

BEYOND CAMPUS CURRICULUM

*Master of Humanistic and Socialistic Medicine (MHSM)
for Healthcare Providers*

CURRICULUM DOCUMENT



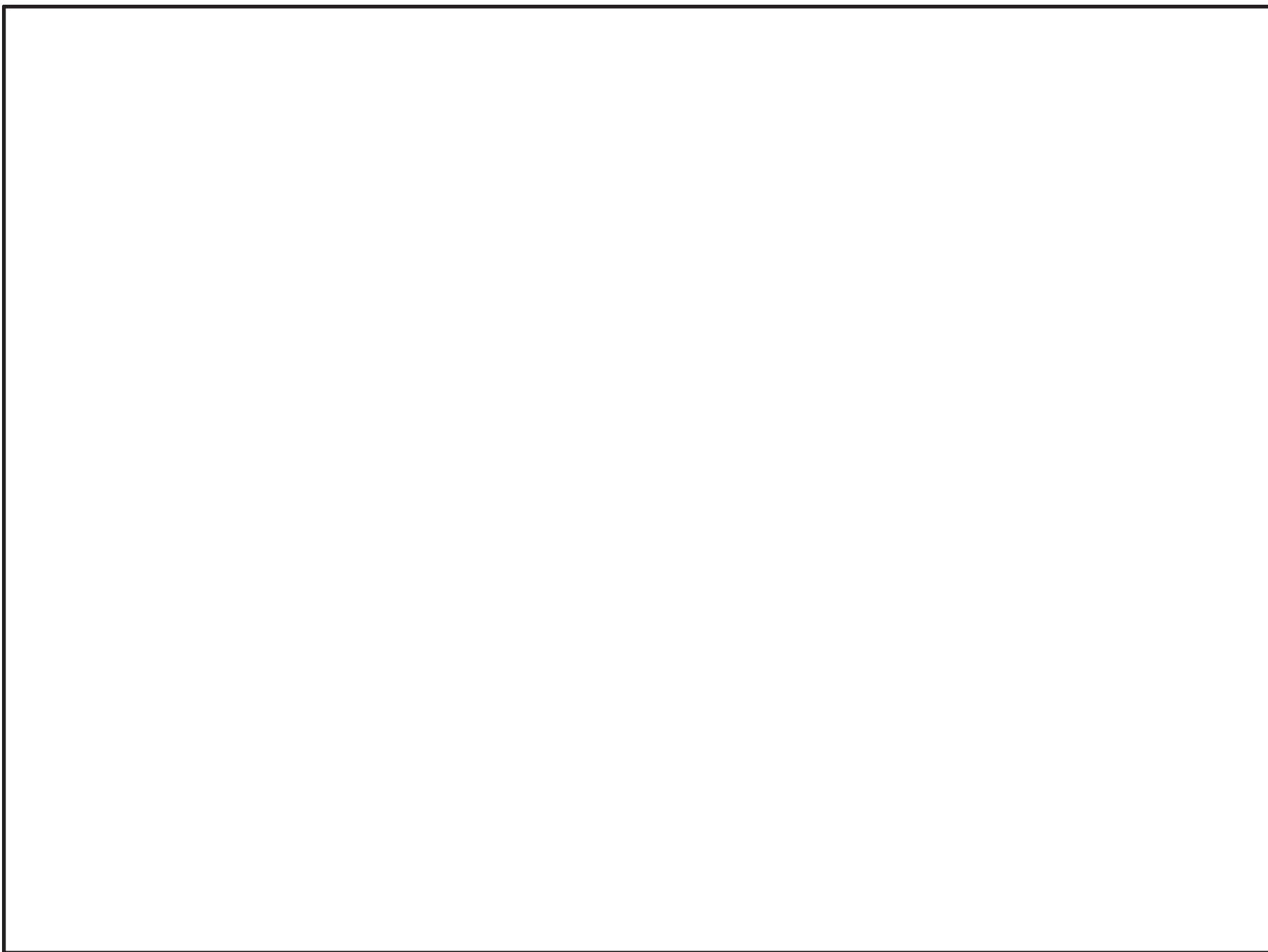
• UNESCO Chair
• in Bioethics
• University of Haifa



