

16th World Congress of Bioethics: 2022 Final Report*

Institute for Biomedical Ethics, University of Basel

Basel, Switzerland

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The Institute for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Basel (IBMB) hosted the 16th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) between the 20th and the 22nd of July 2022. The 16th WCB was held in a hybrid format with participants attending both in-person and virtually. In line with the hosts of previous Congresses, the 16th WCB organizing team from the IBMB has summarized in the present report the key activities and features of the congress that the IAB and /or future organizers will find useful.

The IBMB organizing team are thankful to the teams of past Congresses for sharing their legacy documents which were crucial in guiding us to plan a successful congress. We recommend the next host to also rely on other legacy documents in addition to ours.

***This report also includes information about Feminist Approaches to Bioethics that the Host in Basel supported with technical and administrative functions.**

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Conference Theme: The 16th WCB

Originally, the proposed theme for the 16th WCB was “Towards responsibility and transparency in Bioethics”. However, due to the developments related to the Covid-19 pandemic, we revised the theme to “Bioethics *post* Covid-19: Responsibility and transparency in a globalized and interconnected world”. The theme was chosen not only to give our participants the opportunity to confer how our world and bioethics has engaged and evolved in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, but also to discuss how this pandemic highlights the value of responsibility and transparency in each of our lives. Through the creation of an inclusive list of subtopics (see Annex 1), we have also included the possibility to submit contributions from a wide variety of topics as we considered how the ethical concerns that bioethicists have sought to address in the past continue to challenge us. We have therefore welcomed discussions on all topics of bioethics that center on responsibility and transparency from the start of life to the end of life, from clinical ethics to public health ethics, and from research ethics to ethics of (new) technologies, covering most of the work done by scholars working in bioethics as well as scholars from other disciplines working on bioethics topics.

Teams coordinating the WCB and FAB

The organization relied on the cooperation of 5 main groups:

1. The IBMB Organizing Committee (hereafter IBMB team). The IBMB team comprised of 4 core members - the Conference Chair, Co-Chair, and two Congress Coordinators. Throughout the organization of the conference, the core members worked regularly on conference activities. In percentages, we estimate that the Chair (PD Dr. Tenzin Wangmo) spent 20% of her working time on the congress for the two-year period up to the Congress in 2022, 5% of the Co-chair's (Prof. Bernice Elger) time, 20% of working time of Congress Coordinator (Anne-Christine Loshnigg, who works 60% total), while a post-doctoral researcher working as Congress Coordinator was employed approximately 45% during the two years to support the congress works. Thus, combined, a total of almost a full-time person effort went into Congress organization from the IBMB team.

The IBMB team attended to all the tasks related to the scientific component of the 16th WCB conference:

- Selection of abstracts including planning of the review groups for abstracts
- Identification and communication with keynote speakers
- Communication and coordination with the IAB board
- Bursary decision: equity score design, bursary planning, management and distribution
- Design of the format of the conference
- Ensuring the content of the conference and developing scientific program
- Implementation of the activities related to actual work-flow on the 3 Congress days

In addition, the IBMB team worked on organization of other (non-academic) conference activities for both the WCB and the FAB:

- Planning of networking dinners, finding caterers and discussing budget with them
- Distribution of the parallel sessions in the conference venue
- Sponsors identification, contact and management
- Congress related participant registration bags and set-up
- Conference venue management, finding IT solutions

In addition and most importantly, during the days of the conference, the members of the IBMB (PhD students, post-docs, senior researchers, affiliates, professors) - approximately 21 scholars

- chaired all the parallel sessions and arranged (and managed) the streaming of all the parallel sessions. Several IBMB members supported the FAB for technical issues during the FAB event, while chairing the sessions was carried out by a FAB selected person.

2. The IBMB team contracted Organizers Switzerland Ltd (<https://organizers.ch/en/>) a professional conference organizer (hereafter: OrganizersCH). For the vast majority of the preparations, we worked with one person of the OrganizersCH (we estimate that she spent 20 - 30% of her time on the 16th WCB and FAB). During the congress days in July 2022, 3 additional staff members from OrganizersCH were involved. The OrganizersCH provided their expertise in relation to all administrative work associated with Congress organization for both WCB and FAB:

- The design, update and maintenance of the conference website (www.iab2022.org). All information shared via Newsletters were also made available on the conference website
- Registrations (set up of a registration portal and management of registrations)
- Collection of abstracts and setup of an abstract review portal
- Communication with conference participants
- Sending periodic newsletters informing congress participants about, e.g., deadlines, registrations, general information about the congress
- Set-up of the live-stream of the plenary sessions
- Creation of the virtual platform of the conference website where virtual participants could easily access all the sessions, collection and website upload of the recordings of the presentations.
- Advised on the selection of venues and caterers for the Congress meals.

3. The WCB Advisory Committee comprised 23 bioethics colleagues from around the world. Their collaboration included review of abstracts and bursary applications. The inclusion of an advisory committee was critical to ensure that abstract review will take place as planned as the advisors were informed that this would be one of their key tasks. We were not able to organize a formal meeting with the committee because of time differences involved. *In the future, it might be valuable to have at least one meeting to discuss issues critical to the conference. For our case, we never felt the critical need or had any significant question that we could pose them and Emails worked well.*

The IAB board liaison officer(s): The President of the IAB, Prof. Vardit Ravitsky was the liaison officer from IAB for the 16th WCB. In this role, we communicated with her for questions that we had, e.g. approval of registration fees by the IAB Board. Also, she wrote to us when the IAB Board wished to meet or wanted an update from the Host of the 16th WCB.

4. The FAB liaison officer: The FAB liaison officer was Prof. Jackie Scully Leach. As the Host of the 16th WCB, we were responsible for all administrative concerns for FAB. That is, we organized the following for the FAB:

- Venue, rooms, and technology
- Catering for two days (coffee breaks, lunches)
- Live Plenary sessions and streaming all in-person sessions on Zoom (i.e. ensuring hybrid event for FAB)
- Registrations
- Abstract submission portal
- Information dissemination to FAB participants.

In sum, the local WCB host has the responsibility to organize everything on site for FAB as well. In the report below, we will not repeat ourselves since all the organizations were the same for both FAB and WCB. The only difference was that we were not responsible for the scientific content, i.e. abstract review, conference program, FAB award, and actual conference moderation of FAB.

Meeting Format

The host IBMB team and the IAB planned to ensure that the 16th WCB would be a Hybrid meeting. The Congress therefore took place in-person in Basel, Switzerland, and virtually for virtual participants.

Our Hybrid concept included:

- *LIVE Plenary Sessions:* 3 hours of Plenary sessions with Keynotes and Panels have been live-streamed during each day of the congress. These Plenary sessions were a common event that every Congress participant (virtual and in person) had the chance to follow together. During these plenaries, all participants had the chance to interact with the sessions, and ask questions in real time – either in person or through the live online chat.
- *In-Person participation:* Our Congress participants joined us in-person in Basel and had the opportunity to present their contributions during the days of the conference. They had thus experienced a “normal” congress as was common prior to the pandemic. All parallel sessions taking place in Basel were streamed via Zoom to accommodate those virtual participants who wished to attend certain sessions. In addition, due to the travelling issues that many people were subjected to during summer 2022 (numerous train/plane cancellations and delays), if in-person presenters could not make it to Basel in time, they carried out their presentations virtually via ZOOM.
- *Virtual Presentations:* All virtual participants also had the opportunity to present their talks during the days of the conference. That is, in addition to the in-person presentations taking place in Basel, we had dedicated virtual parallel presentations. We made our best effort to plan the virtual parallel sessions by accommodating the presenters’ time zones together with the theme of each session (*this did not work perfectly as we planned. See our remarks in the “16th WCB IBMB Team’s Reflections and suggestions” section below*).
- In addition, similarly to what was done for WCB 2020 in Philadelphia, all participants were asked to pre-record their talks before the conference. The talks were uploaded to the conference website and available to all registered participants for a limited amount of time (30 days since it is unlikely that participants would still want to find information about presentation as the time after the meeting increases) after the end of the 16th WCB. We excluded the possibility to record live presentations during the congress days and to use them as files to upload on our Congress website post congress since the file size would not be supported on our website and may not be sustainable for everyone to watch/download easily from all around the world.

