



The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and the Galien Foundation are joining to create an annual event in Jerusalem that will convene major stakeholders in the life sciences to assess the state of progress in medical research and promote the ethical practice of health care and medicine worldwide. The **Jerusalem Ethics Forum**, to be held October 31-November 1, 2019, will bring together specialists in medical ethics; representatives of the health professions; executives from the pharmaceutical, medical devices and other health care industries; academia; patient groups and other non-governmental organizations; global multilateral institutions; and representatives of the major moral and religious authorities.

The Forum represents a common sense approach to challenges to health equity in an era of transformative science. The practice of medicine is in turmoil, as the historic relationship between physician and patient confronts rising cost pressures amid a dizzying array of choices led by the promise of cures for diseases once considered untreatable. Technology is also accelerating at a pace so rapid that the consequences on everything from physician autonomy to patient privacy and the use of clinical trial data are largely unknown.

Indeed, many of the ethical questions facing modern medicine have not changed since the days of the ancient physician-philosopher Galen, for whom the Galien Foundation is named, and who is still recognized today for his principles for humanitarian conduct in the major scientific disciplines like anatomy, physiology and pharmacology. Misunderstanding or indifference in the face of these changes is not an option if we agree, as the World Health Organization (WHO) has said, that health is a human right that must be advanced as a vital development objective. The goal of the Medical Ethics Forum to help fulfill Pr. Elie Wiesel's vision - the late Nobel Peace Prize winner, author and rights advocate - to ask the right questions – and seek the right answers – to make the rules of engagement in health and medical research ethical, transparent, in the best interests of the patient – and humanity.

Participants at the Medical Ethics Forum will evaluate trends in the current state of ethics awareness and practice in the health professions, industry and in government, along with identifying new approaches to make ethical standards a part of best practice, both in the laboratory and in the clinic; and in conformity with a sustainable, development-driven approach to public health. Expert panels will consider, among other topics:

- Public and stakeholder opinion on ethics in health care.
- Impact of advances in medical science, including gene-based therapies and gene-editing; programmed medical devices and diagnostics; repurposed and combination drugs; and the transition from disease therapy to human enhancement.
- Adapting to big data and technology applications in health, including the use of artificial intelligence, machine/deep learning and neural networks in therapeutic decision-making.
- Health transparency and data privacy, as well as appropriate approaches to regulation.
- An ethics-based approach to quality and safety in medicine.
- Medical innovation in 2025: from pandemics to personalized medicine
- Clinical trial ethics and rules on compassionate drug use.
- Patient rights, access to health care and medicine and the equity aspects of a well-functioning health system.
- Future of physician autonomy and impact of health services consolidation.
- Establishing leading-edge ethics standards and practices in health care organizations.
- Evaluating the rule book on ethical health behaviors at the international level: where are the gaps?

Just this partial list attests to the extent of the ethical questions that demand a response from health professionals, industry and government, as we confront a new decade of demand for good health care, accessible to all.

Jerusalem, a world city of diverse peoples that is common ground for three monotheist religious faiths, is the ideal place to test new ideas to improve the human condition.