

Presidential Inaugural address

WMA General Assembly

Córdoba, Spain (virtual)

Friday, October 30, 2020





A second area that is critically important is the WMA's unwavering advocacy in medical ethics. It was a key reason for the founding of the WMA in 1947 and it remains as important and relevant now as it was then. The multiple WMA declarations and statements that address medical ethics must be living, evolving documents that meet the changing needs of patients, physicians and society while at the same time preserving the essence of who we are as physicians and affirming our responsibilities to patients and society.

This may be one of our most difficult challenges because medical ethics rests squarely on our shoulders. We cannot delegate it or relegate it to others. Although we must facilitate discussions among a broad group of stakeholders, the ultimate decision on what our profession stands for is ours alone to make.

Closely related to our position on ethical issues is our dedication to professionalism. As physicians, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards. We must stay committed to the core principles of the patient-physician relationship. We must speak out and seek remedies to address violence against patients and physicians. We must point out the inhumanity of societal or to

One final area that needs our continued attention is our primary role as physicians in delivering high-quality, medical care for all. We must continue to address the inequities in health and healthcare in our populations. At the same time, we are still battling a rise in chronic disease

He said, “It’s hard to beat a person who never gives up.” Your WMA leadership will never give up in our efforts to advance our policies and achieve our common goals.

However, we are depending on each of you as part of the WMA team to use what we do here at the WMA to advocate on behalf of patients and physicians to “achieve the highest international standards” in medicine “and Health Care for all people in the world.”

Thank you.