Abstracts

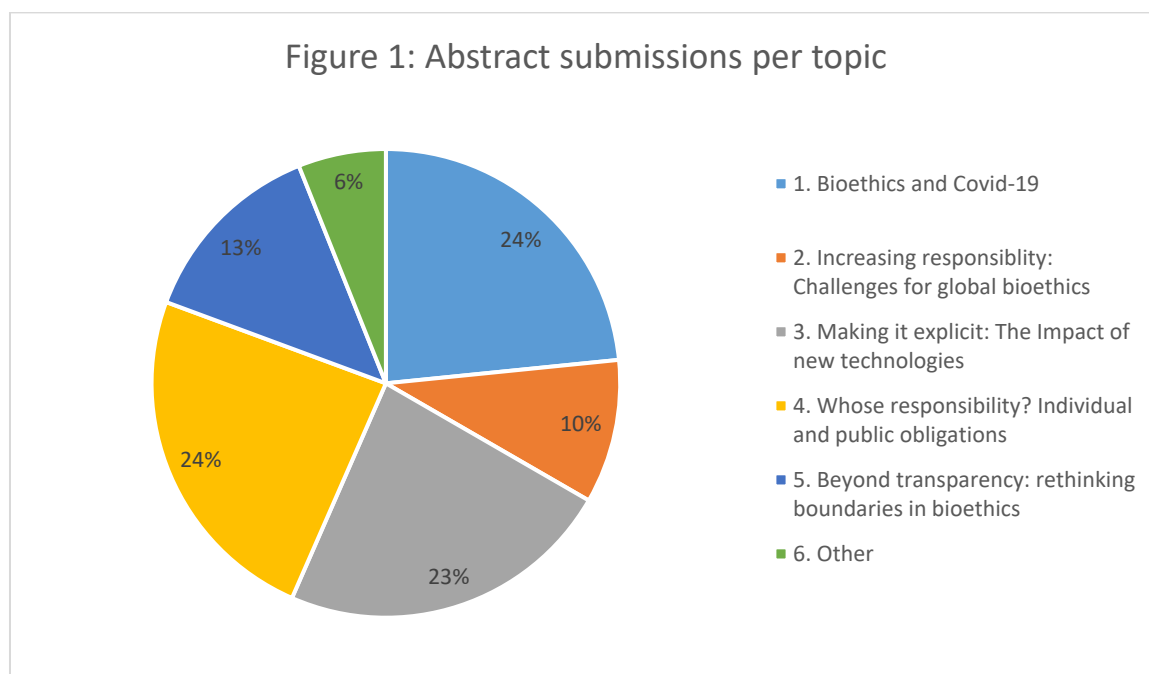
The call for abstract was announced in February 2021. Prospective participants could choose between four types of presentations: oral paper, short oral presentation, symposium/panel session, and workshop (WCB only, FAB did not have workshops). A short guideline on how to write an effective conference abstract was uploaded on the conference website to assist early career researchers for whom it might have been the first experience at writing a conference abstract (See Annex 2). The deadline for abstract submission was originally set for the 30th of July 2021 and subsequently extended to the 30th of September 2021, after receiving numerous requests from participants to be granted more time to submit their abstracts. The same abstract submission platform was used for FAB and WCB. We limited abstract submission for the WCB to a maximum of two abstracts per submitting author (this was also advised by

our colleagues from UPenn, the host of WCB 2020). In Table 1, we present numbers on abstract submissions that we received and Figure 1 shows a breakdown of submissions per topic.

Table 1: WCB Abstract Submissions Received

	Frequency	Percent
Oral papers	445	70.4
Panel / Symposium Sessions	46	7.4
Short oral presentations*	135	21.4
Workshops	5	0.8
Total	631	100.0

*We did not have posters, but short oral presentations since poster boards would have to be rented. Since the IAB Board reviews the conference budget in relation to the registration cost, this was a cost item that we took away and changed poster to short oral presentations.



Review of Abstracts: WCB

A double blind peer review of each abstract took place using a group of selected reviewers. Reviewers included all members of the Scientific Advisory Committee of WCB, a few members of IAB board members, international scholars collaborating with the IBMB, as well as some members of our Institute in Basel. The reviewers received between 20 - 30 abstracts on topics related to their expertise. We expected this amount would be a bearable workload. Topical expertise of each of the abstract reviewers was determined by a search conducted by the IBMB team. Reviewers were also provided review instructions and scoring criteria to guide them through the review process (see Annex 3).

After the review, regional and seniority equity weights were applied to all presentations (see paragraph below). The acceptance threshold was set at 4.0 for panels, 3.5 for oral papers, 4.0 for short oral presentations and 4.0 for workshops. An additional blind review was performed by a third reviewer for all the abstracts that scored below the acceptance threshold to ensure the quality/fairness of the review

parameters. Table 2 provides information on the number of abstracts that were accepted for the 16th WCB.

Table 2: Accepted abstracts 16th WCB

Presentation form	Accept	Reject	Total
Oral paper	402	43	445
Panel/Symposium Session	41	5	46
Short oral presentation	102	33	135
Workshop	5	0	5
Total	550	81	631

A high number of abstracts was accepted in light of the Hybrid nature of the 16th WCB and in order to ensure that there would be enough participants both virtually and in Basel. Additionally, 10 – 20% drop-offs after acceptance was assumed. *During the World Congress in July 2022, not all accepted abstracts were represented. In total, 335 oral presentations took place, 90 short oral presentations, 41 panel sessions, and 4 workshops. Thus, as expected there was 15% attrition.*

Equity weights placed on reviewed abstracts

Following the example of WCB 2020 organized by the University of Pennsylvania, the organizing team of the 16th WCB, in consultation with the 2022 WCB Advisory Committee and the IAB, implemented equity weights to be assigned to abstracts scoring. These weights were placed to address the disadvantages that some participants might face by a purely “colorblind” review that simply accepts the highest scoring abstracts. It is in fact known that a senior researcher, for example, can easily write more effective abstracts than a doctoral student due to different levels of experience and knowledge. Likewise, scholars from areas where bioethics is more established usually benefit from better resources, training, supervision and feedback from seasoned colleagues.

Equity weights have been applied to two main features: region of provenance (which country the affiliated Institution is based in), and career status (ECR vs Non-ECR). We identified 5 global regions eligible for equity weights. For each region, a weight up to 0.8 has been added to the raw abstract score as follows:

1. African countries, India, Pakistan = + 0.8
2. SE and LIC Asia, Centre and South America = + 0.6
3. Eastern Europe = + 0.4
4. Other Asian Countries = + 0.2
5. Others (e.g. North America, Western Europe, UK, Australia, New Zealand) = +0.0

In addition, all early career researchers (defined as a PhD Student or Post-doc Researcher with five years or less research experience after the PhD) have received an additional + 0.2 weight irrespective of the region. After the review process, abstracts were assigned an added weight from 0 to a maximum of + 1 point to their raw abstract score. The raw scores ranged from 1 to 6. The highest final score (raw score + equity bonus) reachable by any participant was set to 6. Any score that, after the equity correction, was higher than 6 had been considered as a 6 (highest obtainable score).

