

History of FIAMC

*Presented at FIAMC World Congress, Manila (Philippines) 2014, Updated May 2018
Dr. François Blin, FIAMC Secretary General 1998-2006, FEAMC President 2008-2016*

Early Beginnings

X - XIX century

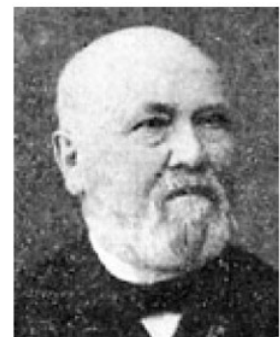
- Since the middle ages, numerous places of worship dedicated to **Sts Cosmas and Damian** in Europe (Austria, Belgium, England, France [53 places], Germany, Italy [43 places], Spain, Netherlands, Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, Switzerland) and the Near East (Egypt, Syria, Holy Land...) are places of pilgrimage.
- The foundation of the **first catholic medical schools in Europe** begins in the X Century : Salerno, *Schola Medica Salernitana* (South Italy - founded by a Greek, a Roman, a Jew, and a Moslem - and where a woman, "Trotula", was teaching obstetrics and women's diseases) - 1088 : Bologna (Italy), Surgery - 1208 : Palencia (Spain) - 1218 : Salamanca (Spain) - 1150 : Montpellier (South France) - 1240 : Siena (Italy) - 1271 Paris - 1290 : Coimbra (Portugal), ... The teachers must speak latin, and report directly to the Pope.
- 1215, Rome : The IV Lateran Council forbids priests to shed blood. It leads to the distinction between the roles of physician and surgeon.
- 1220, in France : foundation of the brotherhood of Saint-Côme, the mother idea of which is "Work and prayer"
- Until 1452 in France doctors are bound to celibacy, except in Montpellier, where - since 1309 - teachers and students are authorized by Pope Clement V to marry.
- **Confraternities** of Catholic physicians and/or surgeons are created in France, Spain... Most of them disappear during the wave of de-Christianization of the XVIII and XIX centuries, despite some attempts at restoration (e.g : France 1801 and 1840).



The first Catholic Medical Associations

1884-1924

- **20 April 1884** : The Encyclical *Humanum genus* (Pope Leo XIII) asks Catholics to unite against rationalism and atheistic materialism.
- **26 September 1884** : Dr. Jules Le Bèle (1820-1903), a surgeon from Le Mans (France), following the success of a local subscription for the realization of a chapel dedicated to the saint doctors in the Sacred Heart Basilica of Montmartre in Paris, founds ("restores") a "Medical Society of St-Luke, St-Cosmas, and St-Damian". It develops rapidly :
= 600 members in **1895**, and 1 200 in **1911**;
= up to 70 foreign members from Europe (Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland), and America (Canada, USA, Brazil).
- **1884-1904** : Foundation of other Societies of Catholic Doctors in Barcelona (Spain, October 1884), Milan (*Società Medica S. Antonio-Maria Zaccaria*, Italy, 1897), Rome ("*Società medica italiana di San Luca evangelista*", March 1904), Liège, Antwerp, Leuven (Belgium)...



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

- **7-12 April 1904, Rome** : International medical Pilgrimage. Pope Pius X receives in audience more than 200 doctors, from Europe (Belgium, France, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Spain), and from Canada. Statutes in 8 points for the creation of an international federation are proposed by Dr Edouard Le Bec and unanimously adopted :
 - = Art. 1 : Catholic doctors intend to establish among themselves a fraternal union and to promote in all countries the foundation of a Society under the patronage of Saints Doctors, Luke, Cosmas, and Damian in order to revive the ancient Christian traditions.
 - = Art. 2 : This Society proposes :
 - The application of Christian virtues in the practice of medicine.
 - The study of all medical issues related to faith, morals and ethics, in absolute submission to ecclesiastical authority.
 - The promotion and dissemination of all the teachings of spiritual and Christian character.
 - = Art. 3 : The Society prohibits any political issue.
 - = Art. 4 : The Society adopts as the feast day St. Luke's day.
 - = Art. 5 : Societies established in all countries are autonomous and independent. To promote the dissemination of scientific reports, colleagues can match through their respective presidents.
 - = Art. 6 : When organizing international general meetings, the presidency will alternately be given to all presidents.
 - = Art. 7 : General meetings shall be convened whenever possible in Rome, center of Christianity.
 - = Art. 8 : Colleagues of Rome are invited to correspond with all societies, to provide any information and explanations that may be of interest.