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Course Director

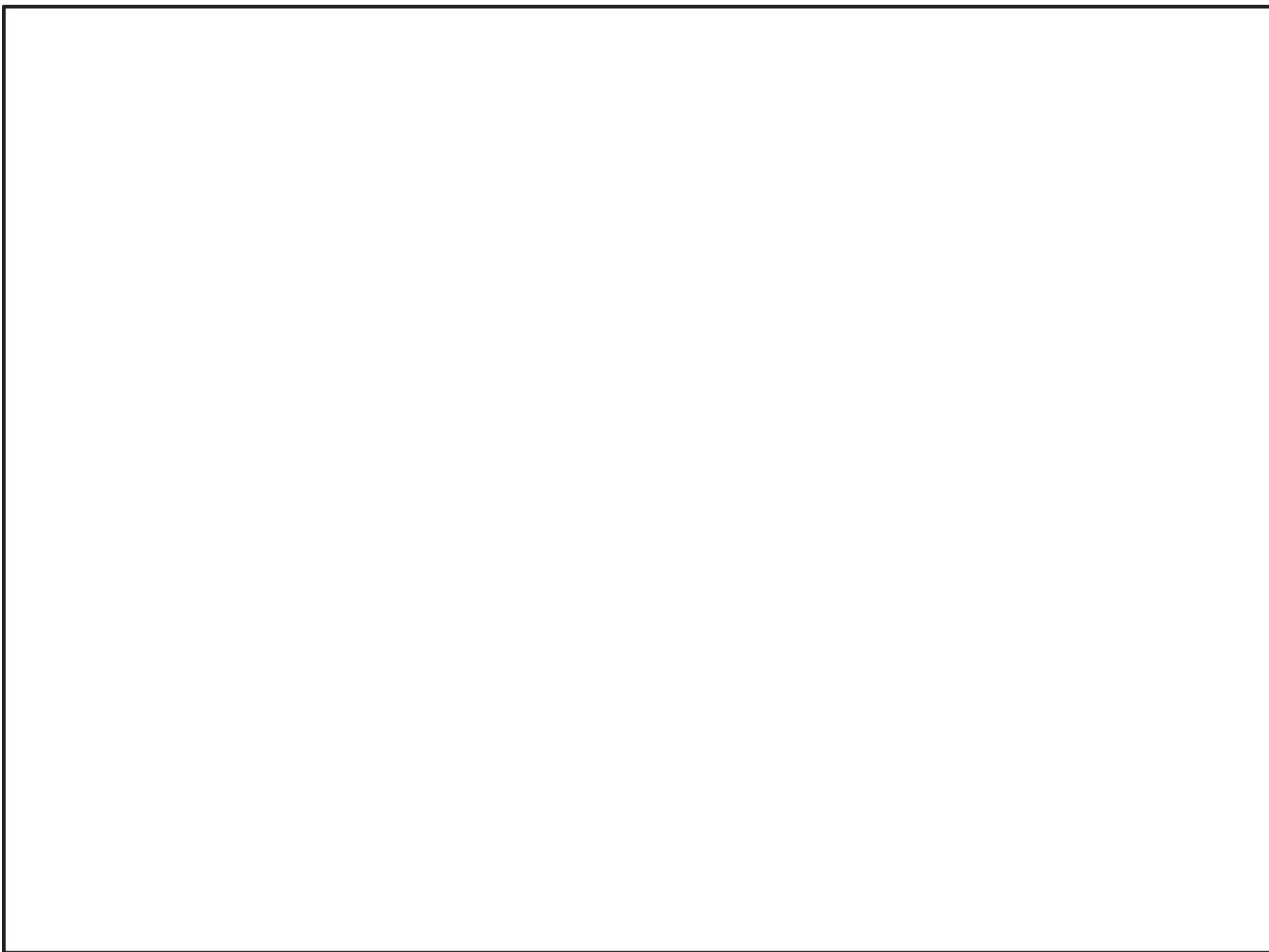
Prof. Dr. Russell Franco D'Souza

Head and Chair, Department of Education

International Chair in Bioethics

UNESCO Chair in Bioethics,

Melbourne, Australia





Co-Directors

Prof. Dr. Mary Mathew

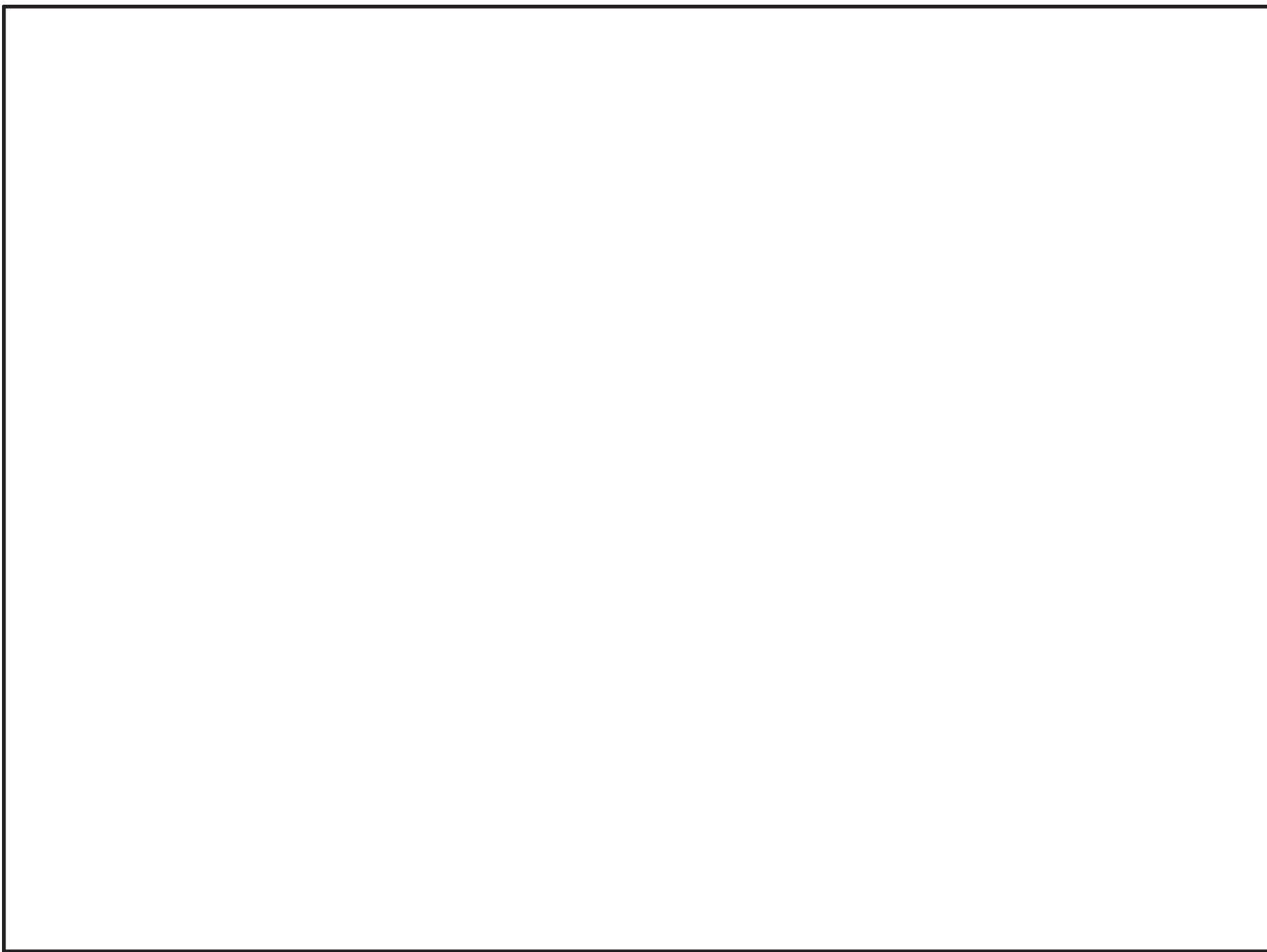
Professor & Head, Department of Pathology
Kasturba Medical College, Manipal,
Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)
General Secretary, Association of Medical Educators of India



Co-Directors

Prof. Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra

Pro-Chancellor
Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences
Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
President, Association of Medical Educators of India



INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Prof. Dr. Ronald Harden

**Professor of Medical Education (Emeritus),
University of Dundee**

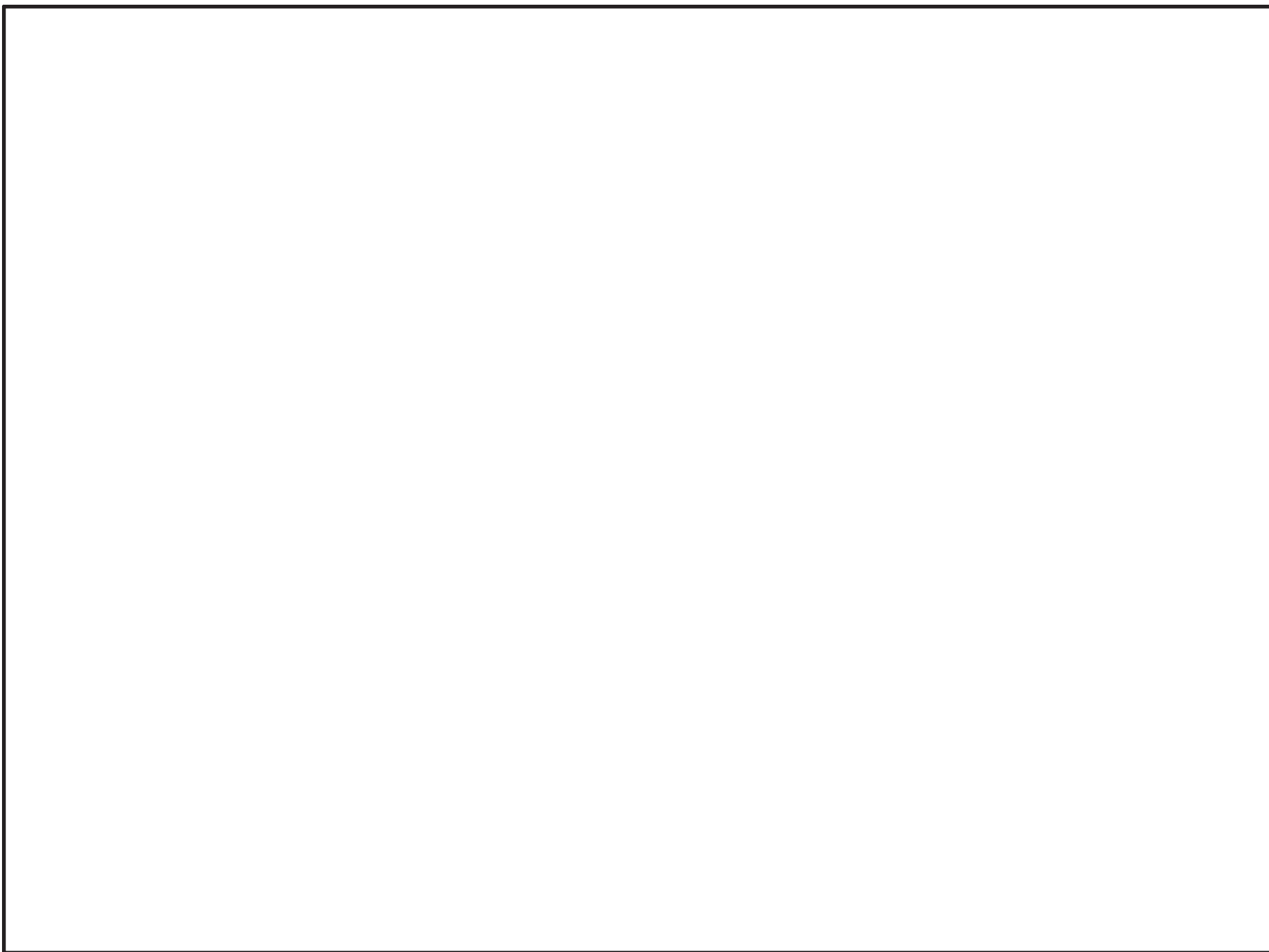
**Former General Secretary and Treasurer of AMEE -
The Association for Medical Education in Europe.**



Prof. Dr. Ricardo León-Bórquez

President

World Federation of Medical Education (WFME)