The distribution of countries in 5 global regions was made by following the example/design of WCB 2020. The table below (Table 3) shows in detail the countries identified by UPenn based on their abstract submission within the region grouping. *When abstracts were submitted from additional countries for*

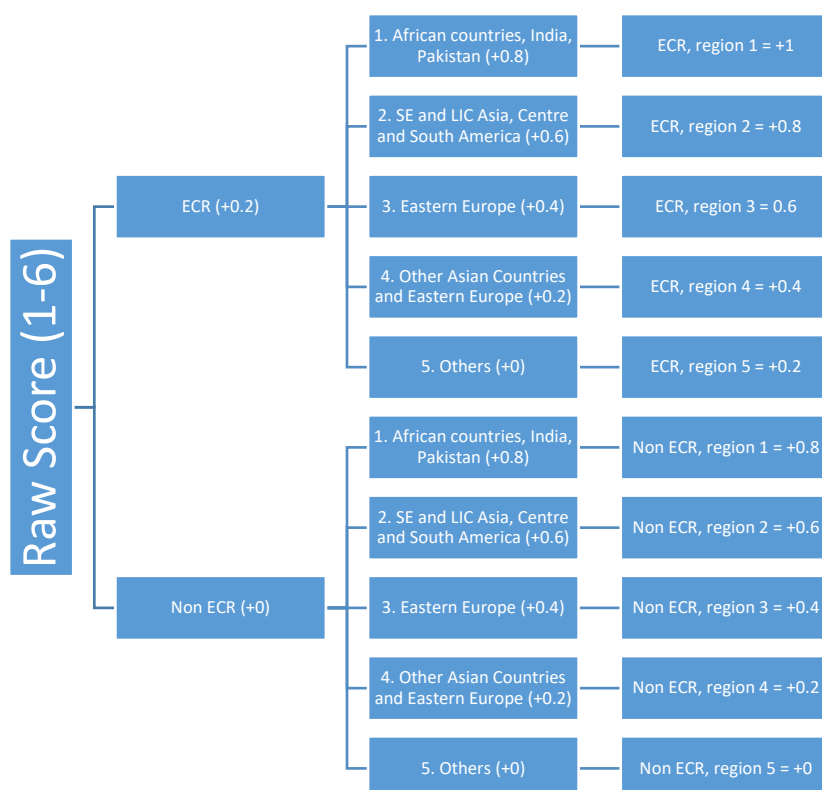
WCB2022 they have been placed to the appropriate region (e.g. Austria was assigned to region 5; Algeria to region 1 and so on).

Table 3: Equity score world regions

Region	Countries that submitted to IAB2020
1. African countries, India, Pakistan	Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
2. SE and LIC Asia, Centre and South America	Argentina, Brazil, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica , Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay
3. Eastern Europe	Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia , Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia , Slovakia
4. Other Asian Countries	China, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan , Kuwait, Macau, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey
5. Others	Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy , Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain , Sweden , Switzerland , United Kingdom, United States

We asked participants to self-place themselves in one of the region groupings during the abstract submission process to limit the burden for the organizing team. A consistency check between country of provenance and selected region grouping was performed by the IBMB team before applying the equity scores.

Equity weight distribution flowchart



Accepted Abstract: Presentations and Parallel Sessions

Due to hybrid nature of our congress that aimed for participants to present both virtually and in person in Basel, the parallel sessions were planned as follows: for oral papers and short oral presentations, we planned separated in-person and virtual parallel sessions; Symposia/Panels and workshops were planned in a hybrid format. The high number of abstracts accepted meant that during each of the parallel session blocks, there were between 15 – 18 parallel sessions taking place. This means, there was a total of 127 sessions that took place during the 3 days of the WCB.

The distribution of selected abstracts within a parallel session was performed by the IBMB team together with assistance from the OrganizersCH. The IBMB team first divided in-person and virtual participations to allow us to separate between virtual and in-person sessions. Afterwards the abstracts were thematically sorted in parallel sessions comprising of 4/5 presentations each. For virtual sessions we also sought to group the abstracts based on provenance to accommodate presenters' time zones (e.g. sessions with participants from the Americas were planned in the afternoon (CET), those from Asia in the morning) and topic, wherever possible.

As mentioned above, some in-person participants experienced some last minute travelling issues and could not make it to Basel. Since such modifications were not possible to plan in advance, some in-person sessions were made hybrid last minute to allow participants to perform their presentations virtually via ZOOM.

Registrations

A total of 724 people from 62 countries registered for WCB and FAB, see table 4.

Table 4: Participant registration by categories and regions

	Only WCB	WCB+FAB	Total WCB	Only FAB	Total FAB
Registrations from High Income Country	241	47	288	16	63
Registrations from Middle Income Country	74	6	80	1	7
Registrations from Low Income Country	23	3	26	0	3
Early Career Researchers	224	46	270	16	62
Day-Tickets “Special Solidarity Fees”	15	NA	15	NA	0
Virtual presentation at parallel session “Special Solidarity Fees”	12	NA	12	NA	0
Total	589	102	691	33	135

Among these, 234 participants stated that they will attend virtually while 492 participants were expected in-person in Basel. *However, only around 400 came to Basel.* Figure 3 shows the proportion of in-person and virtual participation for WCB and FAB based on information shared to us by the participants at the time of registration (if they informed us of their status change, it was adapted). Figure 4 shows the number of participants per country. An important point on registration useful for future WCB hosts is that almost half of the registrations did come during the last months of the congress. From past legacy reports, we also had the feeling that this was the case. Although we were on our toes until the end, it was indeed normal. We ended up having a “full house” in the last weeks before the congress.

Figure 3: In-person vs virtual participation (WCB and FAB)