But this Federation dies as soon as it is born.
- **Until 1914**, other societies are founded : London, Brussels, Netherlands, Denmark, New-York and Boston, Rio-de-Janeiro in 1910 ; and Québec in 1912.
- The French Society keeps on growing (more than 3 000 members in 1939).



The "International Secretariat of the National Associations of Catholic Doctors" 1924-1947

- **1924** : Dr. Octave Pasteau - its president from 1922 to 1937 - after a letter of approval by Cardinal Pietro Gasparri, Secretary of State (30 April 1924) creates an "*International Secretariat of the National Associations of Catholic Doctors*" which maintains a regular correspondence with the already existing groups in Europe (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia), and outside Europe (USA, Argentina, China, Tunisia).
- **29 May - 2 June 1935 Brussels : 1st International Congress** of Catholic Doctors, on "*The role of physicians and associations of catholic physicians in the Christian rebuilding of society*" - 200 participants from Europe and America.
- **29 May - 2 June 1936 Vienna, 2nd International Congress**, on "*Eugenics and sterilisation*" - Racist theories are rejected - 300 participants from 12 european countries.
 - A 3rd Congress, scheduled for Easter 1937 in Rome, is canceled because of the Holy Father's health problems.
 - The Austrian Association, because of its positions at the last Congress, is forbidden by the Nazi regime in March 1938 (immediately after the *Anschluss*), and several of its members are deported into concentration camps.

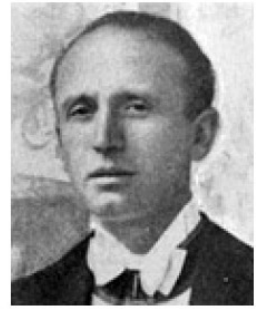


Dr. Octave Pasteau, Founder of the International Secretariat of the National Associations of Catholic Doctors 1924



The "International Medical Secretariat" of *Pax Romana* 1947-1966

(All meetings in Europe, no elections)



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

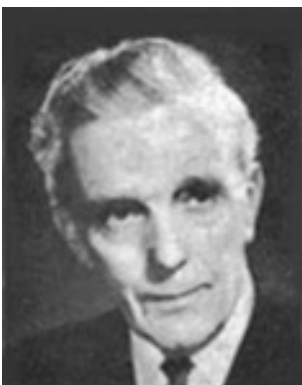
- **April 1947, Rome : *Pax Romana***, a World Student Association founded in July 1921 in Fribourg (Switzerland), holds its Congress, and - the students having now responsibilities in the Society - decides to split into 2 branches :
= the *International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS)*,
= and the *International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA)*, which already includes secretariats of engineers, lawyers, pharmacists, teachers, writers, artists, economists, and scientists. An ***International Medical Secretariat***, inside ICMICA, is created, and its presidency entrusted to the *Associazione Medici Cattolici Italiani (AMCI)*, founded 1944 and chaired by Prof. Luigi Gedda, who remains then "*de facto*", until 1966, the president of this "***International Medical Secretariat***" gradually aiming at its independence.
 - **June 1947 Lisbon, 3rd Congress**, on "*Individual and Collective Medicine*" - **Message from Mgr Montini** - More than 400 physicians from 16 European countries, Canada, Brazil, and Chile.
 - **Sept. 1949 Rome, 4th Congress**, on "*The respect of the human being in medicine*" - **Audience and speech of the Holy Father Pius XII in Castel Gandolfo** - More than 400 participants from 30 countries.
- The *International Medical Secretariat* meets in April 1950 in Geneva, and March 1951 in Fribourg (Switzerland).
 - **July 1951 Paris, 5th Congress**, on "*The forming of the conscience in children*" - **Opening of the Congress by the Apostolic Nuncio Mgr Roncalli** - More than 400 participants from 18 countries.
- The *International Medical Secretariat* meets in March 1952 in Fribourg (Switzerland), Nov. 1952 in Paris, and March 1953 in Rome - Dr. Raymond Verly (Belgium) is secretary General until 1966.
 - **June 1954 Dublin, 6th Congress**, on "*Demography and its medical incidence*" - **Telegram from Mgr Montini** - 361 participants from 19 countries.
 - **Sept. 1956 The Hague (Netherlands), 7th Congress**, on "*The Physician and Law*" - **Broadcasted Message of the Holy Father Pius XII in French** - More than 300 participants from 24 countries.
 - **July 1958 Brussels, 8th Congress (1st World Catholic Health Conference)**, on "*Christianity and Health*" - **TV message of the Holy Father Pius XII** - 3 000 participants from over 40 countries across seven medical and paramedical disciplines.
 - **July 1960 Munich (Germany), 9th Congress**, on "*The physician in the technological world*" - **Message from the Holy Father John XXIII** - 400 participants from 24 countries.
 - **July 1962 London, 10th Congress**, on "*The Catholic Physician in societies in evolution*" - **Message from the Holy Father John XXIII** - The "International Medical Secretariat" becomes the "***Fédération Internationale des Associations de Médecins Catholiques***" / "***International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations***" (**FIAMC**), though no statutes have been adopted yet - 700 participants from 34 countries from all continents.
- > **Popes Pius XII** (who wrote more than 80 speeches on medical issues), and **John XXIII**, directly or indirectly expressed their support for each Congress.

