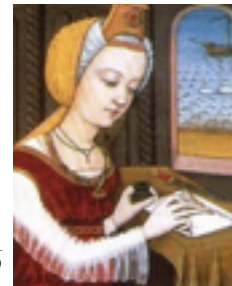




(Fédération Européenne des Associations de Médecins Catholiques)

OVERVIEW OF THE F.E.A.M.C. HISTORY

*Dr François Blin,
Secretary General FIAMC 1998-2006, President FEAMC 2008-2016*



Trotula

1) The first schools (or faculties) of Medicine

The "*Scola Medica Salernitana*", at Salerno (near Naples) was founded in the 9th century (according to tradition) by a Greek, an Italo-Roman, a Jew and a Saracen. Here converged the Greco-Latin and Arab influences. Thanks to its proximity to Monte Cassino, it had a hospital run by the Benedictines. It reached its peak in the 12th century, but was still very active in the 15th century. Some women studied and even taught there, the most famous of whom was Trotula who taught obstetrics-gynaecology (her name appears in the writings of the time).

Other schools were created in Bologna in 1180, Palencia in 1208 and Salamanca (Spain) in 1218, Montpellier in 1220, Padua in 1222 and Siena in 1240, Paris in 1271 and Coimbra (Portugal) in 1290. The teachers had to speak Latin, and depended on the pope. In France, they were compelled to celibacy until 1452 (except in Montpellier where teachers and students could marry from 1309 by dispensation from Pope Clement V).

In 1215, the Fourth Lateran Council prohibited priests from shedding blood, which led to the distinction between doctors and surgeons.

2) The Brotherhoods

In 1268, the *Brotherhood of St-Cosmas and St-Damian* was created by Jean Pitard (surgeon to the French kings St-Louis, Philippe III le Hardi, and Philippe IV le Bel). This established Surgery as a profession. The statutes of surgeons were the subject of edicts by Philippe le Hardi, then by Philippe le Bel, and a distinction was made between "long robe surgeons" who passed an examination in front of their peers, and "short robe surgeons" - or barbers - who could only treat "wounds and bumps".

Brotherhoods of doctors and/or surgeons were created in France, and Spain.¹ The Societies of St-Luke, St-Cosmas, and St-Damian existed in the XVI and XVII centuries in Spain, in Flanders (Douai, Bruges, Ghent), and in a few cities in France (Marseille, Bernay, Paris...).

There were many pilgrimage sites to St-Cosmas and St-Damian in Europe (Germany, England, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France [53], Italy [43], Netherlands, Poland, Czech Rep., Russia, Switzerland), and in the Middle East (Egypt, Syria, Holy Land, etc.).

On February 2, 1801, in Paris, Fr. Delpuits founded - after authorization from the archdiocese - a Congregation, which brought together - in addition to René-Théophile-Hyacinthe Laënnec - other less well-known names².

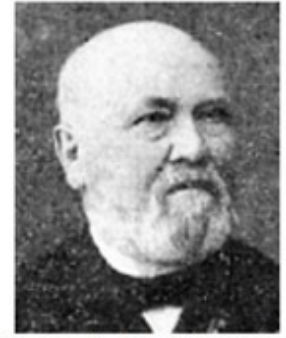
From 1841 to 1848, in Paris, Father Henri Lacordaire, OP, sought to bring together a "Brotherhood of St-Luke", which notably included Drs Tessier, Milcent, and Gourbeyre (from Clermont-Ferrand). But the Third Order quickly took over this embryonic medical group.

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1. A "Brotherhood of Doctors and Pharmacists of Saints Cosmas and Damian" was created in 1545 in Madrid in the Church of Nuestra Senora del Carmen. There were 6 members left in 1928, but its membership rose to 183 members in 1930 (Madrid, Valladolid, Granada, Malaga, Burgos, Bilbao, Valencia, Barcelona, Valencia, Santander, Palencia, Avila...). The authorization to carry out anatomical studies by dissection of human corpses was given in 1583 by the Popes and by the Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabelle to a medical-apothecarial brotherhood of St-Cosmas and St-Damien, established in Saragossa, as well as to the monks of the Monastery of Guadalupe.
 2. Drs Bayle, Régis Buisson [from Lyon], Louis Gondret, Joseph Perdreau, Ch. Frain de la Villegontier [from Rennes], Fizeau, Maisonneuve, Tilorier, and Savary des Brulons.

3) The first medical associations (1884-1914)

In 1875, the erection of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Montmartre in Paris was known as the National Vow ("*Voeu National*"³), having been entirely funded by donations from the faithful. Doctors from Paris and Le Mans⁴ were particularly generous in funding a chapel dedicated to St-Luke, the "Chapelle des médecins", near the altar of the Virgin.

Following the creation of this movement and the encyclical Pope Leo XIII *Humanum genus* (20th April 1884⁵), Jules Le Bèle, surgeon at the Hospital of Le Mans, founded⁶ the St-Luke, St-Cosmas, and St-Damian Medical Society" on the 26th September 1884 (Sts-Cosmas and Damian day). Ange-Ernest Ferrand (1835-1899) was its first president. Catholic medical students were invited to join. Its development was rapid: 500 members in 1891, more than 1,000 in 1910, including up to 70 doctors from other European countries (Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Switzerland) or America (Brazil, Canada, USA).



