



HRVATSKO KATOLIČKO LJEČNIČKO 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 FEAMC 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)

30 August – 6 September 2026

Lošinj, Croatia



HEALING WITH INTEGRITY: A SUMMER SCHOOL FOR YOUNG MINDS IN MEDICINE

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.

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.

Accommodation and full board will be provided at the **Betanija House**, in the village of Ćunski, the island of Lošinj, including seven nights' accommodation and three meals per day.

Venue

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: **Deadline has been extended until June 30**

- 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 doc, docx or PDF).

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: <https://feamc.eu/contact-form/>

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 Sã, Lisbon, Portugal

Confirmed Faculty

(in alphabetical order):

Andrea Koščec, MPharm

Croatian Catholic Medical Association,
Secretary-General
Zagreb, Croatia

Dariusz Gąsecki, MD, PhD

Professor of Neurology,
Medical University of Gdańsk
Gdańsk, Poland

Frans van Ittersum, MD, PhD

Professor of Nephrology, Amsterdam
University Medical Center
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Ivan Zmijanović, MD

Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Šibenik, Croatia

Jozef Glasa, MD, PhD, PhD.

Professor of Medicine and Bioethics
Slovak Medical University in Bratislava
Bratislava, Slovakia

Kate Kondratuk, MD

Assistant Professor, Pediatric Dermatology
Associate Pediatric Dermatology Fellowship
Program Director
Medical College of Wisconsin/Children's
Hospital of Wisconsin
Wisconsin, USA

Marta Čivljak, MD, PhD

Professor of Public Health,
Faculty of Health Studies
Catholic University of Croatia
Zagreb, Croatia

Nicola Petrosillo, MD, FESCMID

Professor of Infectious Diseases
Fondazione Policlinico Universitario
Campus Bio-Medico
Rome, Italy

Renzo Pegoraro, MD, PhD

Professor of Bioethics
President, Pontifical Academy for Life
Rome, Italy

Rok Čivljak, MD, PhD

Professor of Infectious Diseases,
University of Zagreb School of
Medicine, University Hospital for
Infectious Diseases
President, FEAMC & CroCMA
Zagreb, Croatia

Vincenzo Defilippis, MD, PhD

Professor of Clinical Risk
Management, Azienda Sanitaria
Locale Bari
FEAMC Past President
Bari, Italy



Andrea Koščec



Dariusz Gąsecki



Frans van Ittersum



Ivan Zmijanović



Jozef Glasa



Kate Kondratuk



Marta Čivljak



Nicola Petrosillo



Renzo Pegoraro



Rok Čivljak



Vincenzo Defilippis

	Sunday 30.8. 	Monday 31.8. 	Tuesday 1.9. 	Wednesday 2.9.
Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
8.45		Morning prayer (Chapel)	Morning prayer (Chapel)	Morning prayer (Chapel)
9.00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
10.00	Arrivals	Session 2. Introduction to Medical Ethics: Values, Principles, and Decision- Making	Session 4. Ethical Challenges in Obstetrics and Gynecology: Caring for Mother and Child	Session 6. Caring for the Smallest Among Us: Pediatric Bioethics and the Challenges of Genetic Disease
12.00		Angelus	Angelus	Angelus
12.15		Recreation time	Session 5. Post-Abortion Syndrome: Psychological Impact and Human Dignity	Session 7. Life, Choice, and Responsibility: A Testimony on Reproductive Ethics
13.00		Lunch		
14.00		Recreation time	Lunch	Lunch
15.00			Recreation time	Recreation time
15.00				
17.00		Session 3. Christian Anthropology and Medical Ethics: Understanding the Human Person		
18.00		Session 1. Opening Ceremony and Introduction		
19.00			Holy Mass	Holy Mass
20.00	Holy Mass	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
21.00	Dinner	Free time	Free time	Free time
23.30	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime

	Thursday 3.9.	Friday 4.9.	Saturday 5.9.	Sunday 6.9.
Time	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
8.30				Breakfast
8.45	Morning prayer (Chapel)	Morning prayer (Chapel)	Morning prayer (Chapel)	
9.00		Breakfast	Breakfast	
10.00	Session 8. When Treatment Threatens the Future: Ethics and Antimicrobial Resistanc	Session 10. IBrain Death: Medical Criteria and Ethical Implications	Session 12. Vaccination: Between an Act of Love and Conscientious Objection	Holy Mass
11.00				Departure
12.00	Angelus	Angelus	Angelus	
12.15	Session 9. Substance Addiction and Human Dignity: An Ethical Perspective	Session 11. Organ Donation and Assisted Suicide: Ethical Issues in End- of-Life Care	Session 13. Summary and Closing Remarks	
13.00				
14.00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
15.00	Recreation time	Recreation time	Recreation time	
19.00	Holy Mass	Holy Mass	Holy Mass	
21.00	Free time	Dinner	Dinner	
21.30		Free time	Free time	
23.30	Bedtime	Bedtime	Bedtime	

LEGEND

	Workshops
	Meals
	Spirituality
	Recreation

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 healthcare workers 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** 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.