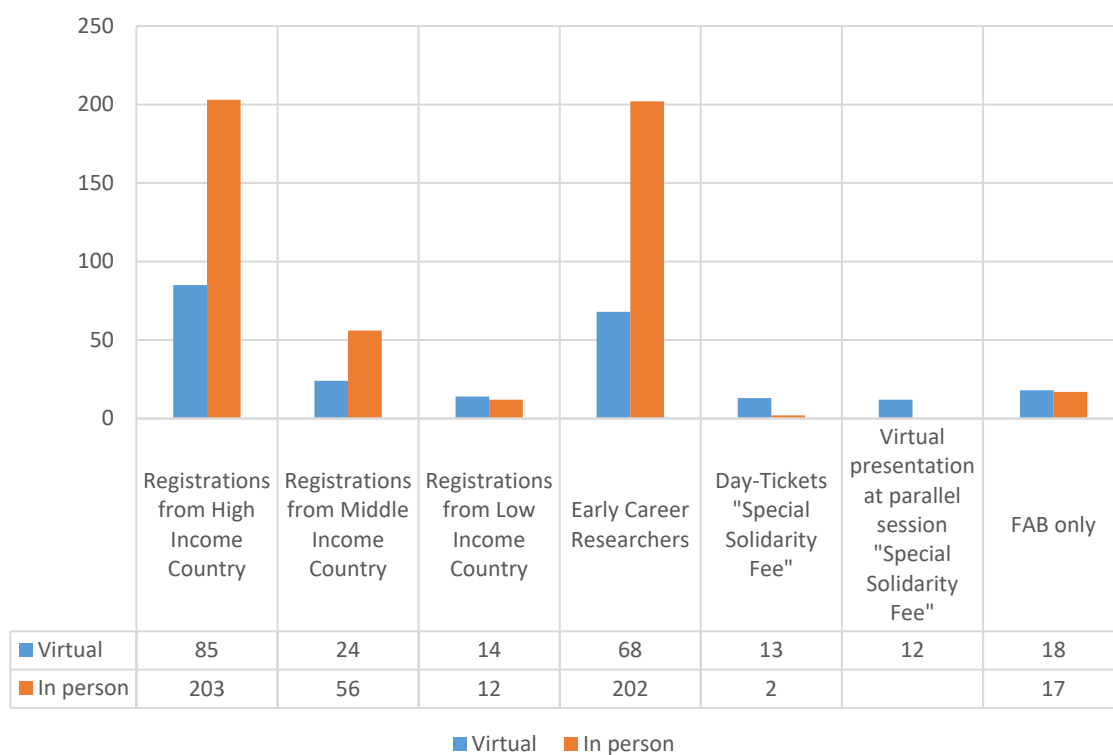
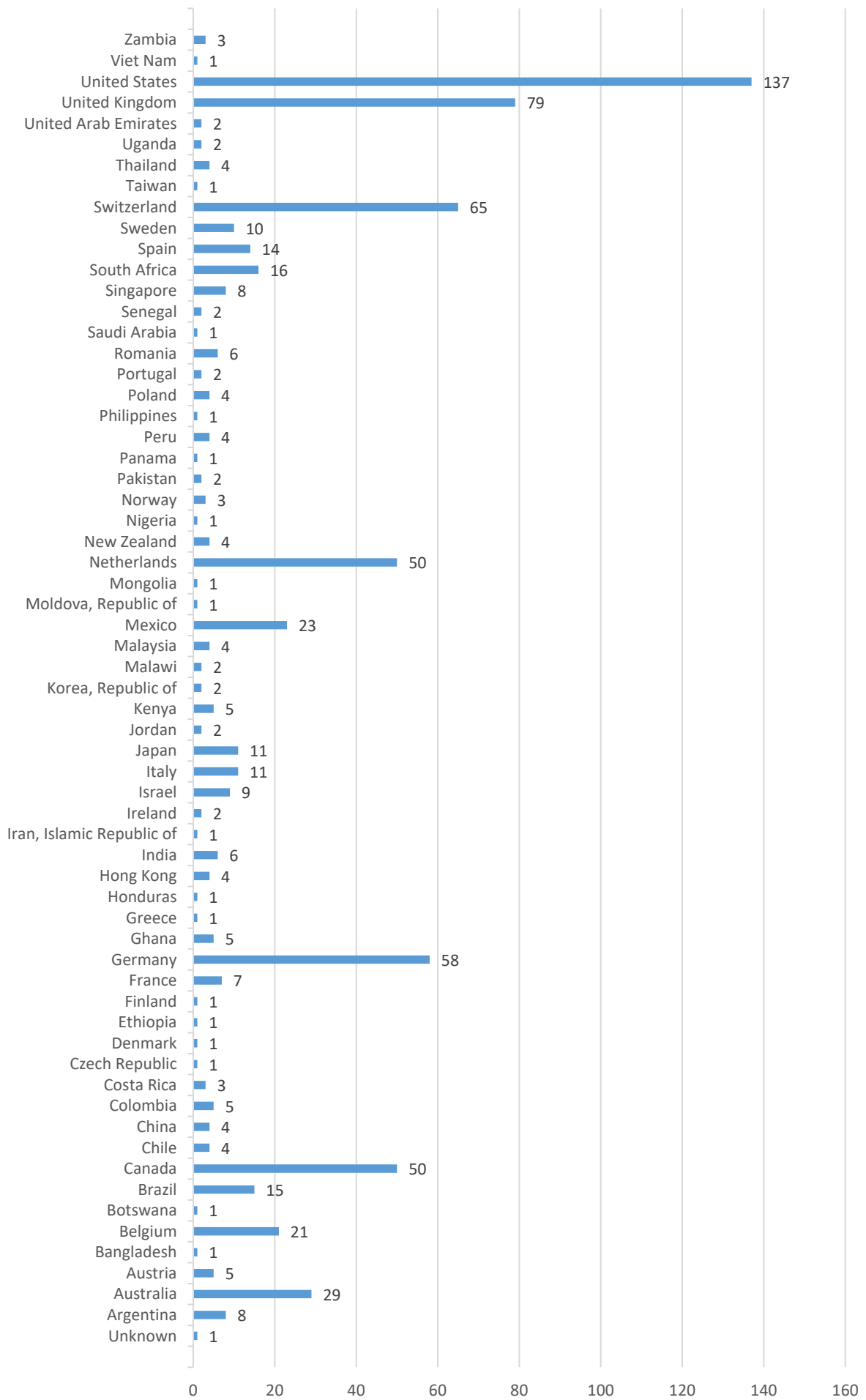


Figure 4: Participants by Country (WCB & FAB)



Bursaries and donations: WCB

The IAB offered \$18,000 to assist with bursaries. According to the exchange rate at the time of the bursary planning (November 2021) it amounted to approximately CHF 16,500.

In order to foster travelling participants but at the same time not disadvantage those who cannot travel or choose to attend the conference virtually, we planned to allocate by default 1/3 of the bursary funding for virtual participation and 2/3 for in-person participants.

For successful applicants, the bursary covered the registration fee for the congress, for both in-person and virtual participants, and up to a fixed amount of the travel costs of in-person participants. After careful consideration on how to fairly distribute the travel funding, we decided to set a maximum fixed amount depending on region grouping – we used the same grouping we applied for the equity scores. Applicants from regions 1 and 2 (Low and Middle Income Countries) could ask up to 500 CHF for travel costs while applicants from other regions could ask up to 300 CHF.

Table 5: Bursary calculations made in November 2021

Allocation of funding World Congress of Bioethics 2022	
Participation status	Funding offered
Online participation	Registration fee (335-520 CHF based on what the participant would have to pay)
In person participation	Registration fee (335-520 CHF) + travel cost (500 CHF max for Regions 1 and 2; 300 CHF max for all others) + conference dinner (70 CHF)

We set the subsequent criteria for application and requested the following documentation from our applicants:

- 1) Applicants must have had an accepted abstract and agree to present their accepted work at the conference, either in person or virtually.
- 2) Applicants must be early career researchers (students and postdocs up until 5 years after obtaining their PhD). We decided to allocate bursaries only to Early Career researchers in order to support and enhance participation to the conference of young scholars, the category that most likely doesn't have access to adequate resources for international conference participation or travel.
- 3) Applicants had to inform us in advance whether they will participate virtually or in person as the participation status determined the bursary amount.
- 4) Applicants needed to submit a complete application in PDF format via email to the IBMB team that included: a) Name, surname, affiliation of the applicant (incl. address), reference to accepted abstract(s) (number and title) and declaration whether the participant will attend in-person or virtually to the conference. b) Statement of financial need. In case of in-person participation, the statement had to include a specification of the amount requested to cover travel costs with details regarding what the travel funding would be used for (e.g. If an applicant wanted to use the funding to cover their flight they had to provide an estimate of the cost of the flight from their country to the conference venue). c) A letter from the applicant's institution with confirmation of need. d) Note of other available funding sources, if any.

The announcement for bursary application was made on the 25th November 2021. The application window was kept open between the 25th of November 2021 and the 20th of December 2021. The announcement was sent via our newsletter to all accepted abstracts (See annex 4) and posted on the

Conference website. Due to numerous requests from applicants for an extension of the deadline, all applications received until the 3rd of January 2022 (Monday) were considered.

Pre-processing applications

Applications were pre-processed by the IBMB team. They were responsible for:

- Removing all applications where there was no corresponding abstract (bursary applicants needed to either have their own abstract where they were either the first or the presenting author, or be involved as a presenter as part of a panel/symposium).
- Review all applications for completeness. For incomplete submission, the applicant was asked to redact the application appropriately. After that, incomplete submissions were not considered.
- Assign to each applicant a CHF amount range that corresponded to their participation status (in-person vs online) and approve the amount stated by the applicant (based on allocation planned in Table 5).
- Divide the applications following the equity scoring regional grouping. Assign two reviewers to each applicant.