The "Fédération Internationale des Associations Médicales Catholiques" (FIAMC) Since 1966

- **Nov. 1966 Manila, 11th Congress**, on "*The catholic Physicians and the problems of the population*" - Mgr Silvio Luoni represents the Secretary of State - After having just received its new statutes approved by the Holy See, the "*International Medical Secretariat*" (of *Pax Romana*) officially becomes the **FIAMC**, an independent and democratic federation - Participants from 20 countries - Its first regularly elected president is Dr. Mariano M. Alimurung (Philippines).
- The *Executive Committee* meets in Nov. 1968 in Miami (USA).
- **Oct. 1970 Washington, 12th Congress**, on "*The Catholic Physician and the conservation of life*" - Letter from Cardinal Villot, Secretary of State - 250 participants from 20 countries - President : Dr. Vincent O'Sullivan (United Kingdom).
- The *Executive Committee* meets in 1971 in London, and Nov. 1973 in Anaheim (California, USA).
- **May 1974 Barcelona (Spain), 13th Congress**, on "*The freedom of the children of God*" - Letter from Cardinal Villot, Secretary of State - 400 participants from all continents - President : Dr. Gino Papola (USA).
- The Executive Committee meets in April 1975 in Philadelphia (USA), and June 1977 in Rome.
- **Jan. 1978 Bombay (India), 14th Congress**, on "*The quality of life in a society in evolution*" - Archbishop G. Caprio represents the Holy See - Mother Teresa is present - Numerous participants from all continents (150 from Europe) - President Gino Papola is reelected.
- The Executive Committee meets in May 1979 in Copenhagen, Sept. 1980 in Chicago (USA), and Sept. 1981 in Rome.
- Sept. 1981, Bombay : Creation of the "*FIAMC Biomedical Ethics Centre*" (FBMEC) by Dr. Chicot J. Vas and Cardinal Simon Pimenta.
- **Oct. 1982 Rome, 15th Congress**, on "*The Physician in the Service of Life*" - Audience and speech of the Holy Father John-Paul II - more than 3 000 participants from 69 countries - President : Dr. Chicot Vas (India).
- The *Executive Committee* meets in Oct. 1983 in Mexico, and May 1985 and May 1986 in Rome.
- **Aug 1986 Buenos-Aires, 16th Congress**, on "*The progress of Medicine and respect for Human Life*" - Message from Cardinal Eduardo Pironio - More than 350 participants from 26 countries - President : Dr. Thomas-Patrick Linehan (UK).