Prof. Dr. William Pinsky

USA Emeritus CEO Intel health



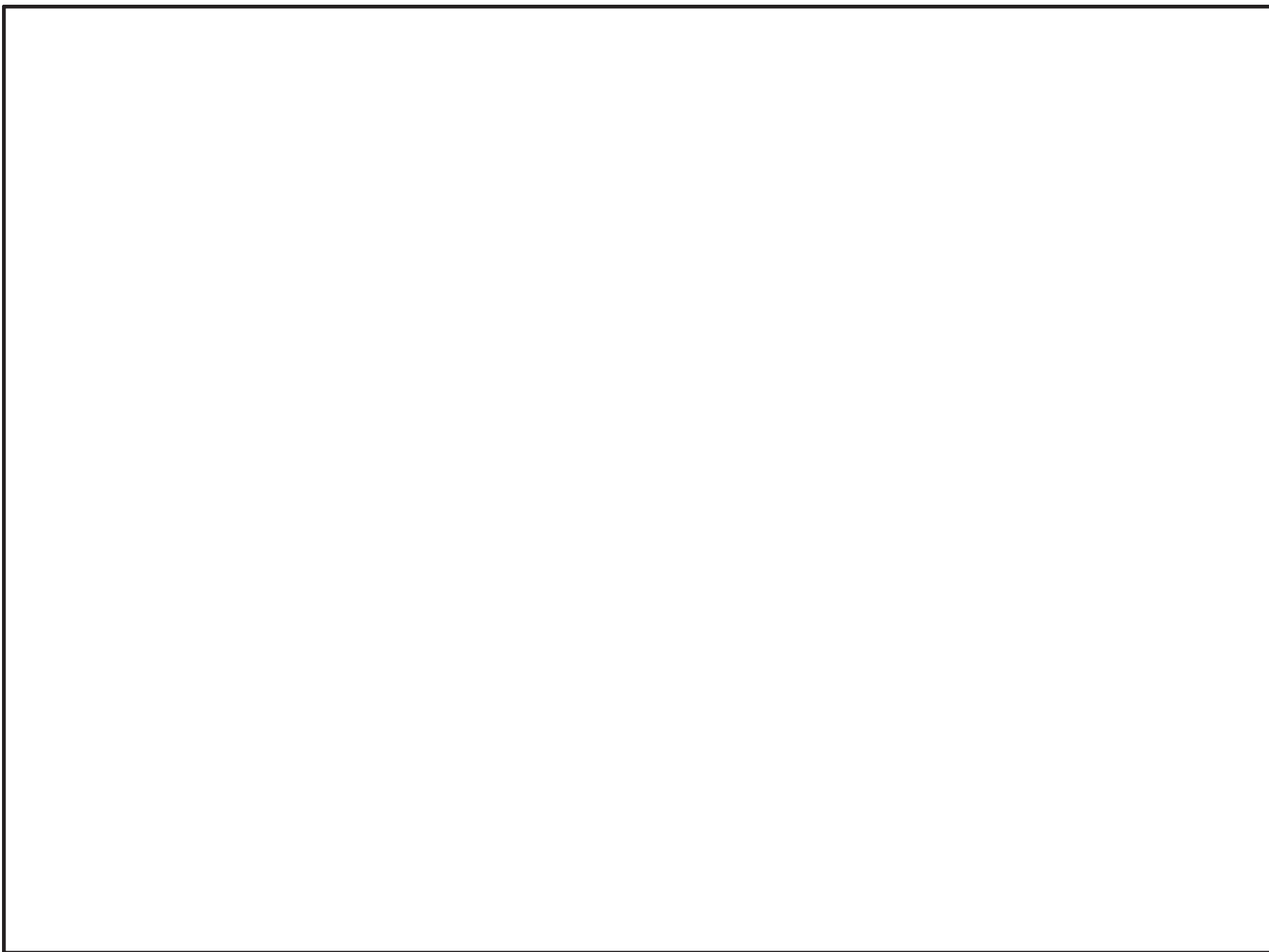
Prof. Dr. Harm Peters

Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

Dieter Scheffner for Medical Education and

Educational Research AMSE President

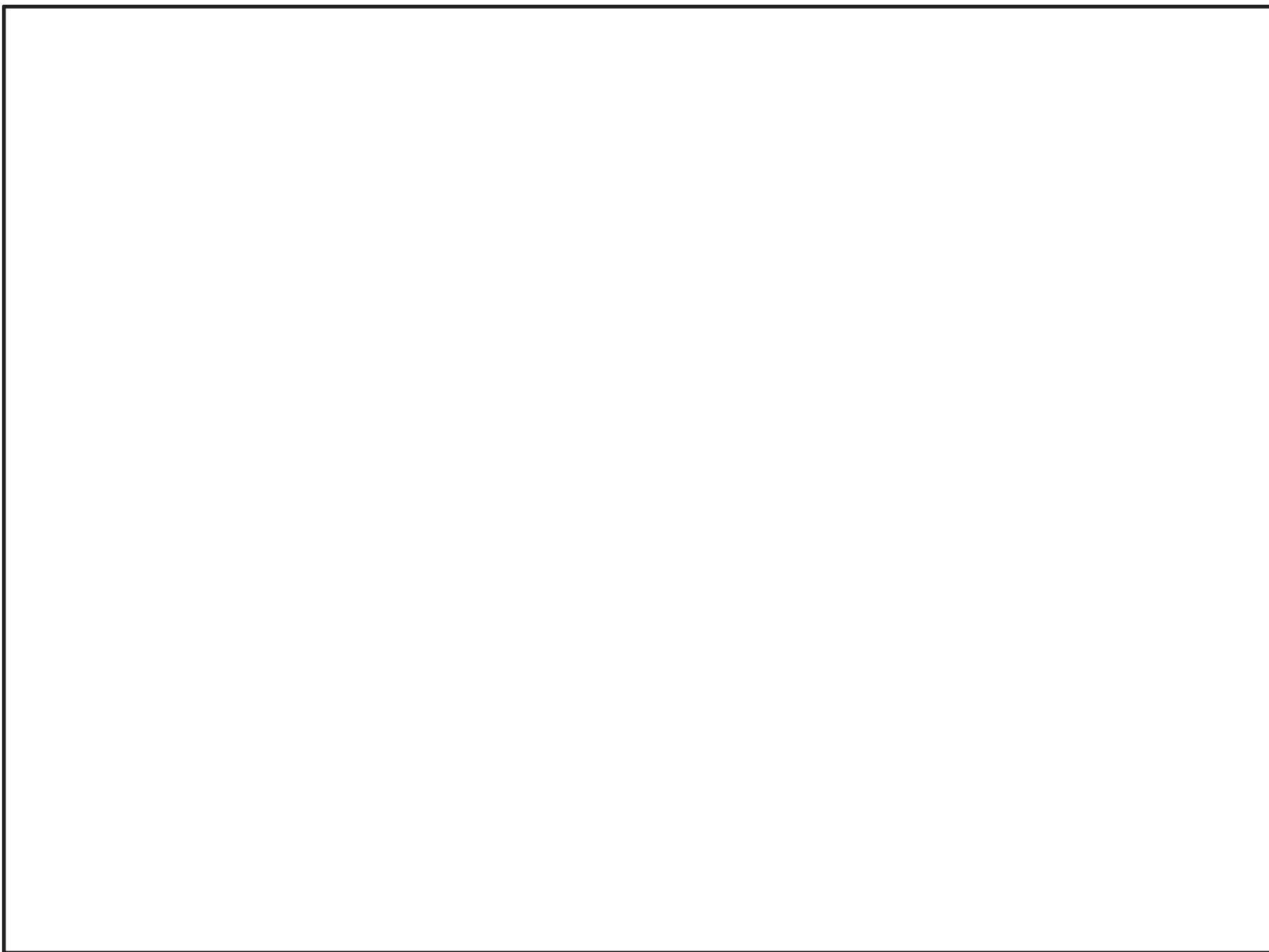
Association of Medical Schools in Europe





Prof. Dr. Madalena Patrico

**Portugal Former President AMEE
International Educational Advisor
The University of Lisbon, Portugal**





Curriculum Advisor

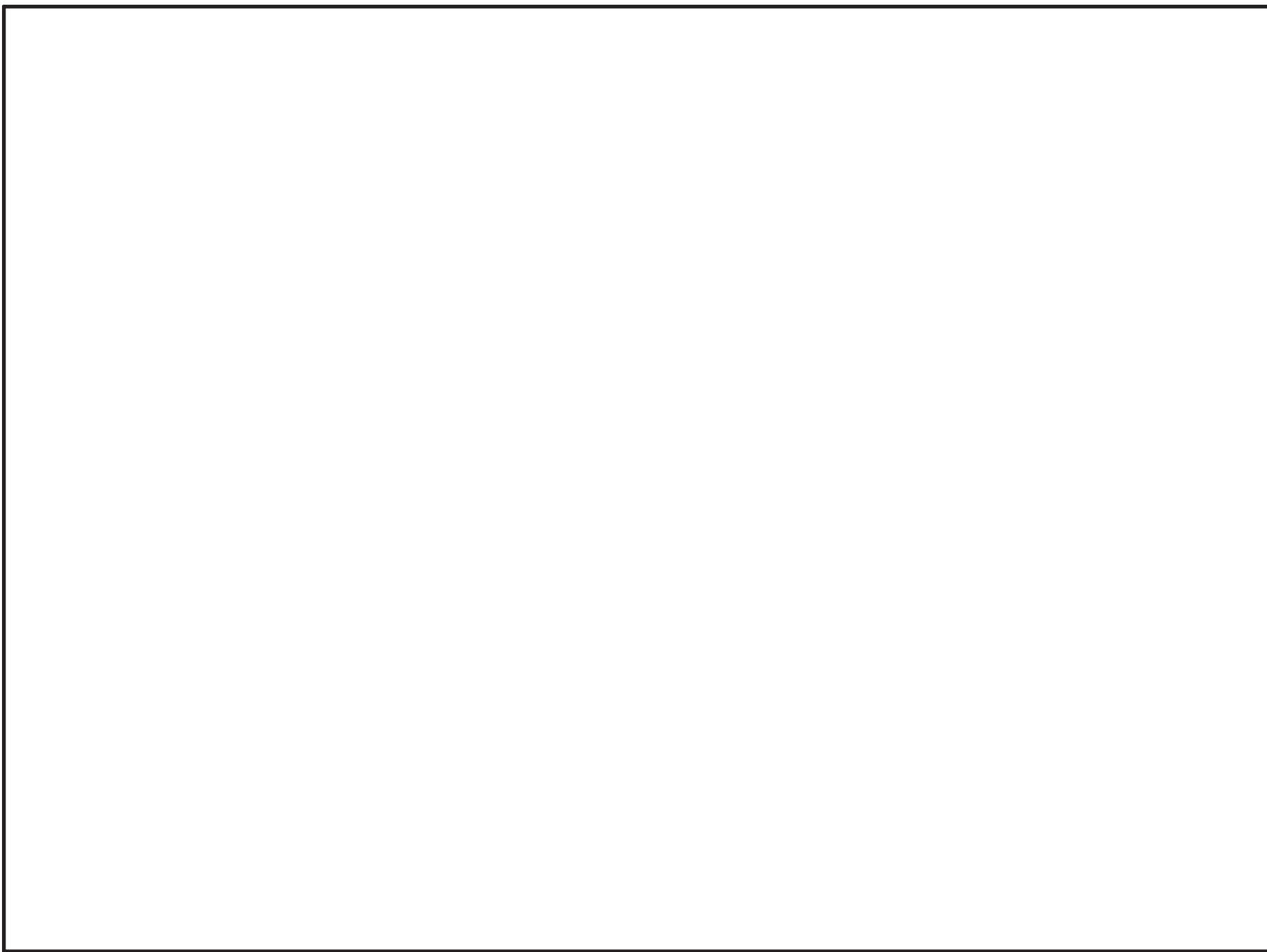
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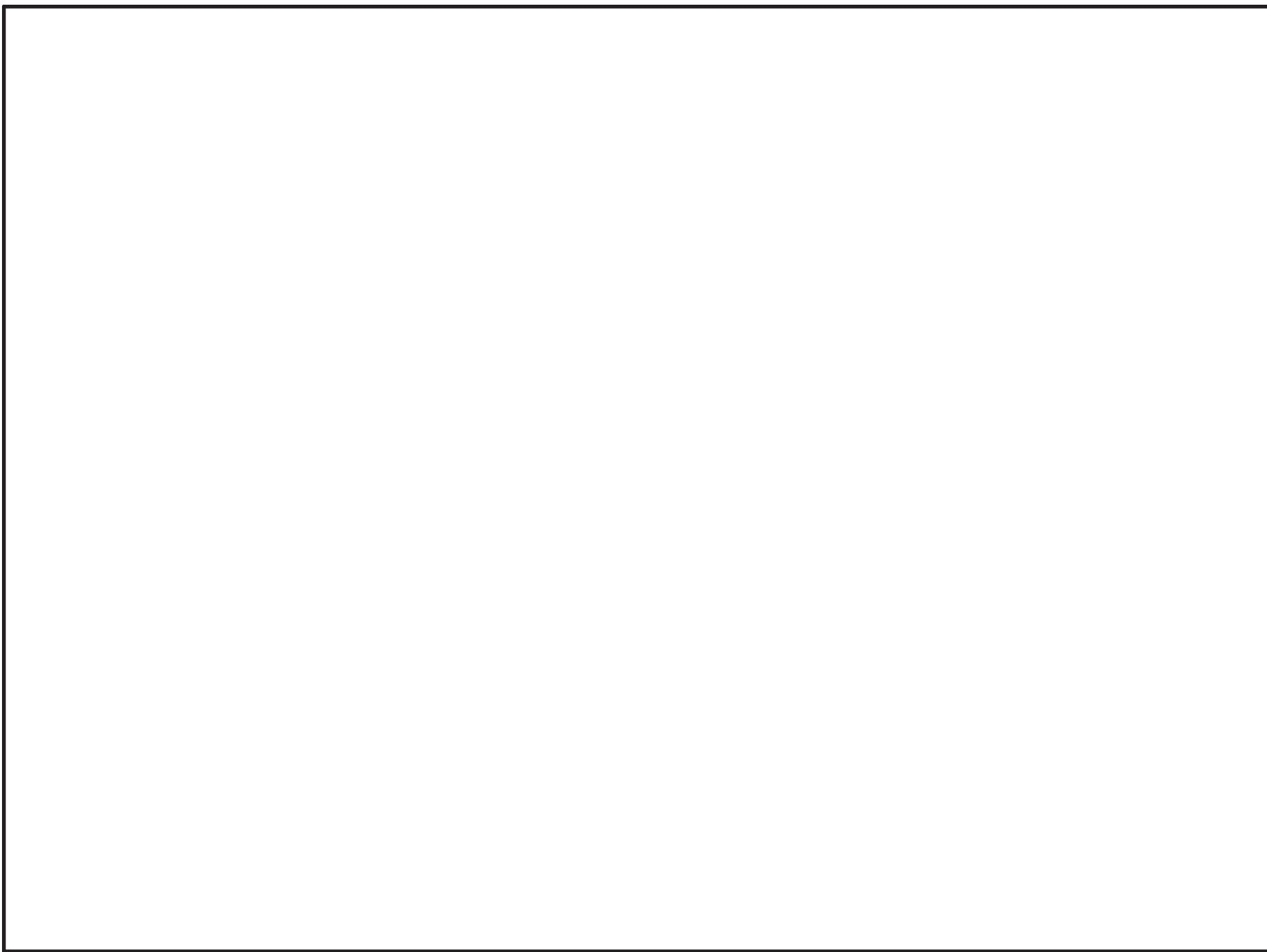


