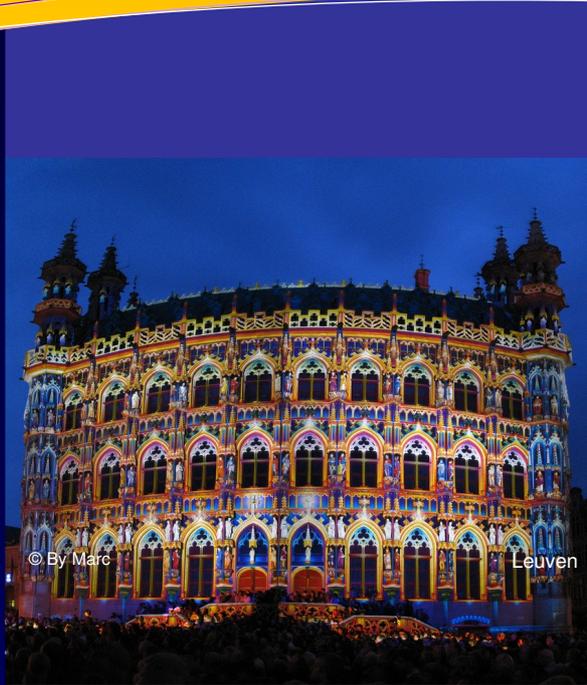


A Fond Farewell and Many Thanks

The EAHL is sad to inform members that the Secretary to the Board, Kathryn Hunter, will no longer be serving on the EAHL Board because she is leaving the AHRC/SCRIPT Centre in Edinburgh.

We are sure that members would like to extend their thanks to Kathryn for all her efforts in the EAHL over the past 2 years and we are very sure the Association would not be what it is now without her work.

Good luck Kathryn!



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EAHL 2009 - End of Year Round-up Reflections and Predictions

What a year 2009 has been! The EAHL has been working hard to increase memberships, to organise the 2009 conference - which was a great success! - and to work on ways in which we can help our members get the most out of the Association. We are delighted to say that the Association now has over 90 members across Europe and our membership cohort now includes members from 23 countries across Europe. The 2009 conference played a big part in aiding the Association membership and we would like to thank all those who attended or helped in any way to make the conference such a worthwhile event for everyone.

The three Working Groups have been steadily increasing their work and some very useful ideas came out of the meetings during EAHL 2009 to move these forward. These will be implemented in 2010. One of the main changes to the Association in 2010 will be a new, privately owned website. This will enable us to have much more interactive capabilities and allow our members to exchange information, documents and chat as part of a Working Group or Research Network of the Association.

It only remains to say that we wish everyone a very happy holiday season and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

EAHL Conference 2009

The European Association of Health Law (EAHL) held its second conference at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh on 15th and 16th October 2009. It was attended by over 110 delegates from 23 countries. The conference was generously sponsored by the British Academy and the AHRC. The event was preceded by a public debate on Assisted Dying (please see report below).

Thirty-eight (38) excellent papers were presented where were timely and well received; lively discussions followed each. Eighteen (18) outstanding posters were presented by Early Career Researchers and Postdoctoral Students. Delegates voted over the two days of the conference on the best entry. The winner of the Early Career Researcher competition was Jessica Wright (Sheffield University), and the winner in the Postdoctoral candidate category was Sarah DeFloor, (Leuven University). Congratulations to both!!!

Four (4) keynote speeches were given by distinguished colleagues across Europe which drew together the themes of the conference at the European and international levels and identified ways forward for health lawyers, and more particularly the EAHL. Prof. dr. Henriette D.C. Roscam Abbing (Emeritus Professor of Health Law, University of Utrecht, Vice-president of the EAHL) spoke on *Patients' rights in a technology and market driven Europe*; Dr Anne-Maree Farrell (School of Law, University of Manchester) on *Governing risk: examining the politics of EU regulation of human material*; Professor Mette Hartlev (Professor of Health Law and Bioethics, University of Copenhagen) on *Diversity and Harmonisation in European Health Law - Trends and Challenges*; Professor Toma Birmontiene (Professor of Law, Mykolas Romeris University, and Judge of the Constitutional Court of Lithuania) on *The Development of Health Law as a Way to Change Traditional Attitudes in National Legal Systems. Influence of International Human Rights Law, What is Left for the National Legislator?*

The Conference also provided an opportunity to discuss governance issues and a General Assembly was held on 15th October. A breakdown of the points from this meeting can be found on page 3. Lunch on the second day was organised around the Association's Working Groups: Research & Funding; Teaching & Training; and Institutions. Each Working Group identified key action points which were reported back to the afternoon's plenary session. Further information on these discussions can be found on pages 4 and 5.

