

Zürich, November 2023

Call for Papers – 13th 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 **13th ICMM Workshop on Military Medical Ethics** on the topic

Ethics of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in Military and Humanitarian Healthcare

20-22 June 2024 | Hotel Léman (Jongny s/ Vevey, CH)

Topic & Call for Papers

Technologies of so-called “Artificial Intelligence” and the use of “Big Data” both come with promises of a huge potential to influence our future. Their use will almost certainly have far-reaching consequences in many domains of our lives. This is obviously true for both military uses (e.g. autonomous weapons, selection of targets) as well as in the practice of medicine (e.g. diagnosis assistants, robotic surgery). In the domain of military and humanitarian healthcare, it remains to be seen whether the effects of AI and Big Data will be more like the opening Pandora’s box or whether they can fulfil the promise for a better healthcare in difficult circumstances. This is because besides the potential one also has to recognize the limits of AI and Big Data and wonder if the high expectations can eventually be met.

Since guidelines and legal frameworks for the use of AI and Big Data have yet to be developed and implemented, our workshop wants to offer its platform to discuss ethical issues related to these new technologies and analyze some of the ethical challenges related to their use. Our workshop shall provide an opportunity to shed light at and discuss the topic from a variety of perspectives. Presentations could cover topics within the following list but need not be restricted to it.

- Automated decision-making and responsibility (human in/out of the loop) both in military and in medical contexts (e.g. selection of targets or triage assistants)
- Ethical questions related to gaining data, using data, storing and keeping data, as well as data protection
- Biases in data
- Dangers of dual use/ misuse of technologies
- Effects of non-human decision-making on the applicability of IHL

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

→ **Deadline for submissions: January 15, 2024**

→ We will notify all applicants by February 15, 2024 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 2024.

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/2024-workshop>



Contact | Further information

Scientific organization

ZH Center for Military Medical Ethics

www.militarymedicaethics.ch

Dr. phil. Daniel Messelken

messelken@ethik.uzh.ch

ICMM Center of Reference for Education
on IHL and Ethics – www.melac.ch

LtCol David Winkler, MD, PhD

melac@bluewin.ch

Workshop registration & logistics

Swiss Armed Forces Medical Services Directorate

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

Pauline Dénervaud

mme-loac.astab@vtg.admin.ch