Dr. Mariano M. Alimurung
President 1966-70



Dr. John-Vincent O'Sullivan
President 1970-74



Dr. Gino Papola
President 1974-82



Dr. Chicot Vas
President 1982-86



Dr. Paddy Linehan
President 1986-94

- **Sept. 1990 Bonn** (Germany), **17th Congress**, on "*Biological nature and dignity of the Human Person*" - **Papal message**, sent by **Cardinal Casaroli** - 34 countries are represented - President Thomas-Patrick Linehan is reelected.
- **Sept. 1994 Porto** (Portugal), **18th Congress**, on "*The doctor and the New Evangelization*" - **The Pope's message** is conveyed and read by **Cardinal Fiorenzo Angelini**, **President of the Pontifical Council** - More than 500 participants - President : **Dr. Walter Osswald** (Portugal).
- The *Executive Committee* meets in Feb. 1995, Feb. & Nov. 1996, March & Nov. 1997, and March 1998 in Rome.
- **Sept. 1998 New-York**, **19th Congress**, on "*Medical Ethics in the Third Millenium : Christ's Healing love through the Gospel of Life*" - Around 400 participants - President : **Dr. Gian-Luigi Gigli** (Italy).
- The *Executive Committee* meets in March & Nov. 1999, Feb. 2000, March & Nov. 2001, and March 2002 in Rome.
- **July 2000 Rome**, **20th Congress**, on "*Medicine and Human Rights*" - more than 1,200 participants - **Audience and speech of the Holy Father** - *No elections*.
- The *Executive Committee* meets in March & Nov. 2001, and March 2002 in Rome.
- **Sept. 2002 Seoul**, **21st Congress**, on "*Identity and mission of the Catholic Doctor*" - **Mgr Lozano-Barragan** represents the **Holy See** - 477 participants from 26 countries - President **Gian-Luigi Gigli** is reelected.
- The *Executive Committee* meets in March 2003, March 2004, and March 2005 in Rome.
- **March 2004 Rome** : A Congress on "*Life sustaining treatment and Vegetative state : Scientific advances and ethical dilemmas*" is organised with the **Pontifical Academy for Life** - **Audience and speech of the Holy Father John-Paul II**.
- **May 2006 Barcelona**, **22nd Congress**, on "*Catholic Physicians, Globalization, and Poverty*" - **Cardinal Martino** represents the **holy See** - more than 1 300 participants - President : **Dr. José-Maria Simon-Castellvi** (Spain).
- **Sept. 2006, Rome** : A Congress on "*Stem Cells : What future for therapy? Scientific aspects and Bioethical Problems*" is organized with the **Pontifical Academy for Life** - **Audience of the Holy Father in Castel Gandolfo**.
- The *Executive Committee* meets in Sept. 2006, March 2007, April 2008, Nov. 2008, and Feb. 2010 in Rome.
- **Nov. 2008, Rome** : A Congress on "*A gift for life : Considerations on organ donation*" is organized with the **Pontifical Academy for Life** - **Audience of the Holy Father Benedict XVI**.
- **Nov. 2009, Monaco** : A Congress on "*Adult somatic stem cells : new perspectives*" is organized with the **Pontifical Academy for Life**, and chaired by Prof. Eliane Gluckman - **Mgr Rino Fisichella** represents the **Holy See**.
- **May 2010 Lourdes**, **23rd Congress**, on "*Our Faith as physicians*" - **Mgr Zygmund Zimowski**



Dr. Walter Osswald
President 1994-98



Dr. Gian-Luigi Gigli
President 1998-2006



Dr. José-Maria Simon
President 2006-14



Dr. John Lee
President since 2014

represents the **Hoy See** - 400 participants from 36 countries of all continents - President José-Maria Simon-Castellvi is reelected

- The *Executive Committee* meets in Nov. 2010, Nov. 2012, and Nov. 2013 in Rome.

- 2 Nov. 2013, Rome : A meeting on "*Trafficking in human beings*" is organized with the *Pontifical Academy of Sciences* - Short meeting and photo with Pope Francis outside Domus Sanctae Marthae.

