

The Estonian Medical Association is a voluntary non-profit craft union.

The Estonian Medical Association (EMA) was founded on February 28, 1921. In the years 1921 - 1940 The Estonian Medical Association incorporated different regional medical societies and associations, issued the magazine "Eesti Arst" (*"The Estonian Physician"*) and were in the receipt of the Estonian Health Care Museum.

In 1940 the occupying powers dismissed the Estonian Medical Association but in the autumn of 1944 doctors who had emigrated from Estonia organized the Estonian Society of Physicians in Sweden that for decades cherished and maintained the traditions of The EMA and resumed its activities.

The Estonian Medical Association was re-founded on June 11, 1988. Doctor Laur Karu was elected the President.

The objectives of the present the Estonian Medical Association are to unite the physicians and medical men in, develop and elaborate health policy and medical culture in Estonia as well as represent and protect the professional interests and rights of the membership of the EMA. The Estonian MA participates in the elaboration of the legislation concerning health and is represented in a number of organizations and commissions coordinating health care. It also negotiates, in the interest of physicians, with both and state authorities for the working conditions and wage rates.

Since 1993 the Estonian Medical Association has been participating in the work of the European Forum of Medical Associations (EFMA). The Estonian Junior Doctors' Association (EJDA) is a full member of the Permanent Working Group of European Doctors (PWG). The EMA has the best relations with the Medical Associations of the Baltic and Nordic countries.

Since 1994 the Estonian Medical Association has held Estonian Medical Days in Tartu every year. This event comprises research seminars and a fair for medical companies. The conferences organized under the auspices of "Medifar" - a medical fair held in Tallinn - have treated the problems of postgraduate and continuous medical training and quality assurance in health care.

At present there are 4543 doctors in Estonia, the membership of the EMA comprises of 2884 members i.e. 63 % of the whole doctorhood of Estonia.

The Estonian Medical Association unites 20 regional associations and the EJDA.

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body that is summoned once a year in November. The Council presides the EMA in the recesses. The Council is comprised of the president, Board members and the representatives of the regional associations. The Board is the organ of the executive-organizational administration of the EMA. The General Assembly elects the President of the Estonian Medical Association for a term of office of two years. The President represents the Estonian MA and organizes the work of the Board. Dr. Indrek Oro - a radiologist at the Estonian Cancer Centre has held the post of the President since 1994.

The Ethics Committee of the Estonian Medical Association introduces the modern standpoints of bioethics and airs its expert opinions about ethical problems concerning professional performance of the doctorhood. The Head of the Ethics Committee is Professor Arvo Tikk.

The Estonian Medical Association owns a house in Tartu in Pepleri Street. The house was built in 1901 and has been in the possession of the EMA since 1928. At present, the Secretary General Dr. Katrin Rehemaa and the Financial Director of the EMA Ms. Mai Taro have an office on the second floor of that house. Estonian Junior Doctors' Association, Tartu Medical Association and the Association of Medical Students also have their own offices.

The Reporter of Estonian Medical Association was first published in 1995. This magazine gives a survey of the medical events taking place in Estonia as well as in the other parts of the world. It publishes the news from the Estonian Medical Association, information about schooling, training and research seminars, discussions and many other things. The editor of the magazine is Kuulo Kutsar.

In 1993 the Finnish Medical Society Duodecim, Kustannus Ltd. Duodecim and The Estonian Medical Association founded a publishing house "**Medicina**". Up to now "**Medicina**" has issued about 20 books by the Estonian authors as well as translations from Finnish and English, which provide additional reading to professional literature published in our mother language.