The Conference Dinner was held at the Royal College of Surgeons and attendees were treated to a tour of the Royal College's Medical Museum, and traditional Scottish music, performed by The Cosmic Ceilidh Band.

PUBLIC EVENT REPORT

Should we legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide? Lessons from across Europe

The conference was launched with a free public event on the evening of 14 October. Experts from across Europe gave brief presentations on the issues around euthanasia and assisted suicide and the floor was then opened for debate. The panel, chaired by Professor Graeme Laurie, included Prof dr. Henriette Roscam-Abbing (The Netherlands) and Prof Mette Hartlev (Denmark), both keynote speakers at the conference; Prof Herman Nys (Belgium), a member of the EAHL Executive Committee; Dr Roberto Andorno (Switzerland), a presenter at the conference; and Prof Kenneth Boyd (Scotland), a professor of medical ethics at the University of Edinburgh.

The event prompted a lively discussion, and raised a number of interesting and important questions. The full event is available for download via an audio file from the EAHL website, at: www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrc/eahl/should-we-legalise-euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide-lessons-from-across-europe-public-event/

European Journal of Health Law

Since its appearance in 1994, the European Journal of Health Law (EJHL) focuses on the development of health law in Europe: national, comparative and international. The first issue of 2010 will include keynote speeches from the second Conference of the European Association of Health Law (EAHL).

As to 2010, the editors aim at strengthening the function of the Journal as a forum for discussion on topical health law issues. One of the undertakings will be a joint EJHL-EAHL satellite workshop during the forthcoming medical law World Congress (Zagreb, Croatia, 8-12 August 2010) on health law issues in relation to refugees and irregular immigrants in Europe.

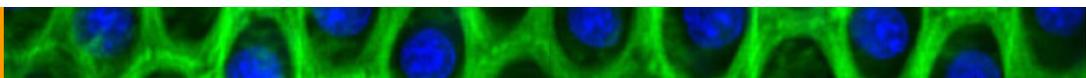
The informative function of the Journal on legal development at national level will also be strengthened. To this end, a network of national contact points will be established by professor Nys, who will join the team of editors in 2010.

The editors welcome any suggestions for improving the Journal.

Full and associate members of the Association benefit from an exclusive offer from the EJHL with a reduction of annual subscription rates from 120 EURO to 60 EURO (2009 rates).

Call for Conference Papers for the European Journal of Health Law

Papers of presentations made during EAHL 2009 can be addressed for consideration to Brenda Kaldenbach, e-mail: Kaldenbach@brill.nl.



General Assembly outcome

Call for National Contacts

The EAHL is looking for representatives to act as National contacts for the Association.

The Association currently has the following National contacts:

Sweden: Elisabeth Rynning
(Elisabeth.rynning@jur.uu.se)

Iceland: Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir
(oddnym@ru.is)

Germany: Nils Hoppe
(nils.hoppe@agmb.uni-hannover.de)

Turkey: Mehmet Ali Zengin
(mehmetalizengin@selcuk.edu.tr)

France: Anne-Marie Duguet
(duguet.am@chu-toulouse.fr)

Netherlands: Sjef Gevers
(j.k.gevers@amc.uva.nl)

Belgium: Herman Nys
(Herman.Nys@med.kuleuven.be)

Czech Republic: Lukáš Prudil
(info@prudil.cz)

Portugal: Guilherme D'Oliveria
(goliv@fd.uc.pt)

United Kingdom: Graeme Laurie
(Graeme.laurie@ed.ac.uk)

Greece: Maria Bottis
(botti@otenet.gr)

We need volunteers to be National Contacts for all the other European Countries. If you would like to volunteer to be a National Contact please email Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk

The 2nd General Assembly of the EAHL met at 16:00 on 15th October 2009. Here we summarise what was discussed and agreed at the meeting.

1. The Chair informed the General Assembly that Salla Lötjönen and Dominique Sprumont are retiring from the Executive Board. He thanked them for all their work. Three new members of the Executive Board were introduced to the General Assembly for approval. Lukáš Prudil (Czech Republic), Nils Hoppe (Germany) and Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir (Iceland), were approved as the new members of the Executive Board.

2. The General Assembly voted on the Budget Approval method, voting for the Budgets for 2009 and 2010 to be reported at the next GA in 2011. A Budget Committee was presented for approval, with Solvita Olsena (Latvia), Sjef Gevers (Netherlands) and Guilherme D'Oliveria (Portugal) being approved as the Budget Committee for the 2011 Budget report.