- **Oct. 2014 Manila, 24th Congress**, on "*The catholic doctor in an era of secularization and technology*" - 275 participants from 36 countries of all continents - President : Dr. John Lee (Singapore).



The World Congresses



Europe 18, Asia 4, North America 2, Latin America 1, Africa & Oceania 0



In accordance with its statutes, FIAMC is divided in 6 regions

1. Asia

- The first Catholic medical guilds in Asia were founded in Philippines 1936, Shanghai 1938, Taiwan 1939, Singapore 1952, Hong-Kong 1953, Japan 1957...
- The **AFCMA** (Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Associations) was the first created continental federation. The AFCMA had its origin in Brussels in 1958 at the 8th World Congress of FIAMC where a decision to form an Asian Federation was taken by three Asian participants, Dr. Alimurung of Philippines, Dr. Anno of Japan, and Dr. Dung of Vietnam.
- **1960 Manila : 1st Congress of AFCMA.**
- **1962 Saigon (Vietnam) : 2nd Congress**
- **26-30 Nov. 1964 Mumbai (India) : 3rd Congress** on "*The physician and the Family*",

- organised by the Guild of St Luke in Bombay (President : Dr Ernest J. Borges)
- Large delegations from India and Philippines. Other represented countries : Japan, Hong Kong, and Thailand.

- **10-13 Oct. 1968 Tokyo : 4th Congress**, on « *Sex education – Social security – Doctor's and Nurse's migration to the west – Public Health in the South-east Asian countries* »
- **11 Dec. 1972 Bangkok : 5th Congress**
- **1976 Hong-Kong : 6th Congress**
- **1980 Seoul : 7th Congress**
- **9-11 November 1984 Manila (Hotel Hilton)** - New President : Prof. Yasuro Anno (Japan)
- **10-14 Sept. 1988 Nagasaki (Japan) : 9th Congress** on "*Socio-medical and moral problems in Asian countries*" - 239 delegates, among them 56 represented 9 countries (Japan, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Nationalist China, Pakistan, India and Antigua)
- New President : Prof. Yong Whee Bahk (Korea).
- **8-11 Nov. 1992 Bangkok : 10th Congress**
- President Yong Whee Bahk (Korea) is reelected.
- **5-9 Nov. 1996 Singapore, 11th Congress** on "*Pastoral Medicine 2000*"
- More than 200 participants - President Yong Whee Bahk (Korea) is reelected.
- **12-15 July 2000 Kuala-Lumpur (Malaysia) : 12th Congress** on "*Health Challenges in Asia in the New Millennium*".
- **25-27 Nov. 2004 Taipei (Taiwan) : 13th Congress** on "*Love, Faith, and Hope in family health care*" - New President : Dr. Kwang-Ho Meng (Korea).
- **27-30 Nov. 2008, Hong-Kong, 14th Congress** on "*Human Dignity in modern medicine*"
- New President : Dr. Freddie Loh (Malaysia) - Around 150 local and overseas delegates.
- His Eminence Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, President of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care represented the Holy See.
- **8-21 Oct. 2012, Bali (Indonesia) : 15th Congress** on "*Challenges of Catholic Doctors in the changing World*" - New President : Dr. Ignatius Widjaja (Indonesia)
- **10-13 Nov 2016 : Kyoto (Japan) : 16th Congress** : "*What should we do for the least of our Brethren?*" - New President : Dr. Manuel M. Po [Philippines]
- **13 Associations are members of AFCMA** : Bangladesh, Hong-Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand.
- Viet-Nam, Australia (Associate member), New-Zealand, Myanmar, and Continental China sent observers.



Pr Jean Lereboullet
President 1964-80

2. Europe

- The first Associations were born in France and Barcelona in 1884, Milan 1897, Netherlands 1904, Britain 1910, Portugal 1915, Belgium 1922, Hungary and Ireland 1931, Austria 1932, Switzerland 1933...