Head

Beyond Campus Curriculum

Prof. Dr. Krishna Mohan Surapaneni

Vice Principal & Professor Department of Biochemistry Head,
Department of Medical Education, Head, Bioethics Unit
Panimalar Medical College Hospital & Research Institute,
India AMEE - Head of International Training Center

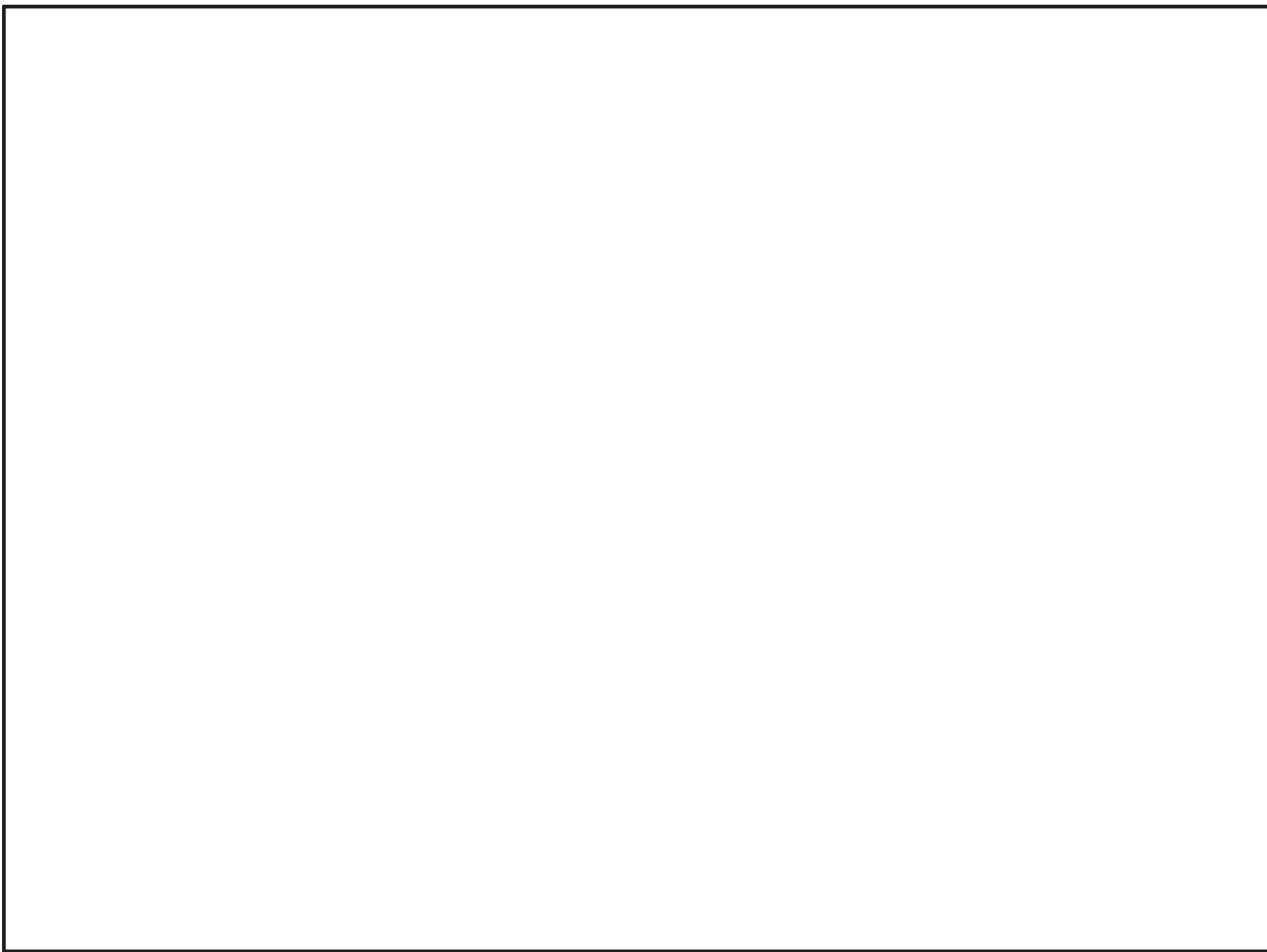




Faculty Lead

Prof. Dr. Princy Palatty

Professor & HOD Pharmacology Department
ASM, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi, Kerala,
India Head, South India Unit and SAARC Nodal Centre
International Chair Bioethics



International Faculty Members

1. Dr. Joseph Thornton, USA
2. Dr. J S Bamrah, UK
3. Dr. Bruce Gelb, USA
4. Dr. Susan Miller, USA
5. Dr. Rajiv Tandon, USA
6. Dr. Stacy Gallin, USA
7. Dr. Joyce Neumann, USA
8. Dr. Miriam Carole Wagoro, Kenya
9. Dr. Gerhard Fortwengel, Germany
10. Dr. Rui Nunes, Portugal
11. Dr. Jasna Karacic, Croatia
12. Dr. Daniella Keidar, Israel
13. Dr. Piyal Sen, UK
14. Dr. Vivienne Harpwood, UK
15. Rev Dr. Bryan Vernon, UK

16. Dr.Judie Arulappan, Muscat
17. Dr. Selva Titus, Dubai
18. Dr. Roland Panaligan, Philippines
19. Dr. Tara Shallal, Iraq
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40. Dr. Ani Grace Kalamathi, India
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43. Dr. Sreedevi, UK
44. Dr. Ilana Belmaker, Israel
45. Dr. Kristen Bonofiglio, Canada

MASTER OF HUMANISTIC & SOCIALISTIC MEDICINE (MHSM)

Programme of study delivered by Department of Education, International Chair in Bioethics, Melbourne, Australia in collaboration with Commonwealth University College of Bioethics and Health Professions Education, Commonwealth University, Saint Lucia via Online Learning mode.

I. MASTER OF HUMANISTIC & SOCIALISTIC MEDICINE (MHSM)

Programme Overview

The Master of Humanistic & Socialistic Medicine (MHSM) is a two-year postgraduate programme designed to develop advanced understanding of the humanistic, social, ethical, cultural, and systems dimensions of medicine and healthcare.

The programme moves beyond the traditional biomedical focus of healthcare education by examining healthcare through the interconnected perspectives of human values, ethics, society, culture, health systems, public policy, sustainability, leadership, and professional responsibility. It is designed to enable learners to critically examine contemporary healthcare challenges and apply interdisciplinary approaches to healthcare practice, education, research, policy, and governance.

The programme of study is delivered by the Department of Education, International Chair in Bioethics, Melbourne, Australia, in collaboration with the Commonwealth University College of Bioethics and Health Professions Education, Commonwealth University, Saint Lucia, through fully online learning.

Programme Objectives

The MHSM programme aims to enable learners to:

1. Develop an advanced understanding of the humanistic and social dimensions of medicine and healthcare.
2. Examine ethical, cultural, social, and philosophical issues influencing healthcare practice and decision-making.
3. Analyse healthcare systems, institutions, policies, and governance structures from interdisciplinary perspectives.
4. Develop competencies in leadership, communication, professionalism, and responsible healthcare practice.
5. Evaluate contemporary healthcare challenges using evidence-based and systems-oriented approaches.
6. Examine issues of equity, social responsibility, sustainability, and ethical governance in healthcare.

- 7. Develop research skills required to investigate significant issues in medicine, healthcare, and society.
- 8. Conduct an independent Dissertation demonstrating critical analysis, scholarly inquiry, and application of knowledge.

Programme Structure

The MHSM is structured as a **two-year, six-semester postgraduate programme** consisting of **18 courses** and a total of **48 credits**.

Each semester comprises three courses, with **360 semester hours** and **8 credits** allocated to each semester.

