

Foreword

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The World Association for Medical Law (WAML) was founded in 1967 by Professor Rafael Dierkens of Ghent, Belgium, to bring together lawyers and medical doctors to discuss the medical law and ethics issues that societies face. No such body had previously existed, so it took some considerable effort to organize the first pioneering gathering. That first year, the WAML met in Ghent, Belgium and I was privileged to be there to witness its inauguration. The WAML then met every three years thereafter – usually in Europe, until the efforts of Professor Dierkens’ successor, Professor Amnon Carmi, saw the organization expand beyond the continent. Professor Carmi also launched the *WAML Journal of Medicine and Law*, which is now in its 38th year of publication.

In 1994 the WAML implemented a biennial meeting system. Another change came in 2015, when themes were added to presentations in a bid to make WAML events a more cohesive educational experience. Today, the WAML’s annual gatherings are focused on educational efforts, aimed at enhancing standardization of theory, policy and procedures in medical law and ethics.

The main difference between journal articles and book chapters is that journal articles tend to highlight new theories and new information on medical law; while book chapters are more comprehensive works that promote standardization and consensus of thought and practice. I hope that we can set standards for the issues that we address at the WAML. One of the best ways to achieve this is by creating works of educational value, and the WAML is delighted to be producing a book series towards this end.

At the outset of this project, and with the support of the executive committee, I appointed two of our governors to take charge of this book series. They are Professor Thierry Vansweevelt of Antwerp, Belgium; and Professor Nicola Glover-Thomas of Manchester, UK. The first book is scheduled for publication in 2020 and further books in the series will hopefully follow.

I am delighted to write these introductory remarks to celebrate the inception of this initial endeavour in the series, and I support the continuous publication of further books on medical law and ethics.