3. The Activity Report for 2009 was presented to the GA. Members were asked for suggestions for improvements or additions to the work of the EAHL and were informed if they had any suggestions to contact Simone Hull (Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk).

4. The Board informed the GA that one of the EAHL's prime directives was the establishment of three Working Groups, and that these were not progressing as we might have hoped. To help move these forward the lunch on day two of the conference would be dedicated for each of the Working Groups to meet and discuss ideas for improvement. Each Member responsible for the working group gave a brief summary of what the Working Group should be trying to achieve and where they thought improvements could be made. Further details on this can be found on pages 4 & 5.

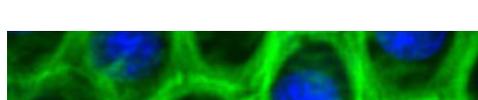
5. The Board announced that the next EAHL conference would be held in 2011 in Leuven, Belgium. It will be hosted by the University of Leuven on 6 and 7 October. The Board invited proposals for themes and informed members that if they wished to be involved in the organisation of the conference to contact Herman Nys (Herman.Nys@med.kuleuven.be) or Simone Hull (Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk). We encourage all readers to do the same.

6. AOCB

Members suggested that when people attend conferences of events related to the work of the EAHL, they should promote the Association. They asked for publicity materials to be made available for this purpose. The Board assured members that they would action this point.

A suggestion was made and well received for an EAHL Lecture series to be held across Europe. See further details on page 7.

Anne-Marie Duguet informed the Board that the Toulouse Summer School would be taking place again in Summer 2010, and invited suggestions from members for EAHL based workshops for the event. Members should contact (aduguet@club-internet.fr) with suggestions for this.



Working Groups Update

The Association's three Working Groups met on 16th October to discuss the future directions of the group. Below is the summary of the Working Group's discussions.

Institutions

European institutions have great impact on health law. Health law in Europe is also influenced by world based organisations (e.g. UNESCO, WHO, OECD). The "Europeanization" of health law is an ongoing process with health law systems increasingly becoming more closely connected. There is a growing need to have the voice of health lawyers heard at the European level. European institutions are therefore a focal point of attention for the Association.

The Institutions Working Group was setup to maintain a watching brief on European and international institutions whose work has a direct impact on health law and policy in Europe and where input from the Association might have a significant role to play.

Teaching and Training

The Working Group on Teaching and Training agreed that a very valuable and important step in progressing its work would be the establishment of a web portal to allow and to facilitate the exchange of ideas, materials and experiences with respect to teaching and training of health law around Europe. This will be particularly valuable for colleagues in Eastern Europe where access to materials or ideas for curricula for teaching health law is difficult. This recommendation was echoed by the other Working Groups and a decision was taken by the Board, and ratified by the General Assembly, to build such a web portal for EAHL.

Discussion in the Working Group also focussed on the challenges of teaching health law to diverse groups across very wide geographical areas. A proposal was put forward that distance learning might be one way in which these challenges could be addressed, and Graeme Laurie gave the example of the distance learning platform currently being used in the University of Edinburgh to deliver Continuing Professional Development courses and a Masters degree in Law and Medical Ethics. It was agreed that the Working Group should explore the possibility of developing a distance learning module on *European Health Law* with contributions from members around Europe. Anyone interested in being involved should contact Graeme Laurie on Graeme.Laurie@ed.ac.uk

Working Groups WebPages

RESEARCH & INTEREST GROUPS

www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrc/eahl/research/

INSTITUTIONS

www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrc/eahl/institutions/

TEACHING & TRAINING

www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrc/eahl/teachingandtraining/

Call for Research Network/ Interest Groups

If you have a suggestion or would like to co-ordinate a Interest Group, please contact Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk

Research and Networks

Members of the Research and Networks Working Group met to discuss ideas for moving the Group forward. There were many valuable suggestions from members and some of the key action points from the meeting are highlighted below.

1. A list of the Interest Groups and those responsible for coordinating them will be published online and in the newsletter
2. Small group meetings will be arranged for the World Congress of Medical Law in Zagreb
3. Each group should organise one workshop a year
4. Research conferences
5. All members should promote the association to the outside world
6. Successful Interest groups will report on their 'successes' in the next conference of the EAHL
7. A forum for the Working Group and the Interest Groups should be available online.