Dr. Jules Le Bèle (1820-1903)
Founder of Société St-Luc 1884

Other Societies of Catholic doctors were created: in Barcelona, late 1884, Milan (Società Medica S. Antonio-Maria Zaccaria) in 1896, Liège, Antwerp, and Louvain in 1898, Messina, Rome (*Società medica italiana di San Luca evangelista*), Florence, the Netherlands, and Denmark in 1904, Brussels in 1906 and in London⁷ (Guild of St-Luke, St-Cosmas and St-Damian) in 1910.

From the 7th to the 12th April 1904, an **International Pilgrimage of Catholic Doctors to Rome** on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception brought together more than 200 doctors from Belgium, Spain, France, Holland, Italy, Lorraine, Luxembourg, and Canada. They were even more numerous at the audience of Pope Pius X. An International Federation of Catholic Doctors was created, the "*Società Medica Cattolica sotto la protezione di San Luca*", and the 8-point statutes proposed by Edouard Le Bec [Fr] were adopted unanimously⁸. But this federation quickly disappeared.

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3. A la suite de la défaite française de 1870 : « En présence des malheurs qui désolent la France, et des malheurs plus grands peut-être qui la menacent encore; En présence des attentats sacrilèges commis à Rome contre les droits de l'Église et du Saint Siège, et contre la personne sacrée du Vicaire de Jésus-Christ; Nous nous humilions devant Dieu, et, réunissant dans notre amour l'Eglise et notre Patrie, nous reconnaissons que nous avons été coupables et justement châtiés; Et pour faire amende honorable de nos péchés et obtenir de l'infinie miséricorde du Sacré Coeur de Notre-Seigneur Jésus-Christ le pardon de nos fautes, ainsi que les secours extraordinaires, ainsi que les secours extraordinaires qui peuvent seuls délivrer le Souverain Pontife de sa captivité et faire cesser les malheurs de la France, nous promettons de contribuer à l'érection, à Paris, d'un sanctuaire dédié au Sacré Coeur de Jésus. » (approuvé par Pie IX le 26 fév 1871)
 4. 595 doctors, 124 medical students, 82 pharmacists, 105 families of doctors, and 421 anonymous donated 51,800 F.
 5. "... For the salvation of the people, we ardently wish to see re-established, under the auspices and the patronage of the Bishops, these ancient corporations appropriate to the present time"
 6. The meeting of the founding members takes place at his home: Drs Ferrand (Paris, 1st President), Wintrebert (Lille), Regnault (Rennes), Raymond Petit (Rennes), Renier (Angers), Fournier (Solesmes), Lelièvre (Séze), Coutenot (Besançon), Seux (Marseille), Audibert (Marseille), Delore (Lyon), Tournet-Desplantes (Le Mans), H. Dauchez (Paris), in the presence of Dom Couturier (Abbot of Solesmes)
 7. Where a St-Luke Corporation (Anglican) had existed since 1864
 8. **Art. 1:** Catholic physicians intend to establish a fraternal union among themselves and to revive the ancient Christian traditions to promote in all countries the foundation of a Society under the patronage of the Holy Physicians, Luke, Cosmas, and Damian.
Art. 2: This Company proposes:
 - The application of Christian virtues in the practice of medicine.
 - The study of all medical questions relating to faith, morals and ethics, in full submission to the ecclesiastical authority.
 - The encouragement and dissemination of all teachings of a spiritualist and Christian character.**Art. 3:** The Company refrains from any question of a political nature.
Art. 4: The Company adopts as its patronal feast day that of St-Luke.
Art. 5: The Societies established in all countries are autonomous and independent. To promote the dissemination of scientific reports, colleagues may correspond through their respective presidents.
Art. 6: The organization of International meetings whose presidency will be entrusted alternately to Presidents of National Societies.
Art. 7: General meetings will be convened as much as possible in Rome, the centre of Christianity.
Art. 8: Colleagues in Rome are invited to take care of the correspondence with all the Societies, to provide them with all the information and explanations that may be of interest to them.

4) After World War I

Other associations were created in Europe: Portugal in 1915 (the "*Associação dos Médicos Católicos Portugueses*" [AMCP] in Coïmbra), Belgium in 1922 (the "*Société Médicale Belge de Saint-Luc*" in Brussels on the 23rd February 1922), Hungary in 1931, Ireland in 1932, Austria in 1933 plus Switzerland and on other continents.

The French Society had more than 3,000 members in 1939.

- **10th April 1924, Octave Pasteau** (President of the Medical Society of Sts-Luke, Cosme, and Damian from 1922 to 1939), wrote a letter to Pope Pius XI, proposing "to establish a central secretariat to coordinate the action of different national societies". In response to Cardinal Gasparri⁹, he created an "International Secretariat of National Associations of Catholic Doctors", which corresponded regularly with the existing groups in Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland), or in the process of being created (Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Poland, Czechoslovakia), and outside Europe.
- **30th May 1935, Brussels: 1st International Congress** on "*The role of doctors and associations of Catholic doctors in the Christian reconstruction of the Society*"
 - A special session was devoted to Missionary Medical Assistance
 - There were 200 participants from 9 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland), and from America (USA, Chile, Colombia). Others had sent their agreement (Germany, Ireland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, USA, Chile, Colombia).
- **29th May 1936, Vienna: IInd International Congress** on "*Eugenics and sterilization*" - 300 participants from 12 European countries (Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland). Racist theories were rejected at this meeting, in 1938 after the Anschluss, because of its position, the Austrian St. Luke Society was dissolved. Officers/ members of the Society were arrested and imprisoned or sent to concentration camps.
- A 3rd International Congress, planned for Easter 1937 in Rome on the initiative of Pope Pius XI, was canceled because of his state of health.
- In October 1939, the Catholic Medical Guardian (journal of the English association) published a well-researched article entitled "The German Concentration Camp"¹⁰.



