

In a recent trend, there has been an increasingly strong demand for the utilization of advanced computer technology in combination with technological innovations in the medical field; the setting-up of big medical and/or health databases with broad applications, including in the commercial field; the establishment of bio-banks based on unique information and/or materials to meet a wide range of needs, from general medical needs to quite individualistic desires. Such energy for creating new categories cannot be absorbed into one specific current category, such as traditional law or bioethics.

We therefore wish to overwrite the WMA Declaration database in light of the total overhaul of the Declaration of Helsinki as an ethical guideline for physicians in dealing with human subjects that was accomplished by the new WMA Working Group in Fortaleza in 2013.

The JMA's activities in the same field were

fruitful in creating an international symposium on big data and databases within the JMA Conference on Medical Information 2014, which was held in February. The symposium welcomed three international guests: Dr. Jon Snædel, Chair of the WMA WG and Past President of the Icelandic Medical Association; Dr. Robert Wah, President-elect of the American Medical Association; and Dr. Don-Chun Shin of the Korean Medical Association. I was honored to give the opening address and co-chair the session.

The results of this fruitful meeting will directly connect with the Working Group (WG) meetings which was held in Reykjavik and Copenhagen to create the newest version of the WMA Declaration as the current guideline in this field.

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