Interest Groups and co-ordinators

One of the main discussion points of the Working Group was to decide on the different Interest Groups that should be established. EAHL interest groups provide EAHL members with an opportunity for ongoing interaction with colleagues along thematic lines. The interest groups are designed to be for discussion, exchange of information and viewpoints, and joint (research) activities on health law issues. The established Interest Groups are:

1. Biobanking (Rafael Vale e Reis)
2. Health service systems (David Frenkel)
3. Reproductive issues (Vera Lucia Raposo)
4. Status of the unborn (Jozef Dorscheidt)
5. Research methodology (Roland Friele)
6. Public health care (Susana Aires de Sousa)
7. Use of the human body (Solvita Olsena & Austen Garwood-Gowers)
8. Funding (David Townend)
9. Gender identity (Alex Schuster)
10. Medical negligence (Anne-Marie Duguet)
11. Patient safety
12. Culture (Elisabeth Rynning)
13. Medicinal products (Natalia Loljko)
14. Individual patient rights (Tom Goffin)
15. Alternative Medicine (Yohanna Dangata)
16. Health law and human rights (Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir)

If you would like to establish a new Interest Group, please contact Simone Hull (Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk)

Membership

It was mentioned by several members at the Conference that the system for paying new membership fees or membership renewals could be improved. The secretariat is currently investigating an online payment system which would make renewing or becoming a member much simpler. We hope that this system will be available with the new website early next year.

In the meantime, membership renewals for 2010 are due. Membership will not be increased for the 2010 year. Please find details of the fee categories below.

Full member: €45

Associate member: €45

Institutional member (European health law centres): €90

Students: €20

EJHL Subscription: €60 (for Full and Associate members only)

To pay your membership renewal fee please contact Simone Hull (Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk) who will inform you of how to pay your fees. Please also inform her if you would like to renew/ sign up to the European Journal of Health Law.

If you are not a member of the EAHL already and would like to join, please visit the Membership page <http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrc/eahl/membership.aspx>, complete the form and return to Simone Hull who will process your application.

EAHL Logo Competition

A call for Logo submissions for the EAHL was put out in the last Newsletter. Following a large number of submissions for the logo competition at EAHL 2009, we have set up a page on the website, where you can see all the submissions and vote for your favourite. Voting will be open until 31st January 2010, when the votes will be counted and the winning entry will be officially adopted as the European Association of Health Law's logo. To vote for a logo please visit www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrc/eahl/eahl-logo-competition/

EAHL Governance

Please find below details of the members of the EAHL Executive Board and EAHL Advisory Board

EAHL Executive Board

President:

Prof Graeme Laurie

Vice-President:

Prof. dr. Henriette Roscam-Abbing

Secretary:

Mme Anne-Marie Duguet

Treasurer:

Prof Herman Nys

Member:

JUDr. Ing. Lukáš Prudil

Member:

Dr Nils Hoppe

Member:

Prof Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir

EAHL Advisory Board

Maria Bottis

Guilherme D'Oliveira

Ondrej Dostal

Anne-Marie Duguet

Sjef Gevers

Dieter Hart

Nils Hoppe

Bernard Koch

Graeme Laurie

Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir

Anastasia Nikitina

Herman Nys

Lukáš Prudil

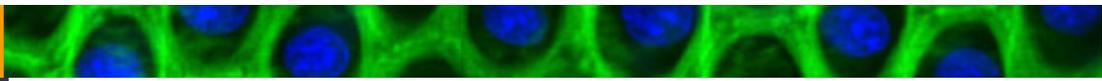
Henriette Roscam-Abbing

Elisabeth Rynning

Judith Sandor

Asim A. Sheikh

Maria Sokalska



Events announcements

If you are holding any events or activities that may be of interest to members of the EAHL and would like us to advertise them in our newsletter, or on the EAHL Website please send the information and contact details to Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk.

EVENTS

ESF-LiU Conference

Violations of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law: Investigation and Prevention of Torture and Death in Custody

Dates: 3-7 May 2010

Location: Scandic Linköping Väst, Sweden

Bernice Elger is organising next May an interdisciplinary conference with funding from the ESF on human rights issues in prison. Senior and young scientists in the fields of law, forensic sciences, criminology, sociology and medicine who submit abstracts to me will be selected and supported by the funding agency on either a full or partially based on the quality of the abstract. This will be judged by 3 professors from the disciplines of law, criminology and medicine.

The conference organisers are particularly keen to encourage speakers from East Europe and women speakers.

Please find more details on the website (how to submit abstracts and to apply for partial financial support):

<http://www.esf.org/conferences/10318>

<http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=6351>

Please contact Bernice Elger (Bernice.Elger@unige.ch) for further information or questions on this event.