Dr. Octave Pasteau, Founder of the International Secretariat of the National Associations of Catholic Doctors 1924

5) After World War II

- Activities resumed from 1944: reappearance of the Bulletin in France, creation of the AMCI (*Associazione Medici Cattolici Italiani*) in Rome by Luigi Gedda, Agostino Maltarello, and Drs Villani, Dordoni, Santori, Lodoli, Biava, Stabulum.
- The Congress of **Pax Romana**, an international student association founded in 1921 in Fribourg (Switzerland), was held in Rome on 12th April 1947 and it was decided to split into 2 branches:
 - the *Mouvement International des Etudiants Catholiques* (MIEC - International Movement of Catholic Students),
 - and the *Mouvement International des Intellectuels Catholiques* (MIIC - International Movement of

⁹. Response from Cardinal P. Gasparri, Secretary of State, April 30, 1924: "... I have the pleasure of informing you that the letter, of April 10 addressed by you to, has reached the Holy Father its high destination. The Sovereign Pontiff was particularly glad to know of the progress due to the endeavours of the Medical Society of Saints Luke, Cosmas and Damian. He sincerely wishes that this fellowship or society vs apostolate proposals come to fruition. To this end, the Holy Father supports your proposal to establish a Central Secretariat to coordinate the action of the various National Societies and hopes in the near future the realization of this plan. His Holiness is happy to send you and all the members of this meritorious Society, a special Apostolic Blessing. I affirm my religious devotion to Our Lord."

¹⁰. I.M. Truth, M.D., "The German concentration Camp", Catholic Medical Guardian, vol. 171 n° 12, oct 1939

Catholic Intellectuals), which already included secretariats of engineers, lawyers, pharmacists, teachers, writers, artists, economists, and scientists. A *Secrétariat Médical International* was created there, and its presidency entrusted to the AMCI, chaired by Luigi Gedda, who remained "*de facto*" President of this "International Medical Secretariat", until 1966 with Raymond Verly (from Brussels) the very effective Secretary from 1951.



Prof. Luigi Gedda, President of the International Medical Secretariat of Pax Romana 1947-1966

The International Congresses of Catholic Doctors resumed in Europe:

- **17th-23rd June 1947, Lisbon: IIIrd International Congress** on "*Individual Medicine and Collective Medicine*". More than 400 doctors from 16 countries: from Europe (Belgium 22, Denmark 2, Spain 73, France 5, Great Britain 8, Ireland 1, Italy 9, Netherlands 9, Portugal [214 delegates +14 students + 38 wives + exhibitors], Romania 1, Sweden 1, Switzerland 2, Czechoslovakia 3), and other continents.
- **24th September - 1st October 1949, Rome: IVth International Congress** on "*Respect for the human being in medicine*". During a papal audience at Castel Gandolfo, Pope Pius XII made a speech¹¹ in front of 400 participants from 30 countries.
- **6-9th July 1951, Paris: Vth International Congress** on "*The formation of moral conscience in children*". The Congress was opened by the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Angelo-Giuseppe Roncalli (future John XXIII). A "John XXI" Medical Ethics Prize was instituted by the Association of Portuguese Catholic Doctors. During the mass at Notre-Dame presided over by Cardinal Feltin, Father Riquet gave a homily in front of more than 400 participants from Europe (Germany, Austria, Belgium 15, Spain, France, Great Britain and Ireland 12, Italy 30, Luxembourg, Netherlands 10, Switzerland), and other continents. It was decided to found "a true International Federation of Catholic Doctors which would adhere to Pax Romana, but which would be legally entitled to be part of the NGOs adhering to the UN and the WHO..."
- **30th June - 4th July 1954, Dublin: VIth International Congress** on "*Demography and its medical impact*". Monsignor Montini transmitted by telegram the blessing of Pope Pius XII to the 336 participants from 11 European countries (Germany 4, Austria 6, Belgium 10, Spain 2, France 13, Great Britain 21, Ireland 254, Italy 13, Malta 1, Netherlands 12, Portugal 3), and 21 other countries.
- **9-15th September 1956, The Hague - Scheveningen: VIIth International Congress** on "*The doctor and the law*". Pope Pius XII sent a Radio message in French¹². There were nearly 600 participants from 21 European countries (Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland...), and other continents
- **27th July - 2nd August 1958, Brussels: First Catholic World Health Conference, and VIIIth International Congress of Catholic Physicians**, on "*Christianity and Health*". Pope Pius XII (2 months before his death) sent a televised message¹³ to the 3,000 participants from more than 40 countries, belonging to 7 different medical and paramedical disciplines.
- **25th-31st July 1960, Munich: IXth International Congress**, on "*The doctor in the world of technology*". Pope John XXIII sent a message of sympathy to the 400 participants from 14 European countries (Germany 160, Italy 121, Austria 30, Belgium 17, Holland 10, England 6, France 7, Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Luxembourg, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland), and 11 other countries.
- **9-13th July 1962, London: Xth International Congress** on "*The Catholic doctor in changing societies*". Pope John XXIII addressed a message of sympathy to the 700 participants from 34 countries on all continents. The acronym "FIAMC" (*Fédération Internationale des Associations Médicales Catholiques*) was adopted. The decision was made to hold an International Congress every 4 years. A "Europe" Working Group was created - President: Jean Lereboullet [Fr] - Secretary General: J. de Vreeze [NL] - Members: DC Jennings [Ie] - Josep Mercadal-Peyri [Es] - John-Vincent O'

11. https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/fr/speeches/1949/documents/hf_p-xii_spe_19490929_votre-presence.html

12. https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/fr/speeches/1956/documents/hf_p-xii_spe_19560911_medici-cattolici.html

13. https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/fr/speeches/1958/documents/hf_p-xii_spe_19580727_conf-sanita.html

Sullivan [GB] - Palmieri [It] - V. Vassalo [Mt]. The next Congress will be held in Malta in 1964 and will be a European Congress.