The programme follows a **Professional Year (PY)** structure:

Professional Year	Semester	Total Courses	Total Semester Hours	Total Credits (45 hrs = 1 credit)
Professional Year 1 (PY 1)	Semester 1	3	360	8
	Semester 2	3	360	8
	Semester 3	3	360	8
Professional Year 2 (PY 2)	Semester 4	3	360	8
	Semester 5	3	360	8
	Semester 6	3	360	8
		18	2160	48

Credit Calculation

The programme uses a workload-based credit calculation as per US credit system of:

45 hours = 1 credit

Accordingly:

2,160 total semester hours ÷ 45 hours = 48 credits

Mode of Study

Mode: Fully Online

Duration: 2 Years

Professional Years: 2

Semesters: 6

Total Courses: 18

Total Semester Hours: 2,160

Total Credits: 48

The programme is designed for online postgraduate study, with learning content, academic activities, assignments, assessments, examinations, and Dissertation-related activities delivered and managed through the designated digital learning platforms.

Academic Progression

Learners will progress sequentially through the six semesters of the programme. Each semester combines structured coursework with appropriate academic assessment. The later stages of the programme progressively emphasize advanced interdisciplinary analysis, research development, and Dissertation work.

Successful completion of the programme requires the learner to satisfy the prescribed requirements for all 18 courses, achieve the required academic credits, complete the prescribed research/Dissertation requirements, and successfully complete the formal Dissertation evaluation and defense process.

II. APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCESS

Application to Commonwealth University

Admission to the MHSM programme is completed through the designated online application process of Commonwealth University. Applicants are required to complete the online application and submit all supporting documentation required for academic review.

Application Requirements

Applicants are required to submit the following:

1. **Completed Online Application:** The applicant must complete and submit the prescribed online application form of Commonwealth University.
2. **BHSM Degree Certificate:** A copy of the applicant's completed **Bachelor of Humanistic & Socialistic Medicine (BHSM) degree certificate** must be submitted as evidence of the required prior academic qualification.
3. **Personal Statement:** Applicants must submit a **Personal Statement** describing their academic background, professional interests, motivation for undertaking the MHSM programme, and how the programme aligns with their future academic or professional objectives.
4. **Additional Documentation:** Any additional documents specifically requested by Commonwealth University as part of the application and admission process must be submitted within the prescribed timeframe.

Application Review

All submitted applications and supporting documents will be subject to academic and administrative review in accordance with the applicable admission requirements and procedures of Commonwealth University.

Applicants who satisfy the prescribed admission requirements and receive approval through the appropriate academic process will be offered admission to the MHSM programme.

Admission and Enrolment

Following approval of the application, successful applicants will receive the appropriate admission and enrolment instructions. Learners will then be provided with the institutional accounts and access required to participate in the online MHSM programme.

III. SEMESTERS, COURSES & CREDIT HOURS IN BHSM

PROFESSIONAL YEAR 1 (PY 1)

Year	Semester	Course Code & Course Title	Total Weeks	Total Hours (Weekly)	Total Hours (Semester)	Total Credits
Year 1	Semester 1 (15 weeks)	MHSM 101: Foundations of Healthcare Ethics and Humanistic Medicine <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	6	14	84	2
		MHSM 102: Professionalism, Communication and Socio-Ethical Practice <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	9	14	126	3
		MHSM103: Dissertation I <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Supervised Mentored Research: 10</i>	15	10	150	3
	Semester 2 (15 weeks)	MHSM104: Clinical Ethics, Vulnerability and End-of-Life Care <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	6	14	84	2

		MHSM105: Global, Digital and Systems Ethics I <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	9	14	126	3
		MHSM106: Dissertation II <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Supervised Mentored Research: 10</i>	15	10	150	3
	Semester 3 (15 weeks)	MHSM107: Cultural, Social and Sustainable Healthcare <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	6	14	84	2
		MHSM108: Healthcare Governance, Leadership and Scholarly Practice <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	9	14	126	3
		MHSM109: Dissertation III <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Supervised Mentored Research: 10</i>	15	10	150	3
		Total				24

SEMESTERS, COURSES & CREDIT HOURS IN MHSM

PROFESSIONAL YEAR 2 (PY 2)

Year	Semester	Course Code & Course Title	Total Weeks	Total Hours (Weekly)	Total Hours (Semester)	Total Credits
Year 2	Semester 4 (15 weeks)	MHSM201: Advanced Clinical and Emerging Medical Ethics <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	6	14	84	2
		MHSM202: Digital, Global and Systems Ethics II <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	9	14	126	3
		MHSM203: Dissertation IV <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Supervised Mentored Research: 10</i>	15	10	150	3
	Semester 5 (15 weeks)	MHSM204: Advanced Leadership, Communication and Interprofessional Ethics <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	6	14	84	2

		MHSM205: Future Healthcare, Transformation and Global Trends <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	9	14	126	3
		MHSM206: Dissertation V <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Supervised Mentored Research: 10</i>	15	10	150	3
	Semester 6 (15 weeks)	MHSM207: Advanced Digital, Institutional and Population Ethics <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	6	14	84	2
		MHSM208: Sustainability, Systems and Ethical Governance <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Directed Online Learning: 2</i> <i>Self Directed Study: 10</i> <i>Assessment Time: 2</i>	9	14	126	3
		MHSM209: Dissertation VI <u>Weekly Dedicated Hours</u> <i>Supervised Mentored Research: 10</i>	15	10	150	3
		Total				24

IV. ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the **End-of-Semester Summative Assessment**:

- **Minimum 80% attendance** in the respective course.
- **Completion of the End-of-Course Formative Assessment.**
- **Completion of a minimum of 80% of the credits required for each course.**
- Fulfilment of all **course-specific academic and assessment requirements**, where applicable.

Year	Assessment Timeline	Assessment
Year 1	End of Semester 1	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
	End of Semester 2	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
	End of Semester 3	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
Year 2	End of Semester 4	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
	End of Semester 5	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
	End of Semester 6	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment

Year 3	End of Semester 7	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
	End of Semester 8	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
	End of Semester 9	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
Year 4	End of Semester 10	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
	End of Semester 11	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
	End of Semester 12	End-of-Course Formative Assessment End-of-Semester Summative Assessment

End-of-Semester Summative Assessment – Regulations

Component	Requirement
Assessment Type	End-of-Semester Summative Assessment
Format	Case-Based Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)
Question Type	Single Best Answer (SBA)
Number of Questions	100 Questions
Pass Mark	65%
Assessment Duration	120 minutes
Scoring	1 mark per question; 100 marks total
Negative Marking	No negative marking
Passing Requirement	Minimum 65/100 (65%) required to pass
Assessment Coverage	Learning outcomes and competencies covered in all courses during the respective semester
Eligibility	Minimum 80% attendance, completion of the End-of-Course Formative Assessment, and completion of at least 80% of the credits required for each course

V. PROFESSIONAL YEAR 1 (PY 1) SUMMARY

Semester CODE	Course Code & Course Title	Maximum Credits	Minimum Credits Required	Obtained Credits	Grade	Result
MHSM 1	MHSM101: Foundations of Healthcare Ethics and Humanistic Medicine	2	1.5			
	MHSM102: Professionalism, Communication and Socio-Ethical Practice	3	2			
	MHSM103: Dissertation I	3	3			
MHSM 2	MHSM104: Clinical Ethics, Vulnerability and End-of-Life Care	2	1.5			
	MHSM105: Global, Digital and Systems Ethics I	3	2			
	MHSM106: Dissertation II	3	3			

MHSM 3	MHSM107: Cultural, Social and Sustainable Healthcare	2	1.5			
	MHSM108: Healthcare Governance, Leadership and Scholarly Practice	3	2			
	MHSM109: Dissertation III	3	3			

VI. PROFESSIONAL YEAR 2 (PY 2) SUMMARY

Semester	Course Code & Course Title	Maximum Credits	Minimum Credits Required	Obtained Credits	Grade	Result
MHSM 4	MHSM201: Advanced Clinical and Emerging Medical Ethics	2	1.5			
	MHSM202: Digital, Global and Systems Ethics II	3	2			
	MHSM203: Dissertation IV	3	3			
MHSM 5	MHSM204: Advanced Leadership, Communication and Interprofessional Ethics	2	1.5			
	MHSM205: Future Healthcare, Transformation and Global Ethics	3	2			

	MHSM206: Dissertation V	3	3			
MHSM 6	MHSM207: Advanced Digital, Institutional and Population Ethics	2	1.5			
	MHSM208: Sustainability, Systems and Ethical Governance	3	2			
	MHSM209: Dissertation VI	3	3			

**MHSM
PROFESSIONAL YEAR 1
(PY1)**

SEMESTER 1

MHSM101: Foundations of Healthcare Ethics and Humanistic Medicine

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 1.1	Ethical Reasoning in Complex Healthcare Contexts	Critically apply multiple ethical frameworks to analyze dilemmas involving patients, professionals, and health systems.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.2	Decision-Making Under Clinical Uncertainty	Communicate effectively and support patients and families through uncertainty, demonstrating active listening, reassurance, and respect for individual concerns and preferences.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.3	Autonomy, Agency & Sociocultural Context	Recognize the influence of culture, family, social context, and health literacy on patients' experiences, relationships, and participation in healthcare.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.4	Evolving Concepts of Consent	Demonstrate sensitivity to individual differences, vulnerability, privacy, dignity, and trust in patient–professional interactions across diverse healthcare contexts.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.5	Structural Inequities & Health Justice	Analyze structural determinants of health and evaluate ethically grounded approaches to reduce inequities.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.6	Narrative Ethics & Patient Experience	Interpret patients' lived experiences of illness to develop empathy, compassion, active listening, and person-centred approaches to care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM102: Professionalism, Communication and Socio-Ethical Practice