Review by bursary sub-group

The bursary review group comprised of 11 members selected from the WCB Advisory Committee, the IAB Board and the IBMB team. Each member of the review group received a spreadsheet with around 10 applications (each application was reviewed twice for a double review).

For each applicant, the reviewer considered 3 data sources: (1) statement of need, (2) letter from Department Chair (or other) confirming need, and (3) availability of alternative resources. The presentation topic did not play a role in deciding whether or not to offer a bursary. Reviewers did NOT decide which of the reviewed applicants should actually receive funding (on this, see below: Selection of bursary recipients), they provided suggestion as to whether the reviewed applications should in principle be funded or not. (Yes/No, IF no, a reason could be stated).

Bursary selection and distribution strategy

As mentioned before, we allocated by default 1/3 of the bursary funding for virtual participation and 2/3 for in-person participants. To increase participation from low and middle income countries, we planned to allocate larger shares of bursaries for higher priority regions: 25% (Region 1), 25% (Region 2), 20% (Region 3), 20% (Region 4) and 10% (Region 5).

Based on a bursary calculation performed in November 2021 the table below (Table 6) shows the number of allocated/planned bursaries per region before distributions.

Table 6: Bursary distribution plan

Summary	Number of allocated (planned) bursaries per region
Region 1	6 (3 in person, 3 virtual)
Region 2	6 (3 in person, 3 virtual)
Region 3	6 (2 in person, 4 virtual)
Region 4	6 (2 in pers, 4 virtual)
Region 5	3 (1 in person, 2 virtual)

The following number of requests was received:

- 9 requests from Region 1 (7 in person, 2 virtual) ;
- 9 requests from Region 2 (6 in person, 3 virtual);
- 1 request from Region 3, in person;

- 2 requests from Region 4, in person;
- 19 requests from Region 5 (16 in person, 3 virtual).

Based on the “Yes” response of the two reviewers evaluating each bursary application, the IBMB team compiled a list of those who are among the possible bursary recipients. Bursary applications were therefore first divided per region grouping. After that, within each region, the list was compiled from higher scoring to lower scoring abstracts (excellent, very good, good and so on).

Two applications (one from Region 2 and one from Region 5) were excluded because the applicants were not ECR. In addition, five applications (two from Region 1, one from Region 2, two from Region 5) were considered barely-compliant or suboptimal (per note of our reviewers) therefore considered last.

Bursary recipients were selected within their region grouping in descending order from the highest scoring applicant (in case of same score abstracts precedence has been given to applicants that submitted their request earlier) until exhaustion of funds.

Due to the high request for in-person bursaries, the IBMB team agreed that the planned strategy of 2/3 in person -1/3 virtual was not adequate anymore, therefore we decided to allocate the extra planned virtual bursaries to in-person participants following the descending order from the higher to the lowest scoring applicant. For these in-person applicants that received a virtual bursary we only covered the registration fee.

In addition, Region 3 and region 4 did not receive enough applications to cover the planned number of bursaries, therefore we reallocated the extra bursaries giving precedence to Region 1 and Region 2. After exhausting both region 1 and 2 we gave any remaining applications to region 5 in order of abstract score. In case of reallocation of virtual bursaries, we only covered the registration fee of the participant even if they requested in person participation.

Table 7: Summary of IAB Bursaries Planned and Awarded

Summary	Number of allocated (planned) bursaries per region	Number of requests received	Number of awarded IAB bursaries
Region 1	6 (3 in pers, 3 virt)	9 (7 in pers, 2 virt)	7(3 in pers, 4 virt)
Region 2	6 (3 in pers, 3 virt)	9 (6 in pers, 3 virt)	7 (3 in pers, 4 virt)
Region 3	6 (2 in pers, 4 virt)	1 (in pers)	1 (in pers)
Region 4	6 (2 in pers, 4 virt)	2 (in pers)	2 (2 in pers)
Region 5	3 (1 in pers, 2 virt)	19 (16 in pers, 3 virt)	10 (3 in pers, 7 virt)

Confirmation and payment

The IBMB team confirmed the initial offers of bursaries to the applicants after the reviewing and selection process were over, on the 4th of February 2022. Applicants were informed via email that they either a) received a bursary (incl. what amount, either registration only or registration, dinner and travel amount); b) that they were approved in principle, but were waitlisted and would receive a bursary if/as additional funds become available, or c) that they did not receive a bursary.

Registration costs were covered directly by the conference organizers, bursary recipients received a code (set up by the Organizers team) that granted them free registration to the conference. In case the recipient already registered for the conference we immediately reimbursed them of the registration cost. Travel related bursary was paid on a reimbursement basis through bank transfer. On the last day of the conference (22.07.2022) the IBMB team sent an email to all in-person bursary recipients to ask them for a copy of qualifying travel receipts together with their bank information. After a check from the IBMB team, the payment for travel bursaries was initiated.

Donations and extra bursary funding

After allocating the IAB bursaries, we were able to raise additional funding to support our bursary applicants and other LIC participants, through sponsor's applications and donations. In this context we received:

- four donations from our keynote and plenary panel speakers who kindly offered to donate their registration fee to support LIC participants.
- 4.000 CHF were raised through sponsors (Federal Office of Public Health - BAG).

All additional funding was allocated to bursary recipients that did not receive any funding through the IAB bursary (with a few exceptions due to special requests from the IAB board to support some LIC and MIC participants). In allocating this additional funding, we followed the lists we used to distribute IAB bursaries. In doing so, prioritized and (and exhausted) bursary applicants from Region 1 and Region 2.

Donations were used to cover registration fees, while BAG funding was mainly used for travel support. Through this extra funding we managed to ensure that all bursary applicants from Regions 1 and 2 received appropriate and full support, and also managed to support numerous applicants from Region 5 with travel sustenance.

Image 1 shows the details and costs of all the bursary awarded during the WCB 2022.