- **Sept. 1964, Malta (10 days before its independance) : 1st European Congress**, on "*The catholic doctor and the family*"
- **Message from Pope Paul VI**
- 400-500 participants from 20 countries

- A *European Working Group* is created, president : Prof. Jean Lereboullet (France). It meets in Oct. 1965 in Nancy (France), Feb. 1967 in Brussels, 1968 in Nyborg (Denmark), Aug. 1968 in Paris (about *Humanae Vitae*), Feb. 1969 in Zurich (Switzerland), June 1969 in Paris, Nov. 1969 in Brussels, and Oct. 1970 in Washington (DC, USA).
- January 1971, Paris : 1st statutory meeting of **FEAMC** (*Fédération Européenne des Associations de Médecins Catholiques / European Federation of the Catholic Medical Associations*) - President Jean Lereboullet is reelected.
- **May 1972 Nuremberg** (Germany), **II Congress**, on "*Sex education, development and personal integration of sex life*" - 120 participants from 10 countries - President Jean Lereboullet is reelected.
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in May 1973 in Paris, Sept. 1973 in London, Jan. 1974 in Paris, May 1974 in Barcelona (Spain), Jan. 1975 in Zurich (Switzerland), May 1975 in Augsburg (Germany), and Feb. 1976 in Paris.
- **May 1976 London, III Congress**, on "*The catholic doctor in front of law*" - 300 participants from 11 countries - President Jean Lereboullet is reelected.
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in Nov. 1976 in Cologne (Germany), June 1977 in Brussels, Nov. 1977 in Paris, April 1978 in London, Nov. 1978 in Rome, March 1979 in Paris, and Oct. 1979 in Zurich (Switzerland).
- **May 1980 Brussels, IV Congress**, on "*Catholic doctor today*" - More than 200 participants from 11 european countries - President : Dr. Jan Kluyskens (Belgium).
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in Oct. 1980 in Ghent (Belgium), April 1981 in London, Oct. 1981 in Luxembourg, April 1982 in Bonn (Germany), Oct. 1982 in Rome, March 1983 in Paris, and Oct. 1983 in Ghent.
- **May 1984 Lisbon & Fatima, V Congress**, on "*The physician in front of the new powers*" - 271 participants from 12 european countries - President Jan Kluyskens is reelected.
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in Nov. 1984 in Barcelona (Spain), April 1985 in Oxford (UK), Nov. 1985 in Vienna, March 1986 in Zurich (Switzerland), Nov. 1986 in Arnhem (Netherlands), April 1987 in Paris, and Nov. 1987 in Cologne (Germany).
- **May 1988 Versailles & Paris, VI Congress**, on "*Medicine and Liberty*" - Around 300 participants from 12 european countries - President : Prof. André Nenna (France) - He dies in Nov. 1991 and is replaced by Dr. Josef Köhne (Germany).
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in Nov. 1988 in Rome, April 1989 in London, Nov. 1989 in Luxembourg, April 1990 in Porto (Portugal), Sept. 1990 in Bonn (Germany), April 1991 in Rome, and Oct. 1991 in Vienna.
- **March 1992 Venice (Italy), VII Congress**, on "*Medicine at the dawn of the third millenium*" - Participants from around 20 european countries - President : Dr. Josef Bättig (Switzerland). He



Dr Jan Kluyskens
President 1980-88



Pr André Nenna
President 1988-91



Dr Josef Köhne
President 1991-92



Dr Josef Bättig
President 1992-94

resigns for health reasons in 1994, and is replaced by Dr. Paul Deschepper (Belgium).

- *FEAMC Board* meets in Oct. 1992 in Fribourg (Switzerland), May 1993 in Bratislava, Oct. 1993 in Lourdes (France), April 1994 in Heeswijk (Netherlands), Sept. 1994 in Porto (Portugal), May 1995 in Prague, and Oct. 1995 in Brugge (Belgium).