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 1.7	Humanism, Technology & AI in Healthcare – 1	Critically evaluate algorithmic bias, transparency, and accountability in AI-enabled healthcare.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.8	Professional Identity & Humanistic Values in Contemporary Medicine – 1	Critically reflect on identity formation within evolving healthcare environments shaped by technology and systems.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.9	Compassion, Well-being & Professional Resilience	Analyze causes of moral distress and develop ethically grounded strategies for resilience and sustainability.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.10	Empathy & Humanistic Communication in Complex Care	Critically evaluate communication strategies in situations involving uncertainty, disclosure, and emotional distress.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.11	Humanistic & Socially Responsible Leadership in Healthcare – 1	Analyze how leadership influences ethical climate, decision-making, and accountability in organizations.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.12	Interprofessional Relationships, Teamwork & Social Collaboration	Evaluate ethical challenges in team-based care and propose collaborative, system-oriented solutions.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.13	Professional Relationships, Boundaries & Respect	Analyze ethical challenges arising from professional boundaries, dual relationships, conflicts of roles, and appropriate clinician–patient relationships.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 1.14	Trust, Dignity & Respect in Clinical Practice	Apply principles of confidentiality and appropriate disclosure when managing sensitive patient information in clinical practice.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 1.15	Social Responsibility & Professionalism in Social Media	Evaluate professional and ethical responsibilities related to social media use, online communication, and digital professional identity.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM103: Dissertation I

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM TD 1	Research Orientation & Question Formulation	Formulate a focused research question within bioethics, humanistic medicine, or social medicine and present its significance with appropriate academic reasoning.	S	SH	150	Elevator Pitch + Concept Note (800–1000 words)

SEMESTER 2

MHSM104: Clinical Ethics, Vulnerability and End-of-Life Care

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 2.1	Compassionate & Dignified End-of-Life Care	Demonstrate compassion, respect for dignity, and sensitivity to patients' values, preferences, and quality of life in end-of-life care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.2	Shared Decision-Making in End-of-Life Care	Support patients and families in navigating end-of-life decisions through empathetic communication, respect for individual values, and shared decision-making.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.3	Humanistic Approach to Medical Errors & Disclosure	Demonstrate openness, accountability, empathy, and respectful communication when responding to medical errors and supporting affected patients and families.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.4	Vulnerability, Inclusion & Advocacy in Healthcare – 1	Recognize the needs of vulnerable populations and promote dignity, inclusion, protection, and equitable access to healthcare and research.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.5	Compassionate Palliative & Supportive Care	Demonstrate compassionate, person-centred approaches to pain, suffering, comfort, dignity, and quality of life in palliative and supportive care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.6	Spirituality, Culture & Meaning in Healthcare	Recognize the influence of spirituality, cultural beliefs, and meaning-making on patients' experiences of illness, suffering, healing, and end-of-life care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 105: Global, Digital and Systems Ethics I

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 2.7	Global Health, Social Justice & Health Equity	Analyze global health disparities and social determinants of health, and identify approaches that promote equity and access to healthcare across populations.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.8	Healthcare Commercialization, Social Responsibility & Patient Care	Examine the influence of commercialization on healthcare relationships, professional responsibilities, access, and the delivery of patient-centred care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.9	Humanism, Technology & AI in Healthcare – 2	Evaluate the impact of AI and digital technologies on patients, healthcare professionals, and communities, with attention to fairness, inclusivity, transparency, and human-centred care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.10	Organ Donation, Allocation & Social Equity	Examine principles of fairness, equity, compassion, and social responsibility in organ donation, allocation, and transplantation.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.11	Community Resilience & Humanitarian Response in Health Emergencies	Demonstrate socially responsible approaches to protecting individuals and communities during pandemics, disasters, and public health emergencies.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.12	Digital Trust, Privacy & Patient Rights	Recognize the importance of privacy, trust, dignity, and responsible stewardship of personal health information in digital healthcare.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 2.13	Health Technology Access, Inclusion & Equity	Analyze barriers to accessing emerging health technologies and propose inclusive approaches that address disparities across populations and settings.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.14	Professional Integrity & Social Responsibility in Healthcare Systems	Recognize and appropriately respond to competing interests among healthcare professionals, institutions, industry, and communities, promoting transparency and public trust.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 2.15	Health Policy, Community Participation & Social Responsibility	Examine how healthcare policies and regulations influence individuals and communities, and promote inclusive, equitable, and socially responsive healthcare systems.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM106: Dissertation II

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM TD 2	Research Proposal Development	Develop a structured research proposal integrating a refined research question, critical literature review, methodology, and ethical considerations.	S	SH	150	Dissertation Proposal Presentation

SEMESTER 3

MHSM 107: Cultural, Social and Sustainable Healthcare

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 3.1	Professional Identity & Humanistic Values in Contemporary Medicine – 2	Reflect on evolving professional identity in response to clinical and institutional pressures.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.2	Cultural Humility in Healthcare Practice	Evaluate culturally sensitive care approaches and their ethical implications.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.3	Communication Ethics in Conflict Situations	Apply ethical communication strategies in conflict and emotionally charged situations.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.4	Planetary Health & Sustainability Ethics 1	Analyze ethical implications of environmental change and evaluate sustainable healthcare practices.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.5	Planetary Health & Sustainability Ethics 2	Apply sustainability principles in healthcare and evaluate environmental impact.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.6	Bias, Power & Inequity in Healthcare	Analyze how bias and power structures influence clinical decisions and patient outcomes.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 108: Healthcare Governance, Leadership and Scholarly Practice

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 3.7	Priority Setting, Resource Allocation & Health Equity	Apply principles of fairness, equity, and social responsibility to resource allocation challenges in constrained healthcare systems.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.8	Public Health, Governance & Community Well-being	Evaluate the balance between individual needs and collective well-being in public health policies and governance.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.9	Social Accountability in Healthcare Systems	Analyze the responsibility of healthcare systems to respond to community needs, social determinants of health, and population priorities.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.10	Research Integrity & Responsible Scholarship	Demonstrate integrity, transparency, accountability, and responsible conduct in research, authorship, and dissemination of knowledge.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.11	Humanistic & Socially Responsible Leadership in Healthcare – 2	Apply humanistic and socially responsible leadership approaches to support compassionate, inclusive, and collaborative healthcare environments.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.12	Interprofessional Relationships, Teamwork & Social Collaboration – 2	Apply collaborative approaches to strengthen respectful relationships, teamwork, communication, and shared responsibility within healthcare teams.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 3.13	Patient Safety, Risk & Organisational Responsibility	Analyze risks within healthcare organizations and develop approaches that promote patient safety, professional well-being, and responsible practice.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.14	Transparency, Accountability & Public Trust in Healthcare	Evaluate approaches that promote openness, accountability, trust, and meaningful participation in healthcare decision-making and organizational practice.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 3.15	Quality Improvement, Patient-Centredness & Healthcare Responsibility	Apply quality improvement approaches that promote patient safety, person-centred care, professional responsibility, and continuous improvement in healthcare systems.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 109: Dissertation III

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM TD 3	Research Implementation	Implement the approved research methodology using appropriate and ethically sound procedures for data collection or evidence gathering.	S	SH	150	Research Progress Report

**MHSM
PROFESSIONAL YEAR 2
(PY2)**

SEMESTER 4

MHSM 201: Advanced Clinical and Emerging Medical Ethics

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 4.1	Humanism, Technology & AI in Healthcare – 3	Evaluate the implementation and governance of AI systems with attention to human needs, fairness, transparency, accountability, and patient well-being.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.2	Cross-Border Healthcare, Medical Tourism & Patient Well-being	Analyze the social and human dimensions of cross-border healthcare and medical tourism, including access, continuity of care, cultural sensitivity, and patient vulnerability.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.3	Health Data Sharing, Global Collaboration & Digital Trust	Evaluate approaches to responsible health data sharing that promote trust, privacy, collaboration, and equitable benefits across populations and healthcare systems.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.4	Professional Identity & Humanistic Values in Contemporary Medicine – 3	Reflect on professional identity, values, relationships, and resilience when navigating complex healthcare systems and institutional pressures.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.5	Crisis Response, Resource Prioritization & Community Resilience	Apply principles of equity, compassion, social responsibility, and community well-being to resource prioritization during disasters, triage, and healthcare crises.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.6	Health Advocacy & Social Responsibility	Demonstrate commitment to advocating for the needs, rights, dignity, and well-being of patients, families, and communities.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 202: Digital, Global and Systems Ethics II

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 4.7	Human Flourishing & Well-being in Healthcare	Develop approaches that promote holistic well-being, dignity, resilience, and meaningful patient experiences across the continuum of care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.8	Migration, Displacement & Healthcare Access	Analyze the healthcare needs of migrants and displaced populations and develop culturally responsive approaches that promote inclusion and equitable access to care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.9	Community Engagement & Participatory Healthcare	Design approaches that involve patients, families, and communities in identifying health priorities and shaping responsive healthcare services.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.10	Professional Identity, Leadership & Social Change	Demonstrate leadership that integrates professional values, reflective practice, social responsibility, and commitment to positive change in healthcare.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.11	Humanitarian Medicine & Vulnerable Communities	Develop person-centred and socially responsive approaches to healthcare for populations affected by conflict, disasters, displacement, and social vulnerability.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.12	Patient Advocacy, Empowerment & Health Literacy	Design strategies that strengthen patient voice, health literacy, self-advocacy, and meaningful participation in healthcare decisions.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 4.13	Digital Inclusion & Connected Communities	Develop inclusive digital health approaches that address technological barriers and strengthen connection, participation, and access among diverse communities.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.14	Collaborative Healthcare & Community Partnerships	Develop sustainable partnerships among healthcare professionals, community organizations, patients, and social institutions to address complex health needs.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 4.15	Future Healthcare, Society & Human Values	Critically examine emerging changes in healthcare and develop socially responsive approaches that protect human well-being, inclusion, dignity, and the public good.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 203: Dissertation IV

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM TD 4	Data Analysis & Interpretation	Analyze and interpret research data or evidence using appropriate methods and critically relate findings to the research question and existing literature.	S	SH	150	Research Progress Report