Image 1: Awarded Bursaries - WCB 2022

IAB Bursary Funding					
Application Number and type of request	Type of bursary received	Registration Cost (+ dinner)		Travel Budget	Total Bursary
R1-006	VIRTUAL (PER REQUEST)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R1-007	PARTICIPATED VIRTUALLY	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R1-008	VIRTUAL (translated per request)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R1-004	IN PERSON	CHF	405.00	CHF 500.00	CHF 905.00
R1-002	VIRTUAL (translated per request)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R1-003	IN PERSON (upgrade)	CHF	405.00	CHF 500.00	CHF 905.00
R1-005	VIRTUAL (PER REQUEST) extra from region 4	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R2-002	IN PERSON	CHF	405.00	CHF 500.00	CHF 905.00
R2-005	IN PERSON	CHF	405.00	CHF 500.00	CHF 905.00
R2-009	VIRTUAL (PER REQUEST)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R2-003	VIRTUAL (translated per request)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R2-007	IN PERSON (upgrade)	CHF	405.00	CHF 500.00	CHF 905.00
R2-006	VIRTUAL (PER REQUEST)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R2-004	VIRTUAL PER REQUEST (extra from region 4)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R3-001	IN PERSON	CHF	405.00	CHF 300.00	CHF 705.00
R4-001	VIRTUAL (translated per request)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R4-002	PARTICIPATED VIRTUALLY	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R5-012	IN PERSON	CHF	405.00	CHF 300.00	CHF 705.00
R5-001	IN PERSON (extra from reg. 3)	CHF	405.00	CHF 300.00	CHF 705.00
R5-013	VIRTUAL (declined travel bursary)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R5-003	VIRTUAL (downgrade)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R5-004	IN PERSON (upgrade)	CHF	405.00	CHF 300.00	CHF 705.00
R5-005	EXTRA FROM REGION 3	CHF	405.00	CHF 300.00	CHF 705.00
R5-006	VIRTUAL PER REQUEST (extra from region 3)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R5-018	VIRTUAL (downgrade)	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R5-019	EXTRA FROM REGION 4	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R5-009	virtual (downgrade) extra from region 4	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
		Total registration		Total travel costs	Total Bursary expense
		CHF	9'675.00	CHF 3'700.00	CHF 13'375.00
BAG Bursary Funding					
Application Number	Type of participation	Registration Cost (+ dinner)		Travel Budget	Total Bursary
R2-008	IN PERSON	CHF	-	CHF 500.00	CHF 500.00
R5-010	IN PERSON	CHF	-	CHF 300.00	CHF 300.00
R5-015	VIRTUAL	CHF	335.00	CHF -	CHF 335.00
R5-014	IN PERSON	CHF	-	CHF 300.00	CHF 300.00
R5-008	IN PERSON	CHF	70.00	CHF 300.00	CHF 370.00
R5-016	IN PERSON	CHF	-	CHF 300.00	CHF 300.00
R5-002	IN PERSON	CHF	-	CHF 300.00	CHF 300.00
Special Request IAB - Middle Income	NA	CHF	460.00	CHF -	CHF 460.00
Special Request IAB - Middle Income	NA	CHF	460.00	CHF -	CHF 460.00
		Total registration		Total travel costs	Total Bursary expense
		CHF	1'325.00	CHF 2'000.00	CHF 3'325.00
Donations					
Application Number	Type of participation	Type of donation		Amount	
R1-001	PARTICIPATED VIRTUALLY	Registration fee		CHF 335.00	
R1-009	VIRTUAL			CHF 335.00	
R2-008	IN PERSON			CHF 335.00	
Special Request - IAB Low income	NA	Registration fee		CHF 335.00	
				Total donations	
				CHF 1'340.00	
Key:					Total bursary awarded
In-person	Application number:				CHF 18'040.00
Virtual	R=region				
Virtual/Registration fee					
Special Request					

The following table gives a summary of the numbers of bursaries awarded during WCB 2022 divided per region (Table 8).

Table 8: WCB2022 Awarded bursaries per region and type

Summary	Number of <i>valid</i> requests received	Number of awarded bursaries *
Region 1	9 requests → 7 in-person → 2 virtual	9 bursaries → 4 in-person → 5 virtual
Region 2	8 requests → 5 in person → 3 virtual	8 bursaries → 4 in-person → 4 virtual
Region 3	1 requests → in person	1 bursary → in person
Region 4	2 requests → in-person	2 bursaries → in-person → 1 virtual – requested switch
Region 5	18 requests → 15 in-person → 3 virtual	15 bursaries → 3 in person → 7 virtual → 5 travel allowance
Total:	38 bursary requests + 3 special requests = 41 total requests	39 awarded bursaries → 10 in-person (registration plus travel allowance) → 24 virtual (registration only) → 5 travel allowance

WCB 2022 “Special Solidarity Fees”

Despite our best efforts to keep conference fees acceptable, both the IBMB and Organizers teams received requests for support from participants with limited resources to cover at least the registration fee of the conference. The limited amount of bursary funding at our disposal did not allow us to provide funding for all of these requests, as we also made the decision to allocate all the additional funding and donations we raised to bursary applicants who went through a thorough application and review process. Since the hybrid congress made it possible for participants to present their works virtually, we decided to set up “Special Solidarity Fees”. Such fees were made available to all participants that contacted any member of the WCB organizing team and they comprised of:

- **One Day Tickets** for CHF 120 for virtual or in-Person participation, that will allow the participant to attend the conference for one entire day (including the keynote speakers and other parallel sessions of choice) and present their paper on the day assigned.
- **Virtual Presentation** at Parallel Sessions for CHF 50, that will allow the participant only to give their presentation during their assigned parallel session exclusively in a virtual format.

These special fees were warmly welcomed by many participants who asked for financial assistance as it greatly limited the financial burden for them. By offering this opportunity, many delegates that could

* In the period from the confirmation of bursary offer until the beginning of the conference, some in person-participants decided to participate virtually to the WCB. In that case their travel allowance was transferred to the next in-person participant on the same regional list (or the one after) that did not receive the travel portion of the bursary.

not otherwise have attended, had the chance to be part of the Congress and present their work. Unfortunately, we could offer a limited number of such special fees as it would not have been financially sustainable for the hosts to lower the registration prices for all participants.

Sponsors

One important aspect of the organization was to ensure that the Conference would turn out to be cost neutral for the Host in Basel. Since registrations were not predictable and as many registrations happened closer to the congress time, we spent a considerable amount of time finding appropriate sponsors to financially support the event.

The first step to obtain funding was to identify suitable organizations. One important aspect we had to consider in this process was that, due to the nature of the event, we could only approach Universities and non-profit organizations. The IBMB team compiled a list of possible sponsors together with their contact information. Sponsors were identified through a web based research and through past WCB legacy documents. We contacted all the possible sponsors (N~220) through a mailing list, that included our sponsorship offer (See Annex 5). The emails were sent out in November 2021. Despite our efforts to write a captivating email, this strategy did not have much success, most likely because the email was not enough personal and ended up being considered spam. We took a more direct and personal approach with the entities we assumed were the most likely to sponsor, e.g. past WCB sponsors, important bioethics foundations (Hasting Center, Nuffield Council of Bioethics, BAG (the Swiss Federal Office for Public Health), and some major Universities. This included tailored emails and phone calls. This approach ended up being more fruitful as we started to receive responses. Thus, future hosts should find the best strategy to seek sponsors that fits their needs and the context. For instance, we used the example from previous WCB with sponsorship levels (gold/silver sponsors), which were complicated and "not-readable" for Swiss or European potential institutions. Thus, we had no luck in from our Swiss and European institutions. The only local sponsors that we received were through established funding application process.

In raising funds, similarly to previous WCBs, the main issue was not that University and Foundations did not recognize the importance of the event. Rather, the problem was that they typically didn't have enough funds. A common response was something along the lines of "we've already spent all of our budget". Or, especially for foundations, an international conference did not fall in the scope of their sponsoring strategies. *Thus, seeking funds from universities and bioethics organizations was a time investment that was not very productive.* In total we raised of 44'309 CHF, with 2/3 of the sum coming from Swiss National Science Foundation and the Federal Office of Public Health (Table 9). The funding was used for bursary support and other conference elements (networking events, keynote accommodation and travel, merchandise and tote bags).

Table 9 Sponsorships received by type of institution.

Type of Institution	Amount
Universities (Upenn, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Albany Medical College, University of Edinburgh)	CHF 14'300
Swiss foundations and government (Federal Office of Public Health, Swiss Science National Foundation)	CHF 28'959
Companies (academic publishers)	CHF 1'050
Total	CHF 43'309

16th WCB IBMB Team's reflections and suggestions

The organization of the 16th WCB was a considerable undertaking from an organizational standpoint. Conducting the WCB in a hybrid format worked well for the organizing team. We felt that this format allowed numerous delegates to participate in the congress remotely, gave the chance to many young scholars to present their work without pressuring them to travel, and increased substantially the Congress' outreach. Though an important and almost natural progression for hosting congresses since the pandemic, *the hybrid format has created some important logistical challenges*. Future hosts must be prepared to handle a whole new variety of last-minute changes and decision-making scenarios. Also, scheduling in-person and virtual meetings brought about interesting (strange) requests that we were not prepared for. For instance, virtual participants wanted us to play their recorded presentations during their sessions! In some cases, the authors were online but still wanted to use the video recorded presentations. *We recommend future hosts to consider in advance whether they want to allow presenters to only send their recordings instead of doing their presentation live, and, if so, under what conditions (like if the speaker is in the room either virtually or in-person they need to do their presentation etc.)*. The hybrid required more personnel energy, know-how, and training for each parallel session that was taking place since both in-person and online output of the presentation had to work seamlessly. These unknowns and greater challenges naturally *highlight the importance of patience and acceptance towards the choices and changes that present and future organizing committees have made/will make within the process of making hybrid congresses a common practice*.