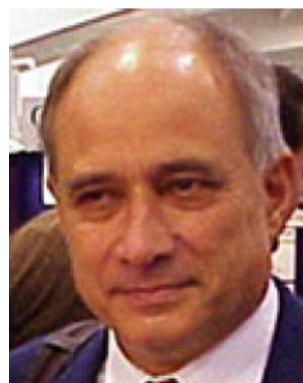
- **June 1996 Prague, VIII Congress**, on "*Medicine today and our image of man*" - Around 500 participants from 27 countries - President Paul Deschepper is reelected.
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in Oct. 1996 in Bonn (Germany), April 1997 in Zagreb, Nov. 1997 in Rome, March 1998 in Chantilly (France), Oct. 1998 in Kismaros (Hungary), March 1999 in Barcelona (Spain), and Nov. 1999 & Feb 2000 in Rome.
- **July 2000 Rome, IX Congress** (& 20th Congress of FIAMC), on "*Medicine and Human Rights*" - Around 1 200 participants - **Audience and speech of the Holy Father John-Paul II** - President : Prof. Josef Marek (Czech Republic).
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in Nov. 2000 in Bratislava, April 2001 in Manchester (UK), Nov. 2001 in Cologne (Germany), April 2002 in Warsaw, Oct. 2002 in Rome, June 2003 in Vilnius (Lithuania), Oct. 2003 in Matran (Switzerland), and March 2004 in Rome.
- **July 2004 Bratislava, X Congress** : "*New challenges for medicine and healthcare in Europe*" - More than 300 participants from 20 european countries - President Josef Marek is reelected.
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in Nov. 2004 in Barcelona (Spain), April 2005 in Bucharest, Oct. 2005 in Seveso (Italy), May 2006 in Barcelona, Sept. 2006 in Rome, May 2007 in Huissen (Netherlands), Nov. 2007 in Lisbon, and June 2008 in Prague.
- **Sept. 2008 Gdansk (Poland), XI Congress** : "*Natural law, and statutory law, in contemporary European Medicine*" - near 300 participants from 18 european countries - President : Dr. François Blin (France).
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in April 2009 in Strasbourg (France, *Visit to the Council of Europe*), Oct. 2009 in Lviv (Ukraine), May 2010 in Lourdes, Oct. 2010 in Bratislava, May 2011 in Berlin, Oct. 2011 in Brussels (Symposium on "*Sense or Non-sense of Human Fragility*" inside the European Parliament), and May 2012 in Dublin.
- **Nov. 2012 Rome, XII Congress** : "*Bioethics and Christian Europe*" - More than 300 participants from 20 european countries - **Audience and speech of the Holy Father Benedict XVI** - President François Blin is reelected
 - *FEAMC Board* meets in May 2013 in Zagreb, Oct. 2013 in Conversano (Italy, *Ecumenical meeting*), June 2014 in Bratislava (Symposium on "*Contemporary Biomedicine, Health Care and Human Dignity*", in the presence of Cardinal Zygmunt Zimowski), and April 2015 in Paris (Symposium on "*End of Life in Europe*").
- **29 sept - 2 oct 2016 Porto (Portugal), XIII Congress** : "*Doctors, the Church, and Europe today*"
 - 150 participants : Portugal 104, and 15 other european countries 46 (Germany 3, Belgium 5, Croatia



Dr Paul Deschepper
President 1994-2000



Pr Josef Marek
President 2000-08



Dr François Blin
President 2008-16



Dr Vincenzo Defilippis
President 2016-

2, Spain 4, France 6, Great-Britain 1, Hungary 3, Italy 5, Lithuania 2, Netherlands 2, Czech Rep. 1, Slovakia 1, Slovenia 1, Switzerland 4, Ukraine 6)

- The nuncio could not come, but were present : Cardinal Manuel Clemente, Patriarch of Lisbon, Mgr Antonio Francisco dos Santos, and Mgr António Bessa Taipa (Bishop, and auxiliary bishop of Porto).

- Are elected : President, Vincenzo Defilippis [It] - Secretary general, Alexandre Laureano-Santos [Port] - Treasurer, Niklaus Waldis [CH] - Delegates to FIAMC, Niklaus Waldis [CH], and Jasenka Markeljevic [HR].