6) 6-10th September 1964, Valletta (Malta): 1st European Congress

The "Medical Association of Malta" [MAM] had been founded in 1956. The Congress took place 10 days before independence on the theme "*The Catholic doctor and the family*". Pope Paul VI addressed a message to the 400 to 500 participants from 15 European countries (Germany [FRG], Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Great Britain, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland), but also from Australia and the United States. The subjects discussed were: *Prenuptial advice and preparation for marriage - Birth control in the family and Christian context - The doctor and the problem of marital disagreement - The doctor, member of the Church*. Except on the 1st day, the majority of the reports and interventions were about birth control. At the initiative of Rev. Michel Riquet [Fr], sj, conclusions¹⁴ were adopted. The "Europe" working group was confirmed.

The following meetings of the "Europe" working group took place:

- the 18th October 1965 in Nancy;
- the 26th February 1967 in Brussels (Election of a Provisional Founding Committee: President, Jean Lereboullet [Fr] - Secretary General, J. de Vreeze [NL], who resigned in February 1969 - Treasurer, Otto Jungo [CH] - Vice-presidents: Charles de Gheldere [Be], Josep Mercadal-Peyri [Es], John-Vincent O'Sullivan [GB] - Members: Cordeiro [Pt], Josef Köhne [De], Kerger [Lu], V. Vassalo [Mt] - Ecclesiastical Advisor: Rev. Michel Riquet, sj [Fr]);
- in 1968 in Nyborg (Denmark);
- in August 1968 in Paris;
- the 15th February 1969 in Zurich;
- the 14th June 1969 in Paris (a letter on *Humanae Vitae* is sent to the European bishops gathered in Chur [Switzerland]);
- the 15 and 16th November 1969 in Brussels (on "*The preservation of life*");

14. Conclusions of the Malta Congress (9th September 1964)

I. Catholic doctors from 20 nations, meeting in the European Congress in Malta on September 7, 8, 9 and 10, 1964, after having heard numerous and remarkable reports on the problem of birth control, consider it their duty to recall to their colleagues, Christians or not, the urgency of acquiring a personal, serious and scientific knowledge of these questions, in order to be able to advise couples struggling with these difficulties effectively.

They believe that they have to warn their colleagues as well as the ecclesiastical world and the public against the illusion that any pill could be enough tomorrow to solve a problem which requires above all, on the part of the spouses, a complete and generous vision of all the dimension and conditions of a fully human conjugal life, at the same time as a mastery of instinctive impulses, gradually achieved with the help of a grace that is never lacking in men of good will.

Without disregarding the usefulness and legitimacy of the therapeutic use of progestogens, appropriate to certain cases, they believe they should draw attention to the possible disadvantages of their systematic and prolonged use for exclusively contraceptive purposes, whatever the moral questions re this practice which the Church needs to address. His Holiness intends to do this shortly.

II. In conclusion of the reports and debates of the 1st European Congress of the FIAMC, Catholic doctors are fully aware of their responsibility, both with regard to the preparation of spouses for marriage and the help they can give them in the difficulties they encounter during their married life. This is why they consider as an essential mission of the FIAMC and particularly, of its European office, to organize as soon as possible an effective collaboration of all Catholic doctors which would have, as main objectives:

- 1) The joint study and communication of all information and documents on the problems of psychology and sexuality, conjugal life and preparation for marriage;
- 2) The organization of seminars aimed at deepening knowledge of these problems and developing practical solutions likely to help couples reconcile the demands of moral life with their psychological, physiological, economic and social possibilities.
- 3) Dissemination and teaching of data essential to human sexuality and clear Christian views re-assumed chastity.
- 4) Aid and encouragement to all the initiatives of our national associations with a view to increasing marriage preparation sessions, conjugal consultations, training of teams of educators, etc...
- 5) To provide the Catholic hierarchy and Catholic organizations, in particular the Family Commission of the ICOs, with all information and suggestions likely to facilitate their pastoral tasks in this area.

- the 13th October 1970 in Washington (during the XIIth International Congress on "The Catholic doctor and the preservation of life"), where the European Committee officially took the name of "*Fédération Européenne des Associations Médicales Catholiques - FEAMC*" (European Federation of the Catholic Medical Associations);
- the 17th January 1971 in Paris (1st statutory meeting of the FEAMC. Were elected: President, Jean Lereboullet [Fr] - Secretary General, Guy Scheifer [Lu] - Treasurer, Otto Jungo [CH] - Vice-presidents: Charles de Gheldere [Be], Josef Köhne [De], JJ Martin [GB], and Josep-M Massons [Es] - Ecclesiastical assistant: RP Pierre Frison, sj);
- the 17th October 1971 in Brussels (on "*Abortion*");
- and the 8 and 9th January 1972 in Luxembourg..