In order to grant a more sophisticated and seamless experience for both people in person and online, we opted to divide in person and virtual sessions. However, we received a large number of requests (many also at the last minute) from participants to change their participation status – either from online to in person or the other way around, which required to make repeated changes to the program. Counting the fact that we had a limited number of rooms and moderators to handle the parallel sessions, these changes were sometimes difficult to arrange. In addition, exclusively virtual sessions were not entirely effective/successful for our event. We encountered numerous time issues for virtual participants despite our best efforts to accommodate a slot in an appropriate time zone. Several of the virtual parallel sessions were empty or with very little audience. *We therefore suggest for the next conference hosts to plan the conference in a completely hybrid format and not separate virtual and in- person sessions*.

Another challenge caused by last minute changes of participation from in-person to virtual occurred for the allocation of bursaries. We had to recalculate the allocation of the travel allowance multiple times: while the majority of applicants applied for an in-person travel bursary, numerous awardees asked to participate online since they could not come to Basel. In addition, as mentioned in the above bursary section, already planning to allocate a fixed portion to in-person and virtual participants did not work for us. *A solution to this could be to only award free registration to all bursary recipients at an earlier stage and then allocate the travel allowance after the conference to a portion of recipients that can show proof of in-person participation*.

The changes in participation format also had an impact on the catering budget. We planned the budget in line with the number of in person registrations and considered the conventional drop out/no show number. Despite this proactive and cautious planning, the budget for meals - and the consequent food ordered - was still too high. *We suggest that future hosts consider this in advance and find a way to confirm from participants whether they will in reality be able to join in-person or will come virtually*.

The poster session was not planned for the WCB2022 and was replaced with short oral presentation sessions. The sessions consisted of fast rounds of shorter presentations with a couple of minutes of Q&A

(one/two questions max). We found this concept to be a successful replacement as all participants with an accepted abstract had a chance to give a presentation of their work to an audience.

In addition, although we tried to limit the number of parallel sessions – following past conference hosts’ advice – to 15-18 maximum, we conclude that the high number of parallel sessions still presented a substantial and often tricky choice for participants. Unfortunately, to economically sustain such a big conference, a lower acceptance threshold for abstract could not be considered since our institute would not have been able to take a high deficit. Assisted by the hybrid nature of the congress, one suggestion that future hosts could consider is *to adopt a different and innovative approach to the presentation format*. This new format would consist in requiring all presenters to submit a longer recorded presentation of their work (up to 15 minutes) before the conference begins – to be available to all registered participants (similarly to what UPenn arranged). During the days of the conference, parallel sessions would consist of “flash presentations” of about 3 minutes just to highlight the more important aspects of the research/abstract followed by a longer Q&A session of 7 minutes. This format not only would assist with lowering the number of parallel sessions during the congress, but it would also improve the time spent for the Q&A, while harnessing the opportunities the hybrid event offers.

All members of the Institute for Biomedical Ethics (Phd Students, Post-Docs, Professors and Senior Researchers) were involved in the moderation of the parallel sessions. Being involved as moderators proved to be a very positive experience for our team in terms of networking, participation and CV booster, as this is good experience that can be added to one’s CV. *We strongly recommend future hosts to offer this chance to their institution’s team. However, we suggest to have two people in each parallel session, one for moderation and one for technical assistance (setting up the streaming, presentations, projector and virtual presentations)*. We only had one team member for each room and, although it worked quite smoothly, it was a challenging and stressful task for our team to handle both the moderation and the technology. Due to finances, we would not have been able to hire more technicians to support the parallel sessions. Although asking other congress participants to moderate is always possible, that would reduce the role for our researchers to technicians, which would have made it difficult for us to motivate them to support the congress as willingly as everyone did.

On this note, we noticed that much of the time during the parallel sessions was wasted by shifting from one presentation to the other and ensuring that zoom share was still working with each change of presentation (opening and closing PPT presentations, de/activating the slideshow etc.). One way such time can be saved would be to *ask presenters to send their PPT presentations in advance to their moderator and collate all presentations in a unique power point for each session*. This way the moderator could just activate the slideshow once at the beginning of the session and seamlessly move from one presenter to the next.

We also planned networking events for the participants during the days of the conference (an apéro offered by the City of Basel, a conference dinner, a standing brown bag lunch in the University’s garden, and a longer networking lunch). These initiatives were very much welcomed and appreciated by the in-person participants as they had the chance to chat, network and set a positive mood throughout the days of the conference. Future hosts should consider these activities and events as an important part of the organization of the conference and to even consider *organizing a fully online event for virtual participants such a virtual greet and meet over a coffee or similar initiatives. We were unable to do the virtual greet and meets*.

Following the example of WCB2020, we hired a professional conference organizer agency (OrganizersCH). On countless details their expertise and assistance proved to be crucial. Their presence lowered the pressure and workload of the IBMB team who could then focus on perfecting/fine-tuning

many important content aspects of the conference (e.g. abstract selection, planning the plenary and parallel sessions, contact keynotes, find sponsors, plan the equity weights, strategize the bursary distribution), while the OrganizersCH team took care of tasks like processing abstracts and registrations, setting up the conference website, sending newsletters related to the congress, and communicating with participants. The Organizers team was also crucial in setting up the live-stream of the plenary sessions and creating the virtual platform of the conference website where virtual participants could easily access to all the sessions and, after the congress, a recording of the presentations. *We strongly advise future hosts, if they have the chance, to lean on a professional company as we did.*

We highlight the tremendous time and resource that the IBMB put despite having a professional company supporting us. As noted above, a dedicated congress coordinator was hired for the congress at around 45% (post-doc level) for 2 years. Fortunately, the congress turned out to be cost-neutral for the host and we were able to recover the funds spent for the congress coordinator. However, there were additional costs incurred by the host, which were in-kind amounting to approximately CHF 80'000. These include time from the chair, co-chair and our IBMB Administration (40% in total) during the entire period of the congress preparation, as well as time contribution of approximately 7 days of full time equivalent from all IBMB members (20 persons) to manage the 5 days of FAB and WCB. Future host must take into consideration the in-house resource that is necessary to understand the responsibility of organizing a WCB.

Final Words of Thanks

We end our legacy report by thanking all our Scientific Advisory Board, members of the Institute of Biomedical Ethics in Basel, our affiliated fellows and scholars, the IAB Board, FAB Board, and the Sponsors for their support. It was a challenging and exciting task that we took and are very pleased with the outcomes.