• 22 Associations are members of FEAMC :

- 13 from western Europe : Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Scandinavia (*Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland*), Spain (*Catalonia, and PROSAC*), Switzerland - *Disappeared : Luxembourg 1996, Austria 1998, Malta 1999.*
- and (since the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989) 9 from Eastern Europe : Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Ukraine.



3. Latin America

- Catholic medical societies were created in Rio de Janeiro 1904, Bogota 1926, Buenos-Aires 1929, Mexico 1934, and Santiago-de-Chile 1939...
- August 1986, Buenos-Aires : XVI Congress of FIAMC
- November 1987, Montevideo : meeting of delegates from Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, and Argentina (Dr. Obiglio, Vice-president of FIAMC)
- 1992, Santo-Domingo : 1st Congress of the *Federacion de Asociaciones Medical Catolicas Latino-Americanas (FAMCLAM)*.
- Following Congresses of FAMCLAM : 1997 Buenos-Aires, 2001 Rio-de-Janeiro, 2005 Santiago-de-Chile, 2009 Buenos-Aires.
- 12 Associations are members of FAMCLAM : Argentina, Brazil (*Rio-de-Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre...*), Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Mexico (*Mexico, Yucatan*), Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay - *Venezuela, and Trinidad & Tobago were members until a few years ago.*



4. North America

- 1910 : The 2 first Guilds were founded in New York, and Boston.
- 1911 : Philadelphia.
- 1931 : A congress in New York gathered more than 400 catholic doctors.
- 1932 : Dr. RA Rendrick creates the *National Federation of Catholic Physicians Guilds (NFCPG)*. It gathers 100 guilds in 1961 and has 10,000 physicians in 1967.
- 1997 : The NFCPG becomes the *Catholic Medical Association (CMA)*, authorizing individual membership. It has now 89 Guilds in 36 states.
- An Association existed in Manitoba in 1990-2000. A "*Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians' Societies*", created in 2009, now regroups Associations from British Colombia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova-Scotia.



- A "*Jamaican Association of Catholic Doctors*" was founded by Dr. Matthew Beaubrun in 1989, and was a member of FIAMC until 2002.



5. Oceania



- There are or have been Catholic Medical Associations in **Australia** :
 - *Catholic Doctor's Association of Western Australia* (Perth) has existed since 1985, and was represented for several years by Dr. Michael Shanahan.
 - There are Associations in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia?
- An Association existed in **New Zealand** from before 1991 to December 2002.
An *Association of Catholic Doctors* is now affiliated with the *New Zealand Medical Association*



6. Africa

Several countries in Africa have had an Association member of FIAMC :

- Rwanda (1987-90)
- Zimbabwe (1988-91)
- Ghana (*represented from 1991 to 2006 by Dr. John Wilson*)
- Kenya (1994-96)
- Angola (1995- 2002),
- Ivory Coast (1993-96),
- Tanzania (1995-99),
- Benin (1999-2000),
- Burkina-Faso (2006),
- Madagascar (2006-14),
- Nigeria (*represented since 2012 by Dr. Henrietta Williams*).

The sustainability of these associations has been at least partly conditioned by problems of political stability.



7. Other International Organizations members of FIAMC

- Matercare,
- AMIL (Lourdes),
- Love & Truth Doctors...



Conclusion

- 50 to 60 national Associations are members of FIAMC.
- FIAMC got in 1997 a "Special consultative status" at the *United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*.



Sources

- Archives of the Diocese of Paris, 1883-1992
- Archives of the French Catholic Medical Association (CCMF), Paris, since 1884
- Archives of *Pax Romana* (Cantonal University Library, Fribourg, Switzerland), 1930-1966
- Archives of the Jesuits of the Province of France, 1934-1961
- Archives of FEAMC, since 1964
- Archives of FIAMC (Palazzo San Calisto, Rome), since 1966
- Personal archives, since 1985
- Decisions 1988-1999, followed by Newsletter (website) 2003-2007
- Documents given or lent by *Prof. Walter Osswald, Dr. Alexandre Laureano Santos, Dr. José-Maria Simon-Castellvi, Dr. Otto Jungo, and Dr. Hans Stevens*
- Websites of FIAMC, AFCMA, FAMCLAM, and of the Associations