SEMESTER 5

MHSM 204 : Advanced Leadership, Communication and Interprofessional Ethics

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 5.1	Systemic Communication & Conflict Resolution	Develop communication and conflict-resolution approaches that strengthen trust, collaboration, and respectful relationships across healthcare institutions, teams, and systems.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.2	Humanistic & Socially Responsible Leadership in Healthcare – 3	Demonstrate leadership that promotes compassion, inclusion, collaboration, staff well-being, and socially responsive healthcare environments.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.3	Interprofessional Relationships, Teamwork & Social Collaboration – 3	Lead collaborative initiatives that integrate diverse professional perspectives and strengthen coordinated, respectful, and person-centred healthcare.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.4	Planetary Health & Sustainable Systems – 3	Develop sustainable healthcare approaches that balance environmental stewardship, community well-being, resource responsibility, and long-term health needs.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.5	Digital Surveillance, Privacy & Human Dignity	Evaluate the impact of healthcare surveillance technologies on privacy, autonomy, trust, dignity, and relationships between individuals and healthcare systems.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.6	Institutional Culture, Participation & Shared Governance	Analyze how institutional culture and decision-making structures influence healthcare experiences and develop approaches that promote participation, transparency, inclusion, and shared responsibility.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 205: Future Healthcare, Transformation and Global Trends

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 5.7	Human-Centred Decision-Making in Complex Healthcare Systems	Develop approaches to decision-making that integrate uncertainty, patient priorities, professional judgment, and system-level considerations in complex healthcare environments.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.8	Future Healthcare Models & Social Well-being	Critically examine emerging healthcare models and their implications for accessibility, continuity, relationships, inclusion, and community well-being.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.9	Human–Technology Relationships in Medicine	Analyze how increasing reliance on technology influences clinical relationships, professional judgment, patient experiences, and human connection in healthcare.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.10	Global Health Diplomacy, Partnerships & Equity	Develop collaborative approaches to global health partnerships that promote mutual respect, cultural understanding, equity, and shared responsibility.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.11	Health System Transformation & Human-Centred Change	Design approaches to health system transformation that consider the experiences of patients, professionals, communities, and other stakeholders.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.12	Evidence, Practice & Socially Responsive Healthcare	Translate research evidence into clinical and policy practice while considering patient needs, community priorities, feasibility, and equitable health outcomes.	S	SH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 5.13	Predictive Healthcare, Inclusion & Patient Empowerment	Critically examine predictive health technologies and develop approaches that promote patient empowerment, inclusion, fairness, and responsible use of health information.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.14	Healthcare Automation & the Human Role	Evaluate the changing roles of healthcare professionals and patients in automated care systems and identify approaches that preserve human oversight, connection, and patient safety.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 5.15	Personalized Digital Health & Individual Well-being	Develop person-centred approaches to personalized digital health that support meaningful patient participation, accessibility, trust, and responsible use of personal health information.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 206: Dissertation V

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Credit Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM TD 5	Dissertation Development	Synthesize research findings and develop a coherent scholarly dissertation demonstrating critical analysis, academic integrity, and alignment with the research objectives.	S	SH	150	Dissertation Draft Submission

SEMESTER 6

MHSM 207: Advanced Digital, Institutional and Population Ethics

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 6.1	Humanism, Technology & AI in Healthcare – 4	Describe the principles of human-centred AI governance and identify approaches that preserve patient dignity, professional judgment, trust, and social inclusion.	S	SH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.2	Institutional Trust, Public Confidence & Social Responsibility	Evaluate how healthcare institutions build public trust through transparency, responsiveness, accountability, and meaningful engagement with communities.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.3	Population Health, Community Participation & Well-being	Analyze the social impact of population-level health interventions and identify approaches that promote community participation, inclusion, and collective well-being.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.4	Professional Identity & Humanistic Values in Contemporary Medicine – 4	Demonstrate a mature professional identity through compassionate practice, reflective leadership, social responsibility, and commitment to human dignity in complex healthcare settings.	S	SH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.5	Health Advocacy, Policy Engagement & Social Change	Develop advocacy approaches that empower patients and communities to influence healthcare policies, institutions, and systems.	S	SH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.6	Communication, Leadership & Collaborative Negotiation	Demonstrate advanced communication, negotiation, and relationship-building skills to facilitate collaboration and constructive resolution of institutional challenges.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 208: Sustainability, Systems and Ethical Governance

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM 6.7	Humanistic & Socially Responsible Leadership in Healthcare – 4	Demonstrate leadership that shapes compassionate, inclusive, collaborative, and socially responsive healthcare systems and organizational cultures.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.8	Interprofessional Relationships, Teamwork & Social Collaboration – 4	Lead high-level interdisciplinary collaboration that integrates diverse perspectives and strengthens coordinated, respectful, and person-centred healthcare.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.9	Planetary Health & Sustainable Systems – 4	Develop sustainable healthcare systems that integrate environmental stewardship, resource responsibility, community well-being, and long-term health priorities.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.10	Digital Health Ecosystems, Inclusion & Human Connection	Analyze how interconnected digital health environments influence accessibility, relationships, trust, participation, and continuity of person-centred care.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.11	Institutional Accountability, Transparency & Public Trust	Develop approaches that strengthen institutional accountability, transparency, community participation, and public confidence in healthcare organizations.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.12	Meaning, Purpose & Legacy in Medical Practice	Reflect on personal purpose, professional contribution, human connection, and the long-term social impact of a career in healthcare.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 6.13	Sustainable Healthcare Operations & Community Well-being	Design environmentally responsible healthcare practices that maintain quality, safety, equity, and the well-being of patients, professionals, and communities.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.14	Responsible Stewardship of Healthcare Resources	Develop approaches to responsible resource stewardship that promote sustainability, accessibility, equity, and benefit for patients and communities.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)
MHSM 6.15	Organizational Culture, Humanism & Social Responsibility	Evaluate how organizational culture, shared values, relationships, and social responsibility shape compassionate, inclusive, and sustainable healthcare practice.	K	KH	2	Personal Reflection (SCRIBE)

MHSM 209: Dissertation VI

Competency Code	Topic	Competency	Domain	Level	Hours	Assessment Methods
MHSM TD 6	Dissertation Completion & Defense	Defend the completed dissertation by critically presenting, interpreting, and defending the research findings, conclusions, and implications.	S	SH	150	Final Dissertation Submission & Viva Voce

VII. MHSM – Delivery of Learning Content and Assessment

Delivery of Learning Content

- **Canvas LMS**

The MHSM program will be delivered through **Canvas LMS**, which will serve as the primary Learning Management System for the program.

Upon enrolment, each learner will be provided with the required institutional account and secure login credentials. All approved course content, learning activities, assignments, announcements, and course-related academic materials will be delivered through Canvas.

Assessment of Learning

Assessment of learning will be conducted through a combination of **written assignments, case analyses, quizzes, examinations, presentations, research-related submissions, and Dissertation assessment**, as specified in the approved course assessment plan.

The program will use dedicated digital assessment platforms to support secure assessment administration, academic integrity, originality verification, and reliable assessment records.

- **Turnitin**

Turnitin will be used for designated written assignments, research submissions, Dissertation-related documents, and other academic work requiring originality verification.

Turnitin provides a similarity-detection system that compares submitted academic work against a large database of published and student-submitted materials. It generates a similarity report that enables authorized academic staff to identify sections of text that may require further review. Academic staff will review the context of identified similarities and make decisions in accordance with the program's academic integrity policies. Where applicable, Turnitin's available authorship and writing-analysis features may also support the review of submitted work. Any use of AI-related indicators will be considered alongside the learner's work, references, assessment requirements, and other available academic evidence.

- **ExamSoft**

ExamSoft will be used for designated summative examinations and other assessments in the courses. ExamSoft provides a controlled assessment environment designed to support the secure delivery, completion, and submission of examinations. Where specific examination-security features are enabled, learners will be informed in advance of the applicable technical requirements, examination rules, and permitted resources.

Learner Authentication and Academic Responsibility

Learners will be required to access the designated academic platforms using their assigned institutional credentials. Learners are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of their login credentials and must not permit another individual to access or complete academic assessments on their behalf.

All submitted assignments, examinations, and other assessed work must represent the learner's own academic work, except where collaboration or use of external resources is expressly permitted in the assessment instructions.

Any suspected breach of academic integrity will be reviewed in accordance with the applicable academic policies and procedures of the program.

VIII. Learner Conduct

General Expectations

Learners enrolled in the MHSM program are expected to maintain a high standard of professionalism, integrity, and responsibility in all academic and program-related activities. The program emphasizes not only knowledge and skills, but also appropriate conduct consistent with ethical healthcare practice.

Academic Conduct

Learners must:

- Submit work that is original and appropriately referenced
- Adhere to guidelines related to plagiarism and use of AI tools (Refer to section V)

- Participate actively in assigned academic tasks, discussions, and submissions
- Respect deadlines and submission requirements
- Any form of academic misconduct may lead to appropriate action as per program policies.

Professional Behaviour

Learners are expected to:

- Demonstrate respectful communication in all academic interactions
- Engage constructively with peers, faculty, and mentors
- Show openness to feedback and willingness to improve
- Maintain a professional tone in written and verbal communication

Responsibility and Engagement

Learners should:

- Take ownership of their learning and academic progress
- Maintain regular engagement with course activities and Dissertation work
- Communicate in a timely manner regarding any academic concerns
- Follow instructions and guidelines provided by the program

Ethical Responsibility

Given the nature of the program, learners are expected to:

- Uphold ethical principles in all academic work

- Demonstrate sensitivity toward issues related to patients, communities, and healthcare systems
- Maintain confidentiality where applicable in discussions or assignments

Use of Digital Platforms

As the program is conducted online, learners must:

- Use digital platforms responsibly and appropriately
- Avoid disruptive or inappropriate behaviour in online sessions or forums
- Ensure academic submissions are made through approved channels

IX. MHSM – Dissertation Progression Guidelines (Semester-wise)

Semester 1 – Research Orientation & Elevator Pitch

In the first semester, learners are expected to identify an area of interest within bioethics, humanistic medicine, or social medicine. The focus is on understanding the problem, exploring existing literature at a basic level, and narrowing the area into a clear research question. Learners will develop an **elevator pitch** that clearly communicates the topic, its relevance, and the specific research question being explored. A brief **350-word concept note** should accompany the elevator pitch, outlining the background, research question, and potential implications of the proposed study.

Semester 2 – Dissertation Proposal Development

In the second semester, the initial research idea is developed into a structured Dissertation proposal. Learners are expected to expand their literature base, refine the research question, and establish clear aims and objectives. An appropriate methodology should be identified, together with consideration of the ethical aspects relevant to the proposed

study. The proposal should include the **topic, background, rationale, research gap, research question/hypothesis, aims and objectives, proposed methodology, and implications**. Learners will submit the proposal to their guide and obtain structured feedback from faculty.