18th World Health Congress on Health Law

Dates: 8-12 August 2010

Location: Zagreb, Croatia

Website: www.2010wcml.com

The EAHL & EJHL will be hosting a combined satellite workshop on health law related issues in relation to refugees and irregular immigrants in Europe. For current topics and speakers at the world Congress please see the EAHL website www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrc/eahl/events.aspx

EAHL Lecture series

The EAHL has decided that to help promote the Association an annual lecture series should be created, coming under the Association's auspices. Oddný Mjöll Arnardóttir will be the coordinator for this series, so if your institution is holding a seminar, lecture, workshop or other event, that is relevant to the EAHL and you would like to host it as part of the EAHL Lecture Series, please contact Oddný at oddny@ru.is. The Association will assist with branding and publicity for the event.

New Association Initiatives

Following discussions at the EAHL Conference, the Association has some new initiatives which will be introduced on a regular basis, to help keep members informed of Health Law progress across Europe.

European Research Funding Opportunities

The Association would like to keep members informed of potential funding opportunities for work in Health Law. As such we would like to ask all members to forward any relative calls for funding bids, collaborations etc in the field of Health Law to Simone Hull (Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk) for dissemination amongst EAHL members. As a start please see a call for potential collaborators below.

The EU Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is seeking proposals for collaborations on the theme of *Using Electronic Health Records (EHR) to Support and Enhance Medical Research*. The EAHL has been contacted by scientists interested in submitting a bid and seeking potential collaborators to examine the ethical and legal dimensions of the project. 12 million Euros are available.

For more information on the call see here:

http://www.imi.europa.eu/docs/imi-ju-2009-call-topics-14092009_en.pdf

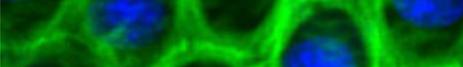
In sum:

The applicant consortium is expected to bring forward innovative approaches / strategies for the development of:

- i. A business model for electronic healthcare data for medical research purposes, to share and access EHR data, to more efficiently connect patients to research.
- ii. A framework and guidelines for emerging EHR initiatives across Europe that will enable the consistent replication of point (i) above and adoption of best practices as well as support and adoption of recognized global healthcare standards to enable interoperability
- iii. A set of measures that will demonstrate the success of pilot projects and enable their implementation across the European region
- iv. Pilot projects that demonstrate the scalability, security, integrity, and performance of the platform or solution within European regions
- v. Explore feasible opportunities enabled by this platform and describe how to realise the benefits.

Interested?

Any individual or group who might be interested in discussing potential collaboration on this initiative should send their expression of interest to Simone Hull at Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk by 11 January 2009.



News of Health Laws across Europe

As part of the Association's overarching purpose to bring together health lawyers from around the Council of Europe to discuss and collaborate on issues of importance in the development of health law and policies, we will be keeping members informed of new laws passed in Europe related to the field of health law. If you hear about a new health law passed in Europe which you think members would like to be informed of, please send the details to Simone Hull (Simone.Hull@ed.ac.uk).

Here are a few that have occurred in recent months.

Patient Rights in Poland

A new Act of 6 November 2008 on Patient's Rights and the Commissioner for Patient's Rights 2008 (the PR Act 2008), came into force in Poland on 21 May 2009. This new legislation on patient's rights reflects actual trends in medical law in Central-Eastern Europe, i.e. process of enactment of specific regulations addressed directly not to the medical profession but to patients. There is no doubt that the PR Act 2008 contributes to the expected ratification of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine of 1997, signed by the Republic of Poland on 7 May 1999.

10th Anniversary of the Biomedicine Convention

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Biomedicine Convention (it entered into force on 1st December 2009) a Conference was organised on 3 November 2009 in Strasbourg in cooperation with the Slovenian authorities in the framework of the Slovenian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. For further information please visit www.coe.int/bioethics.

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights entered into force

On 1 December 2009, the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force. The Treaty of Lisbon preserves existing rights while introducing new ones. In particular, it guarantees the freedoms and principles set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and gives its provisions a binding legal force. It concerns civil, political, economic and social rights.

Happy Holidays

Καλές γιορτές

חג שמח

Veselé svátky

God ferie

Prettige feestdagen

Joyeuses fêtes

Frohe Feiertage

Kellemes Ünnepeket

Gleðilega hátíð

Buone feste

Laimīgas Brīvdienas

Džiaugsmingų švenčių

Gledelig høytid

Wesołych świąt

Boas festas

С праздником

Felices fiestas

God Helg

Hyvää joulua

Mutlu Bayramlar

Vaganzi Kuntenti

Vrolijke Feestdagen

Contact us

All enquiries regarding the EAHL should, in the first instance, be addressed to the Executive Director.

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Web: www.law.ed.ac.uk/arhc/eahl



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