

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Medical Review Auschwitz

Medicine Behind the Barbed Wire

15–17 September 2025
6th edition • Kraków, Poland



Lessons from the past to guide the medicine of tomorrow

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Polish Institute for
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PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Medical Review Auschwitz: Medicine Behind the Barbed Wire is an annual international conference designed to educate the world's medical community about medical ethics and practice in the context of the Second World War. It deals with medical, psychological and social consequences of persecution by physicians and other medical personnel in the Nazi German concentration camps as well as heroic efforts to provide medical aid by imprisoned members of the medical profession. Historical accounts are also used to discuss ethical implications of Nazi medicine for contemporary medical practice.

Target audience

Clinical practitioners of various specialties; members of ethical committees at medical institutions; medical educators working in bioethics, medical ethics and history of medicine programs; residents and fellows in training interested in the legacy of the Holocaust for clinical practice, professional ethics, physician-patient relationship and bioethics.

The conference is open to allied medical professionals, including psychotherapists and psychologists, nurses, midwives and paramedics. The program is also directed to students of medicine and related disciplines as well as ethicists, bioethicists and historians of medicine.

Learning objectives

The aim of Medical Review Auschwitz: Medicine Behind the Barbed Wire is to educate the world's medical community about the medical ethics and practice in the context of the Second World War, placing special emphasis on the behavior of physicians and other medical professionals imprisoned in Nazi German concentration camps, prisons, ghettos and other places of detainment. The conference discusses malpractice and ethical violations of medical personnel to demonstrate their implications for contemporary medical practice and health care policies.

By attending this event participants will be able to:

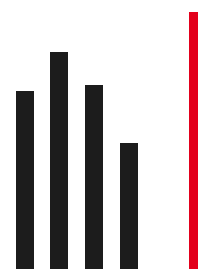
1. Critically reflect about the prominent role of health professionals in Nazi eugenics, mass murder of the disabled, criminal medical experimentation on human subjects and the genocide during the Second World War.
2. Identify the legacy of health professionals' involvement in the Holocaust for contemporary thinking about genetics, beginning and end-of-life care, medical and economic policies as well as public health programs.
3. Explore the cultural, social, economic and political factors that gave rise to the rise of thinking based in eugenics and racism that was sanctioned by health professionals and ultimately lead to genocide, and navigate similar factors in the modern world so that the basic codes of medical practice based in human rights are not overthrown in the future.
4. Contemplate the ongoing clinical and ethical implications for the profession of medicine, patient care and research involving human participants.

CME/CPD

Europe: An application has been made to the UEMS EACCME® for CME/CPD accreditation of this event.

American Medical Association: Through an agreement between the European Union of Medical Specialists and the American Medical Association, physicians may convert EACCME® credits to an equivalent number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Information on the process to convert EACCME® credit to AMA credit can be found at <https://edhub.ama-assn.org/pages/applications>.

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada: Live educational activities, occurring outside of Canada, recognized by the UEMS-EACCME® for ECMEC®s are deemed to be Accredited Group Learning Activities (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.



Program

Day 1

Monday · 15 Sep 2025

Preconference visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

A special guided tour including areas not available to the public, including Block 10 with introduction by Prof. Hans-Joachim Lang. Limited number of places available.

6:00 Departure from Kraków

9:00–12:30 Guided tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

14:30–16:00 "Negatives of memory. Labyrinths" — artwork exhibition by Marian Kołodziej, Auschwitz survivor

ca. 18:00 Return to Kraków

Day 2

Tuesday · 16 Sep 2025

Conference

8:00 Registration

9:00–9:30

OPENING

Welcome address
Piotr Gajewski (Poland)

Keynote speech
Leon Weintraub (Sweden)
Guest of Honor, survivor of Nazi
German concentration camps

9:30–11:30

SESSION I

Opening lecture: Physician leadership in Nazi euthanasia and sterilization campaigns: How did it go so wrong? What can we learn?
Mildred Solomon (USA)

Nazi medical crimes: Escalation of racist ideology, economic rationality, or crimes of opportunity?
Thorsten Wagner (USA)

Nazi medical crimes, professional interests, and economy: The origins of the Declaration of Helsinki
Volker Roelcke (Germany)

Research as a tool to protect vulnerable populations: Lessons learned from the Declaration of Helsinki
Karla Childers (USA)

Panel discussion

11:30 Refreshment break

11:50–13:30

SESSION II

Electroconvulsive therapy in Auschwitz: Medical innovation and human experimentation
Herwig Czech (Austria)

"...This would serve for the benefit of the whole family...". Brain research on the victims of child euthanasia in Lower Silesia
Kamila Uzarczyk (Poland)

Hygiene Institut der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz O/S – what do we know about the main laboratory in KL Auschwitz
Teresa Wontor-Cichy (Poland)

From Jan Sehn to the Institute of National Remembrance: criminal medicine in Auschwitz Concentration Camp in historical research and prosecution proceedings
Filip Gańczak (Poland)

Panel discussion

13:30 Refreshment break

14:00–16:00

SESSION III

On dealing with guilt: The difficult path of confronting the Nazi euthanasia crimes from 1945 to the present day
Michael von Cranach (Germany)

Confronting eugenics and scientific racism
Marius Turda (UK)

Suffering and the moral orientation of presence
Jay R. Malone (USA)

Legal and ethical dilemmas of Nazi eugenic propaganda online in an age of disinformation
Katarzyna du Vall (Poland)

Teaching professional ethics against the backdrop of Nazi medicine: Potentials, challenges, best practice
Thorsten Wagner (USA)

Panel discussion

Day 3

Wednesday · 17 Sep 2025

Workshops

The workshops are available in English only.

The workshops will be announced soon.

Register now at

www.medical-auschwitz.one



Fees

Day 1

15 Sep 2025

Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

€80

Day 2

16 Sep 2025

6th international conference Medical Review Auschwitz: Medicine Behind the Barbed Wire

€50

Student fee: €20

Day 3

17 Sep 2025

Workshops

€20

Participation fees include:

Day 1: Transfer from Kraków to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum and back, guided tour in English with a special entry to Block 10 (up to 3 h), visit to the exhibition "Negatives of memory. Labyrinths" by Marian Kołodziej, refreshments and lunch.

Day 2: Course materials (PDF), refreshments and lunch, certificate of attendance with CME credits.

Day 3: Refreshments and lunch, certificate of attendance with CME credits.

Contact

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