Pr Jean Lereboullet
President 1964-80

7) The beginnings of FEAMC - European Congresses from 1972 to 1988

- **23-28th May 1972, Nuremberg: 2nd European Congress**, on "*Sex education, development, and the personal integration of sexual life*". There were 120 participants from 10 countries. Were elected: President, Jean Lereboullet (re-elected) - Secretary General, Kerger [Lu], replaced in 1974 by Françoise Gontard [Fr] - Treasurer, Otto Jungo [CH], re-elected - Ecclesiastical Assistant, RP Pierre Frison, sj [Fr].

Board meetings took place:

- the 19th November 1972 in Brussels;
- the 8th April 1973 in Barcelona;
- the 27th May 1973 in Paris;
- the 30th September 1973 in London;
- the 13th January 1974 in Paris;
- the 29th May 1974 in Barcelona (during the XIIIth FIAMC Congress on "*The Freedom of the Children of God*"), the President, the Secretary General, and the Treasurer were re-elected. Were elected vice-presidents: Jan Kluyskens [Be], Josef Köhne [De], JJ Martin [GB], and Josep-M Massons [Es]);
- the 12th January 1975 in Zurich;
- the 31st May 1975 in Augsburg (Germany [FRG]);
- and the 15th February 1976 in Paris (we learn of the death of Drs Mercadal-Peyri [Es], and O'Sullivan [GB]).
- **23-26th May 1976, London: 3rd European Congress**, on "*The Catholic doctor faced with the law*". There were about 300 participants from 8 European countries (Germany [FRG], Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Poland, Switzerland), and from 3 other countries. The office was re-elected.

Board meetings took place:

- the 14th November 1976 in Cologne;
- the 26th June 1977 in Brussels (where the new president of the AMCI, Pietro de Franciscis, wished to join the FEAMC);
- the 27th November 1977 in Paris;
- the 30th April 1978, London (Bureau and GA of the FEAMC. President, SG, treasurer, and ecclesiastical assistant were reappointed - Were elected vice-presidents: Charles de Gheldere [Be], Josef Köhne [De], JJ Martin [GB], and Pietro de Franciscis [It] - FIAMC Delegates: Jean Lereboullet, and Charles de Gheldere);
- the 5th November 1978 in Rome;
- the 8th March 1979 in Paris;
- and the 14th October 1979 in Zurich.
- **14-17th May 1980, Brussels: IV European Congress**, on "*The Catholic Doctor today*". There were more than 300 participants from 11 European countries (Germany 63, Austria 1, Belgium 51, Denmark 3, Spain 1, France



Dr Jan Kluyskens
President 1980-88

21, Great Britain 5, Italy 33, Luxembourg 4, Portugal 11, Switzerland 6), and other continents. Elected: President, Jan Kluyskens [Be] - SG, Paul Deschepper [Be] - Treasurer, Otto Jungo [CH] - Vice-presidents, Josef Köhne [De], JJ Martin [GB], Pietro de Francis [It], and Françoise Gontard [Fr].

Board meetings took place:

- the 25th October 1980 in Ghent;
- the 25th April 1981 in London;
- the 17th October 1981 in Luxembourg (JJ Martin, vice-president, deceased, was replaced by Paddy Linehan),
- the 24th April 1982 in Bonn (Jan Kluyskens and Jean Lereboullet were elected FIAMC delegates);
- the 4th October 1982 in Rome (on the occasion of the XVth FIAMC Congress on "*The Doctor at the service of life*");
- the 5th March 1983 in Paris;
- and the 15th October 1983 in Ghent.

- **22-25th May 1984, Lisbon and Fatima: V European Congress** on "*Medicine in the face of new powers*". Participation of 271 doctors from 13 countries (Germany 36, Austria 1, Belgium 17, Denmark 2, Spain 4, France 22, Great Britain 2, Italy 25, Luxembourg 2, Netherlands 2, Portugal 144, Switzerland 12, USA 2). Were re-elected: President, Jan Kluyskens [Be] - SG, Paul Deschepper [Be] - Treasurer: Otto Jungo [CH] - Ecclesiastical advisor: RP Pierre Frison [Fr] - New FIAMC delegates: Pietro de Francis [It], and Walter Osswald [Pt].

Board meetings took place:

- the 17th November 1984 in Barcelona (were elected vice-presidents: Josef Köhne [De], Pietro de Francis [It], and Françoise Gontard [Fr]);
- the 20th April 1985 in Oxford;
- the 16th November 1985 in Vienna;
- the 8th March 1986 in Zurich;
- the 1st November 1986 in Arnhem;
- the 4th April 1987 in Paris;
- and the 7th November 1987 in Cologne.

- **8-11th May 1988, Versailles: VI European Congress** on "*Medicine and Freedom*". Bishop Angelo Felici (Apostolic Nuncio), and Bishop Fiorenzo Angelini (President of the Pontifical Council) represented the Holy See. Around 350 participants from 12 European countries. Were elected: President, André Nenna [Fr] (deceased in November 1991, and briefly replaced by Josef Köhne [De]) - SG, Françoise Gontard [Fr] - Treasurer, Otto Jungo [CH] - Vice-presidents: Josef Köhne [De], Jacinto Amaral [Pt], Paul Deschepper [Be], Domenico di Virgilio [It] - Ecclesiastical Advisor, RP Pierre Frison, sj [Fr].

Board meetings took place:

- the 19th November 1988 in Rome;
- the 8th April 1989 in London;
- the 18th November 1989 in Luxembourg;
- the 21st April 1990 in Porto;
- the 16th September 1990 in Bonn (on the occasion of the XVIIth FIAMC Congress on "*Biological nature and dignity of the human person*");
- the 13th April 1991 in Rome;
- and the 12th October 1991 in Vienna.