Semester 3 – Dissertation Development & Research Progress I

During the third semester, learners begin active development of their Dissertation based on the approved proposal. This includes deeper engagement with the literature, refinement of the methodology, systematic collection or examination of relevant evidence or data, and development of the key arguments. Learners should demonstrate progress in addressing the research question and maintaining alignment between the objectives, methodology, and emerging findings.

Semester 4 – Dissertation Development & Research Progress II

During the fourth semester, learners continue substantive work on their Dissertation. The focus is on completing the required research activities, strengthening analysis and interpretation, integrating relevant literature, and developing coherent arguments. Learners should critically review their emerging findings and identify areas requiring further analysis, reading, or methodological refinement. A structured progress update should demonstrate the work completed and establish a clear plan for completing the remaining Dissertation components.

Semester 5 – Dissertation Writing, Integration & Finalization

During the fifth semester, learners are expected to consolidate their research findings and develop the full Dissertation manuscript. This includes integrating the literature review, methodology, findings, analysis, discussion, conclusions, and implications into a coherent scholarly document. Learners should critically evaluate their findings in relation to the research question and existing literature and incorporate feedback from their guide. A complete or near-complete Dissertation draft should be submitted for academic review and further refinement.

Semester 6 – Final Dissertation Submission & Defense

By the end of the sixth semester, learners are expected to complete and consolidate their work into the final Dissertation. The final manuscript should demonstrate coherent scholarly inquiry, critical analysis, ethical reasoning, and a clear contribution to the selected area of bioethics, humanistic medicine, or social medicine. Learners will submit the **final Dissertation** after incorporating required academic feedback and will present and defend their work in a **Dissertation defense before an international panel of reviewers**.

X. General Instructions for Dissertation submission

The Dissertation is to be submitted at the end of Semester 4 as a complete and original academic work. All submissions must be the learner's own work and should adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity.

Format and Presentation

- **Page count:** 80-100 (excluding references and appendices)
- **Font:** Times New Roman
- **Font Size:** 12 (main text), 14 (headings)
- **Line Spacing:** 1.5
- **Alignment:** Justified
- **Margins:** 1 inch on all sides
- Page numbers should be included, and the document should be organized with clear headings and subheadings.

Structure of the Dissertation

The Dissertation should be arranged in the following order:

1. Title Page

- Title of the Dissertation
- Name of the learner
- Program (MHSM)
- Institution
- Year of submission

2. Abstract (250–300 words)

A concise summary of the topic, approach, and key insights

3. Introduction

4. Literature Review

5. Gap analysis

6. Research Question / HypoDissertation

7. Aims and Objectives

8. Theoretical framework / Conceptual Framework (if applicable)

9. Methods

10. Results

11. Discussion

12. Limitation

13. Future directions

14. Conclusion

15. References : Standard citation style (APA style)

16. Appendices. (Along with plagiarism report)

Submission Process

- The final Dissertation must be submitted in **PDF format** through the designated submission portal or email, as notified by the program.
- The file should be named as:
MHSM_Dissertation for Defence_Name_Year.pdf
- Late submissions may not be accepted unless prior approval has been obtained.

Evaluation

The submitted Dissertation will be assessed by international designated faculty and/or external reviewers. Evaluation will focus on:

1. Relevance and clarity of the research question
2. Depth of literature engagement
3. Rigour of methodology
4. Clarity of result presentation
5. Strength of analysis and argument
6. Ethical reasoning and contextual understanding
7. Overall organization and quality of writing

Dissertation Defense

Following submission of the Dissertation, learners are required to defend their work before an **international panel of academic reviewers and examiners**. The defense will be conducted in a formal academic setting, where learners will present their research question, methodology, key findings, conclusions, and implications. Learners should be prepared to respond to questions from the international reviewers and panel members and engage in an academic discussion of their research.

Note:

The Dissertation represents the culmination of the learner's work across the MHSM program. It should reflect consistent effort, academic maturity, and the ability to integrate ethical reasoning with real-world healthcare contexts.

XI. Policy on Plagiarism and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

1. Academic Integrity

All academic work submitted as part of the MHSM program must be the original work of the learner. The program places strong emphasis on honesty, transparency, and ethical scholarship. Any form of academic misconduct will be treated seriously.

2. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the use of another person's words, ideas, data, or work without appropriate acknowledgment. This includes:

- Copying text directly from sources without citation
- Paraphrasing without proper referencing
- Submitting work that is not entirely one's own
- Reusing previously submitted work without disclosure
- All submissions must include proper citations using the prescribed referencing style.

3. Acceptable Similarity Levels

All written submissions may be subjected to plagiarism detection software.

- A similarity index of up to 15% may be considered acceptable, provided that matched content is properly cited
- Similarity above this threshold may require revision or may be subject to academic review

4. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

The use of AI tools (such as language models, writing assistants, or content generators) is permitted only as a supportive aid, and not as a substitute for independent thinking or writing.

AI tools may be used for:

- Improving language clarity and grammar and cohesive writing.
- Structuring ideas
- Preliminary understanding of topics

However, learners are expected to:

- Acknowledge how and where AI was used.
- Ensure that all submitted work reflects their own understanding and analysis
- Critically review and modify any AI-assisted content
- Take full responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the work

5. Prohibited Use of AI

Turnitin will be used for designated written assignments, research submissions, and Dissertation-related work to generate similarity reports and assist in identifying inappropriate copying, insufficient attribution, and potential plagiarism. Where applicable, available authorship and AI-related indicators may also support academic review.

The following are not permitted

- Submitting AI-generated content as original work without substantial modification

- Using AI to generate entire assignments, methods analysis, results, reflections, or other Dissertation sections
- Presenting AI-generated analysis without critical engagement Such practices will be treated as a form of academic misconduct.

6. Declaration

All major submissions, including the Dissertation, must include a declaration stating that:

- The work is original
- All sources have been appropriately acknowledged
- Any use of AI tools has been limited to assistance and not authorship

7. Consequences of Violation

In cases of plagiarism or misuse of AI, the following actions may be taken:

- Request for resubmission
- Reduction of marks
- Rejection of submission
- Further academic or disciplinary action as deemed appropriate

XII. Guidelines for Allocation of Guide and Co-guide

Appointment of Guide

Each learner will be assigned a Guide (Primary Supervisor) to support and oversee the development of the Dissertation. The Guide shall be a faculty member with relevant academic expertise in the chosen area of research.

The Guide will be responsible for:

- Assisting the learner in refining the research topic and question
- Providing academic guidance on structure, analysis, and writing
- Ensuring that the work meets ethical and scholarly standards
- Monitoring progress across semesters

Appointment of Co-guide

Where required, a Co-guide (Secondary Supervisor) may be assigned based on the nature of the topic. This is particularly applicable when the research involves interdisciplinary areas such as public health, policy, digital health, or social sciences.

The Co-guide will:

- Provide additional domain-specific expertise
- Support the learner in specialized aspects of the Dissertation
- Collaborate with the Guide to ensure comprehensive academic input

Process of Allocation

- Learners may indicate areas of interest at the end of Semester 1
- Guides (and Co-guides, if applicable) will be allocated based on:
 - Topic relevance
 - Faculty expertise

- Availability
- The final allocation will be approved by the program coordination committee.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Learner

The learner is expected to:

- Maintain regular communication with the Guide/Co-guide
- Seek feedback at appropriate stages of the work
- Demonstrate independent effort and academic responsibility
- Incorporate feedback constructively

Change of Guide

A change of Guide or Co-guide may be permitted under exceptional circumstances, subject to approval by the program authorities.

XIII. SCRIBE – ePORTFOLIO

The **SCRIBE ePortfolio (Systematic Collection of Reflections and Individual Experiences in Bioethics Education)** will serve as an integral component of the MHSM programme, providing learners with a structured digital space to document and reflect on their academic learning and experiences.

Orientation and Access

All newly enrolled learners will receive an orientation to the SCRIBE ePortfolio at the beginning of the programme. The orientation will provide guidance on the purpose, structure, and use of the ePortfolio.

Use of the SCRIBE ePortfolio

Learners may use SCRIBE to document:

- Class reflections
- Reflections on discussions and learning activities
- Academic and research activities
- Bioethics-related learning experiences
- Project and assignment-related reflections
- Presentations and other academic activities
- Feedback received and responses to feedback
- Other significant learning experiences and achievements

Formative Assessment

The SCRIBE ePortfolio will be used as a **formative assessment tool** to support continuous reflection, feedback, and learner development throughout the programme.

Faculty and mentors will review portfolio entries periodically and provide feedback to help learners identify areas of strength, areas requiring further development, and opportunities for improvement. The ePortfolio is intended to encourage continuous reflection, critical thinking, self-directed learning, and progressive development rather than serving as a summative examination or final graded assessment.

XIV. Award of Degree

Title of the Degree

Upon successful completion of the program, the learner shall be awarded the degree of:
Master of Humanistic and Socialistic Medicine (MHSM)

Eligibility for Award

The degree will be awarded to learners who have:

- Successfully completed all prescribed academic requirements across the four semesters
- Has minimum of 80% attendance in all semesters.
- Attained the required minimum credits as specified by the program
- Completed all formative and summative assessments satisfactorily
- Submitted and successfully defended the final Dissertation.

Minimum Requirements

To qualify for the award of the degree, the learner must:

- Achieve a minimum credit requirement in all components of the program

- Demonstrate consistent engagement in reflective and academic activities
- Fulfil all requirements of the longitudinal Dissertation component
- Failure to meet any of the above requirements may result in withholding of the degree until completion of pending components.

Award of Degree

The degree shall be conferred by **Commonwealth University, Saint Lucia** upon successful completion of all prescribed academic requirements and approval of the results by the appropriate academic authority. The **official degree certificate and academic transcript** shall be issued by Commonwealth University, Saint Lucia.

The degree certificate will bear:

- Name of the learner
- Title of the degree
- Date of award
- Official seal and signature of the awarding authority