from previous workshops & more information are available on <https://publications.melac.ch>

→ All speakers invited to the workshop are expected to contribute to this volume and to hand in their papers for review by 15. July 2023.

Workshop attendance

Attending the workshop will be possible for participants both online and online since the workshop is organized as a hybrid workshop. More information on the registration process and a registration form are provided on our website

- <https://melac.ch/courses-workshops/ethics-workshop/2023-workshop>



Contact | Further information

Scientific organization

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ICMM Center of Reference for Education
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Workshop registration & logistics

Swiss Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate

www.vtg.admin.ch/de/organisation/astab/san.html

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