8) After the fall of the Berlin Wall (9th November 1989)

- **25-28th March 1992, Venice: VII European Congress** on "*Medicine at the dawn of the 3rd millennium*". For the first time, it brought together some twenty European countries, including 9 from Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine).



Pr André Nenna
President 1988-91



Dr Josef Köhne
President 1991-92

Were elected: President, Josef Bättig [CH] - SG, Ermanno Pavesi [CH] - Treasurer, Otto Jungo [CH] - Vice-presidents: Jacinto Amaral [Pt], Paul Deschepper [Be], Domenico di Virgilio [It], Josef Köhne [De], Kenneth P. Roche [GB] - Rev. Valentin Pozaic [Hr], sj, new ecclesiastical assistant, replaces Fr. Frison.

Board meetings took place:

- the 24th October 1992 in Fribourg (Switzerland);
- the 1st May 1993 in Bratislava (1st Board meeting in Eastern Europe);
- the 23rd October 1993 in Lourdes, during the the Congress on "*Healings and miracles*" organized by the *Centre Catholique des Médecins Français* (CCMF) and the *Association Médicale Internationale de Lourdes* (AMIL);
- the 23rd April 1994 in Heeswijk (Netherlands);
- the 9th September 1994 in Porto (on the occasion of the XVIII FIAMC Congress on "*The doctor and the new evangelization*". President Josef Bättig resigned for health reasons, and was replaced by Paul Deschepper [Be]);
- the 6th May 1995 in Prague;
- and the 21st October 1995 in Bruges.

- **5-9th June 1996, Prague: VIII European Congress** (the first in Eastern Europe) on "*Today's medicine and our image of man*" - There were approximately 500 participants from 27 countries, including 11 from Eastern Europe (Czech Rep. [>200 participants], Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine...). Were elected: President, Paul Deschepper [Be] - SG, Hans Stevens [NL] - Treasurer, Otto Jungo [CH] - Vice-presidents: Kenneth P. Roche [GB], Josef Marek [Cz], Vincenzo Saraceni [It], Niklaus Zwicky [CH] - FIAMC Delegates: Françoise Gontard [Fr], and Ivan Host [Hr].

Board meetings took place:

- the 12th October 1996 in Bonn;
- the 19th April 1997 in Zagreb;
- the 7th November 1997 in Rome (on the occasion of the International Conference of the Pontifical Council);
- the 28th March 1998 in Chantilly (France);
- the 10th October 1998 in Kismaros (Hungary);
- the 20th March 1999 in Barcelona;
- the 20th November 1999 in Rome (on the occasion of the International Conference of the Pontifical Council);
- and the 12th February 2000 in Rome (on the occasion of the 8th World Day of the Sick).

- **4-7th July 2000, Rome: IX European Congress** (with the AMCI congress, and an extraordinary congress of FIAMC on the occasion of the jubilee year) on "*Medicine and Human Rights*". There were about 1,200 participants, to whom Pope John Paul II granted an audience¹⁵, where he gave the "Prayer of the Catholic Physician" (Cf. below). Were elected: President, Josef Marek [Cz] - SG, Alfredo Anzani [It] - Treasurer, Christian Brégeon [Fr] - Vice-presidents: Hans Stevens [NL], Alexandre Laureano-Santos [Pt], Bogdan Streza [Ro] - FIAMC delegates: Paul Deschepper [Be], and José-Maria Simon-Castellvi [Es].

Board meetings took place:

- the 11th Nov 2000 in Bratislava;
- the 28th April 2001 in Manchester;
- the 10th November 2001 in Cologne;
- the 13 April 2002 in Warsaw;
- the 26 October 2002 in Rome (during the "2nd International Workshop of Catholic Obstetricians and Gynecologists", organized by FIAMC and Matercare International);



Dr Josef Bättig
President 1992-94



Dr Paul Deschepper
President 1994-2000

¹⁵. https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2000/jul-sep/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20000707_catholic-doctors.html

- the 31st May 2003 in Vilnius (Lithuania);
 - the 25th October 2003 in Matran (Switzerland);
 - and the 19th March 2004 in Rome (during the Congress on "*Life sustaining treatment and Vegetative state: Scientific advances and ethical dilemmas*", organized by the FIAMC and the Pontifical Academy for Life).
 - **1-4th July 2004 in Bratislava: X European Congress** on "*The new challenges for medicine and health care in Europe*". There were more than 300 participants from 20 countries. Were elected: President: Josef Marek [Cz], re-elected - SG: Alessandro de Franciscis [It], who resigned in 2005, and was replaced by Vincenzo Defilippis [It] - Treasurer: Christian Brégeon [Fr], re-elected - Vice-presidents : Hans Stevens [NL], Alexandre Laureano-Santos [Pt], Alfredo Anzani [It], Paul Deschepper [Be], José-Maria Simon-Castellvi [Es], Bogdan Streza [Ro], and Jozef Glasa [Sk] - FIAMC Delegate: Rudolf Giertler [De] - WHO/UN Delegate: Otto Jungo [CH] - Ecclesiastical Assistant: Mgr Valentin Pozařic [Hr].
- Board meetings took place:
- the 20th November 2004 in Barcelona;
 - the 30th April 2005 in Bucharest;
 - the 29th October 2005 in Seveso (near Milan);
 - the 13th May 2006 in Barcelona (during the XXIIth FIAMC Congress on "*Catholic Doctors, Globalization, and Poverty*");
 - the 15th September 2006 in Rome (during the Congress organized by FIAMC and the Pontifical Academy for Life on "*Stem Cells: What future for therapy? Scientific aspects and Bioethical Problems*");
 - the 5th May 2007 in Huissen (Netherlands);
 - the 3rd November 2007 in Lisbon;
 - and the 31st May 2008 in Prague.



