

FROM THE FOURTH GENEVA CONFERENCE ON PERSON CENTERED MEDICINE: STAKEHOLDERS' ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS BEYOND ANNUAL MEETINGS: NEXT STEPS TO ADVANCE PERSON- AND PEOPLE-CENTERED CARE [LETTER]

News from the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)

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To the Editor

The 77th Meeting of the CIOMS Executive Committee (EC) and the 20th CIOMS General Assembly were held on 30 November 2010. They were preceded in the morning of that day by an international panel discussion, under the general title "Implementation of ethical principles in medicine from bench to bedside: How the physician may integrate the treatment of his patient with science". Here, the participation is noted of Dr Abha Saxena from the WHO Research Ethics Review Committee, Dr Dafna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics Section at UNESCO, Prof. Elmar Doppelfeld, Past- President of the Steering Committee on Bioethics at the Council of Europe, Dr Otmar Kloiber, Secretary-General of the World Medical Association, Prof. Peter Suter, President of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and Chijioka Kaduru, President of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations.

Elections took place and four new EC members representing member organizations were elected: Prof. Stephen Evans (for the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology), Dr Hervé Le-Louet (for the International Society of Pharmacovigilance), Dr Ali Dhansay (for the South African Medical Research Council) and Prof. Dr. med. Hans-Christian Korting (for the Scientific Medical Societies in Germany). A new CIOMS President was elected in the person of Prof. Johannes J.M van Delden, Professor of Medical Ethics at the University of Utrecht and member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and a new Vice-President in the person of Prof. Ola Dale, Professor of Pharmacology/Anaesthesiology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and member of the National Committee for Medical Research Ethics in Norway.

The Secretary-General reported on the past and current activities of CIOMS. They included a status report on the review of the 2002 CIOMS International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects, a progress report on the new working group entitled "Practical Considerations for Development and Application of a Toolkit for Medicinal Product Risk Management" (WG IX), the finalization of the draft report of the CIOMS/WHO Working Group on Vaccine Pharmacovigilance which is to be published soon and the plan to establish a new working group entitled "Considerations for applying good meta-analysis practices to clinical data within the biopharmaceutical regulatory process". The goal of this planned working group is to develop a consensus on scientific and methodological criteria that represents good practice when applied to meta-analysis in view of the debates during the last few years regarding the controversial outcomes of meta-analysis which have contributed to different regulatory actions on the same product. The Secretary-General then presented CIOMS planned programme of activities for 2011-2013 which includes the pursuit of various working group activities and/or the finalization and printing of their reports and the establishment of a procedure and funding for the revision of the 2002 CIOMS International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects in the light of the latest revision of the WMA Declaration of Helsinki.

References

[1] Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. (www.cioms.ch/)