Pr Josef Marek
President 2000-08

9. Last Congresses

- **11-14th September 2008 in Gdansk (Poland): XI European Congress** on "*Natural law and civil law in contemporary European medicine*" - Attended by Cardinals Glemp and Lozano-Barragan (representing the Holy See). There were nearly 300 participants from 18 countries (Germany 6, Belgium 4, Belarus 1, Croatia 2, Scandinavia 3, Spain 2, France 25, Great Britain 2, Italy 6, Lithuania 2, Netherlands 2, Poland 200, Portugal 4, Czech Republic 1, Romania 2, Slovakia 2, Switzerland 4, Ukraine 15). Were elected: President, François Blin [Fr] - SG, Hans Stevens [NL] - Treasurer, Alexandre Laureano-Santos [Pt] - FIAMC delegates: Rudolf Giertler [De] and Jasenka Markeljevic [Hr].

Board meetings took place:

- from the 17th to the 19th April 2009 in Strasbourg (Visit of the Council of Europe, meetings with Carlos de Sola [responsible for the Bioethics division of the Council of Europe], Mgr Christian Kratz [Auxiliary Bishop of Strasbourg, representing the Conference bishops at COMECE], and Msgr. Aldo Giordano [Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the Council of Europe, and former Secretary General of the CCEE]. Alfredo Anzani [It] was elected vice-president),
- the 17th October 2009 in Lviv (Ukraine);
- the 7th May 2010 in Lourdes (during the XXIII FIAMC Congress on "*Our faith as doctors*");
- the 23rd October 2010 in Bratislava;
- the 21st May 2011 in Berlin;
- from the 20th to 23rd October 2011 in Brussels (Symposium in a room of the European Parliament on "*Meaning or nonsense of human fragility in the Contemporary European Society*", attended by 350 people, framed by two meetings within the COMECE, and followed by a meeting with the Apostolic



Dr François Blin
President 2008-16

Nuncio Mgr Dupuis;

- and the 5th May 2012 in Dublin (first meeting in Ireland since 1954).

- **15-18th November 2012 in Rome, XII European Congress** on "*Bioethics and Christian Europe*" - Audience and speech by the Holy Father Benedict XVI¹⁶. More than 300 participants from 20 countries (Germany 5, Belgium 8, Belarus 1, Croatia 8, Scandinavia 6, France 25, Great Britain 1, Hungary 2, Ireland 2, Italy 210, Lithuania 4, Netherlands 2, Poland 2, Portugal 10, Czech Republic 5, Romania 1, Slovakia 5, Spain 10, Switzerland 8, Ukraine 10). President, Secretary General, and Treasurer are re-elected. Niklaus Waldis [CH] replaces Rudolf Gierler [De] as FIAMC delegate.



Pr Vincenzo Defilippis
President 2016 -

Board meetings took place:

- the 4th May 2013 in Zagreb;
- the 9th October 2013 in Conversano (near Bari (Italy): Ecumenical meeting with an Orthodox doctor sent by the Patriarchate of Moscow. Election of the vice presidents: Bernard Ars [Be], Vincenzo Defilippis [It], Jasenka Markeljevic [Hr]);
- the 7th June 2014 in Bratislava (preceded by an International Conference on "Contemporary Biomedicine, Health Care, and Human Dignity", organized by the Episcopal Conference of Slovakia, with the participation of Mgr Zygmunt Zimowski, President of the Pontifical Council for Health);
- from the 16th to the 19th April 2015 in Paris (at the Benedictine nuns of Montmartre, preceded by a symposium on "*End of life in Europe*", in which the Orthodox doctor from Moscow participated);
- on the 3rd October 2015 in the Cistercian convent of Magdenau (near St-Gall, Switzerland);
- and the 2nd April 2016 in Cambridge (Magdalene College, *Photo below*).
- **29th September - 2nd October 2016 in Porto, XIII European Congress.** Themes: *Migrations in Europe - Young doctors and Catholic doctors' associations - The common good in health care systems - The fragmentation of medical practice - Doctors in a multicultural society - The beginning of human life - Twilight of human life - Medicine and the poor* - Lecture by D. Manuel Clemente, Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon on "*Christ the Doctor*". Mass at the Cathedral of Porto, and reception in the Episcopal Palace by His Excellency D. Antonio Francisco, Bishop of Porto. Presence of 150 participants from 16 countries (Portugal, 104 - France, 6 - Ukraine, 6 - Belgium, 5 - Italy, 5 - Spain, 4 - Switzerland, 4 - Germany, 3 - Hungary, 3 - Croatia, 2 - Lithuania, 2 - Netherlands, 2 - Czech Rep., 1 - United Kingdom, 1 - Slovakia, 1 - Slovenia, 1). At the General Assembly are elected: Chairman: Vincenzo Defilippis (It) - Secr. General: Alexandre Laureano-Santos (Pt) - Treasurer: Niklaus Waldis - FIAMC Delegates: Jasenka Markeljevic (HR) and Niklaus Waldis (CH).

Board meetings took place:

- the 11th and 12th February 2017 in Lourdes (World Day of the Sick): FEAMC and FIAMC Board meetings;
- the 8th July 2017 in Rome;
- the 28th October 2017 in Rome: Board meeting and Extraordinary General Assembly of the FEAMC in Rome (Hotel Casa La Salle, Via Aurelia, 472) for a change in the statutes giving the FEAMC a legal personality;
- the 30th May 2018 in Zagreb (Croatia);
- the 20th October 2018 in Lviv (Ukraine);
- the 16th March 2019 in Ljubljana (Slovenia);
- the 9th November 2019 in Paris (at the Benedictines of Montmartre), preceded by a brief colloquium on "*The views of Catholic European doctors on social and migratory exclusion*".
- After the cancellation (due to the Covid epidemic) of the meeting which was to be held from the 28th April to the 2nd May in Vilnius (Lithuania), 5 meetings by videoconference took place from June 2020 to December 2021.
- **25 September 2021 in Rome** (Hotel Casa La Salle), **FEAMC General Assembly**, and election of the new office: President, Dr Vincenzo Defilippis (It), re-elected - Secretary General: Prof. Frans van Ittersum (NL) - Treasurer: Dr. Diogo Cunha e Sà (Pt) - Vice-presidents: Prof. Jozef Glasa (SK), Prof.

¹⁶. https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2012/november/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20121117_hlthwork.html

Nadiya Helner (UA), Dr. Ilona Aleksuniene (LT), Dr. Dermot Kearney (GB), Prof. Bogdan Chazan (PL) - Honorary Member: Prof. Alexandre Laureano-Santos (PT).

- **27-28 May 2022 in Assisi** (Domus Pacis): Symposium on *The challenges of competence and compassion in contemporary medicine: Health systems and the doctor-patient relationship - Perinatal medicine and compassion - Surgery and compassion - Compassion in some medical disciplines - End of life and compassion...* A hundred participants, mainly from Italy, but also from Croatia 12, France 6, Portugal 5, Great Britain 5, Switzerland 3, Netherlands 3, Poland 2, Czechia 2, Lithuania 2?, Slovakia 2, Belgium 1, Spain 1, Slovenia 1?, Albania 1. Mass on May 28 in the Basilica of St. Francis presided over by Msgr. Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop of Assisi.



Conclusion

The international movement of Catholic doctors, born in Europe at the end of the 19th century, saw the birth of a specific European Federation in 1964. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 made possible to open it up to the countries of Eastern Europe. FEAMC currently has 22 member associations, including 12 from Western Europe (Germany, Belgium, Spain-Catalonia, Spain-Madrid, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Scandinavia, Switzerland), and 10 from Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine).

Its congresses - every 4 years - have brought together until 2012 a minimum of 300 participants from 10 to more than 20 European countries. Its bi-annual bureau meetings have taken place in almost all member countries¹⁷, and have brought together on average at each meeting since 2008 more than 21 delegates representing more than 13 countries. But most associations are faced with the aging of their members and a reduction in their workforce. Some associations have even disappeared (Luxembourg 1998, Malta 1999, Austria 2005, Germany 2019).



17. Sites of the European meetings from 1964 to 2016

- France (Fr): 19 (Paris 1968, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1983, 1987, 2015, 2019 - Nancy 1965, Versailles 1988 - Lourdes 1993, 2010, 2017 - Chantilly 1998 - Strasbourg 2009)
- Italy (It): 19 (Rome 1978, 1982, 1988, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2000 [2], 2002, 2004, 2006, 2012, 2017 [2], 2021 - Venice 1992 - Seveso 2005 - Conversano 2013 - Assisi 2022)
- Belgium (BE): 10 (Brussels 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1977, 1980, 2011 - Ghent 1980, 1983 - Bruges 1995)
- Germany (DE): 9 (Nuremberg 1972 - Augsburg 1975 - Cologne 1976, 1987, 2001 - Bonn 1982, 1990, 1996 - Berlin 2011)
- Great Britain (GB): 8 (London 1973, 1976, 1978, 1981, 1989 - Oxford 1985 - Manchester 2001 - Cambridge 2016)
- Switzerland (CH): 7 (Zurich 1969, 1975, 1979, 1986 - Fribourg 1992 - Matran 2003 - Magdenau 2015)
- Spain (ES): 6 (Barcelona 1973, 1974, 1984, 1999, 2004, 2006)
- Portugal (PT): 5 (Lisbon 1984, 2007 - Porto 1990, 1994, 2016)
- Slovakia (SK): 5 (Bratislava 1993, 2000, 2004, 2010, 2014)
- Netherlands (NL): 3 (Arnhem 1986 - Heeswijk 1994 - Huissen 2007)
- Croatia (HR): 3 (Zagreb 1997, 2013, 2018)
- Czech Rep. (CZ): 3 (Prague 1995, 1996, 2008)
- Luxembourg (LU): 3 (1972, 1981, 1989)
- Austria (AT): 2 (Vienna 1985, 1991)
- Poland (PL): 2 (Warsaw 2002 - Gdansk 2008)
- Ukraine (UA): 2 (Lviv 2009 - 2018)
- Hungary (HU): 1 (Kismaros 1998)
- Denmark (DK): 1 (Nyborg 1968)
- Ireland (IE): 1 (Dublin 2012)
- Lithuania (LT): 1 (Vilnius 2003)
- Malta (MT) : 1 (La Valette 1964)
- Romania (RO): 1 (Bucharest 2005)
- Slovenia (SI): 1 (Ljubljana 2019)
- USA : 1 (Washington DC)



Sites of the European meetings since 1964



Cambridge, Maqdalene College, 2 avril 2016

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