With best wishes

Tenzin Wangmo, Chair

Bernice S. Elger, Co-Chair

Maddalena Favaretto, Congress Coordinator

Anne-Christine Loschnigg, Congress Coordinator

Bioethics *post* Covid-19: Responsibility and transparency in a globalized and interconnected world

SUB-TOPICS: World Congress of Bioethics

Category 1: Bioethics and Covid-19

- a. Public health during a pandemic**
 - i. Resource allocation in a pandemic (e.g. access to health care, triage)
 - ii. Mental health and Covid-19
 - iii. (Future) Pandemic preparedness
 - iv. Non-human animals and pandemic prevention
- b. Responsibility and solidarity in Covid times**
 - i. Personal responsibility – caring for oneself and others
 - ii. Policymaking and institutional responsibility
 - iii. International/social justice
- c. Scientific transparency**
 - i. Scientific communication and responsibility during a pandemic
 - ii. Ethics of drug development
 - iii. Public discourse during a pandemic

Category 2: Increasing responsibility: Challenges for global bioethics

- a. Bioethics transcending borders**
 - i. Climate change and bioethics
 - ii. Bioethics and migration
 - iii. Diversity (cultural, ethnic, gender) in bioethics
- b. Addressing access in an unequal world**
 - i. Discrimination and exclusion in health care and research
 - ii. Access to primary, emergency and intensive care
 - iii. Access to health care in Lower- and Middle Income countries
 - iv. Global inequalities and public health
- c. Health research in a globalised world**
 - i. Code of ethics and ethical research practices
 - ii. Transparent disclosure and informed consent
 - iii. Regulation of health research
 - iv. Data ethics and policy within an interconnected society
 - v. Commercialisation and conflicts of interest
 - vi. Health research in Lower- and Middle Income countries

Category 3: Making it explicit: The impact of new technologies

- a. Artificial Intelligence and digitalisation of health care**
 - i. Explaining and understanding medical AI

- ii. Biomedical big data
 - iii. E-health and e-medicine
 - iv. Robotics and other smart technologies
- b. Reproductive technologies**
 - i. Access to reproductive health care
 - ii. Fertility treatment
 - iii. Meaning of parent and parenthood
 - iv. Sex selection and populationism
 - v. Medicalisation and commodification of reproduction
- c. Advances in neuroscience**
 - i. Brain-computer interfaces
 - ii. Cognitive and moral enhancement
 - iii. Neuroethics – neuroscience of ethics and ethics of neuroscience
- d. Ethics of genetics**
 - i. Genetic engineering
 - ii. DTC-Genetics
 - iii. Genetics and public health
 - iv. Prenatal genetic testing

Category 4: Whose responsibility? Individual and public obligations

- a. Marginalised and less-studied populations in bioethics**
 - i. Children and young-adults
 - ii. Pregnant women
 - iii. Persons with disability
 - iv. Ageing/older patients/persons
 - v. LGBTQ+ individuals/communities
 - vi. Marginalised communities and institutionalized individuals
 - vii. Vulnerability
- b. Clinical ethics and the role of health care professionals**
 - i. Ethics committees and ethical oversight
 - ii. Clinical decision making
 - iii. Continuous clinical education
 - iv. Responsibility and integrity
 - v. Health care at the end of life
 - vi. Ethics of care and caregiving
- c. Public health ethics**
 - i. Austerity and privatisation of public health care
 - ii. Public private partnerships in health care and health research
 - iii. Global governance (policies, role of philanthropic foundations and international organizations)
 - iv. Health (and medical) pluralism
 - v. Rare diseases and orphan-drug development
 - vi. Dealing with non-communicable diseases

Category 5: Beyond transparency: Rethinking boundaries in bioethics

- a. Challenging conceptual limits**
 - i. Mental health and mental illness
 - ii. Gender and sexuality
 - iii. Beginning and end of life
- b. Crossing disciplinary boundaries**
 - i. Ethics and aesthetics
 - ii. Narratives in health
 - iii. Medicine and humanities
- c. Boundaries of the human condition**
 - i. Cyborgs and transplants
 - ii. Enhancement
 - iii. Human and non-human animals
- d. Theory and methodology**
 - i. Social bioethics
 - ii. Empirical bioethics
 - iii. Methods in bioethics

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Congress of the Feminist
Approaches to Bioethics (FAB)
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How to write an effective abstract for a conference

The main goal of a conference abstract is to summarize the key points of the paper that you are going to present during the conference. As such, it needs to include sufficient information for reviewers to judge the nature and significance of the topic, the adequacy of the investigation, the nature of the results, and the appropriateness of the conclusions. It should also be clear, concise and appealing for the reader.

As a general rule of thumb, looking at examples of successful abstracts in your field is quite useful when starting to prepare your submission. It will help you narrow down what are the main points that make an abstract effective. In addition, start the preparations of the abstract early and don't wait until the deadline. Having time to re-edit the abstract will increase its quality in time.

Title: the title should be concise and possibly catchy in order to immediately grab the attention of the reader. At the same time, ensure that the title describes the subject you are writing about.

Abstract body: for WCB 2022 abstracts should not exceed 250 words and should be structured in four paragraphs: introduction, methods, outcome, conclusions. Make sure you clearly define the topic of the paper and the research question you are trying to answer. The abstract should state how your research was conducted: what were you trying to do, how did you do it, what did you find. Briefly summarize your methods and results neutrally and without judgement. In the conclusion you can put emphasis on the potential impact of your work. Why are your findings relevant? What conclusions can be drawn from your research?

Language: abstracts are supposed to be concise, but at the same time informative. Keep the sentences short to convey just as much information as needed and avoid using words or phrases that do not add any specific content or value. In addition, unless your abstract is of a highly theoretical/philosophical nature, keep the language simple and clear. Clear abstracts in plain English are usually more appreciated than complex, non-accessible and overly-sophisticated contributions. Also, it is generally considered best to avoid the use future tense in an abstract. If you can't avoid it then specify clearly what you will do and when.

Editing: After you finish writing your abstract, put it aside and get back to it with a fresh mind. This will help you edit it to improve its quality and effectiveness. Also, if you are in doubt, ask a colleague to proofread your abstract. This will increase the chances that your work is written clearly and without mistakes.

In summary:

- come up with a title that is catchy but not misleading;
- clearly state your research question and topic of your contribution;

- be concise and avoid unnecessary long phrasings;
- use plain English to increase the abstract's clarity – avoid future tenses if you can;
- don't wait until the last minute - be sure you have the time to set aside the abstract and to get back to it with a fresh mind. Ask a colleague to help with proofreading to avoid mistakes.

Good luck with your submission!

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Abstract Review Guidelines

Dear colleague,

Thank you for agreeing to be a reviewer for the 16th World Congress of Bioethics. Your support is immensely valued.

In this document you will find information to guide you through the review process.

1. As a reviewer, you are responsible for:
 - a. Reviewing all of the abstracts assigned to you;
 - b. Scoring abstracts from 1 to 6 according to the chart below;
 - c. Keeping the content of all abstracts confidential.
2. In rating each abstract, you should consider the following criteria:
 - a. Significant and substantive contribution to existing knowledge;
 - b. On an innovative, cutting-edge approach or a novel topic;
 - c. Relevant and applicable to fields of ethics, bioethics, or medical ethics;
 - d. High quality and well-written.
3. Scoring:
 - 1 = Very poor, does not meet any criteria
 - 2 = Poor, should not be part of the program
 - 3 = Fair, could be considered for the program only if absolutely necessary
 - 4 = Good, could be accepted if there is space
 - 5 = Very Good, should be part of the program
 - 6 = Excellent, must be part of the program
4. Comments to the participant (optional): Please feel free to add any comments that you wish to share with the participant and believe will help him or her improve the content during the WCB.

If you feel that you **lack expertise** or have a **conflict of interest** in reviewing any of the abstracts that were assigned to you, please send an email to registration@organizers.ch. Our team will reorganize and assign the abstract(s) to another reviewer.

Review Questions? If you have any questions concerning the review system, please send an email to registration@organizers.ch. Our team will be glad to assist you in your inquiry.

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Request for bursary for participation at the World Congress of Bioethics, June 20 – 22, 2022

The 16th World Congress of Bioethics is pleased to offer a limited number of bursaries to excellent abstracts from different regions, to help delegates who would not otherwise be able to attend the Congress.

The bursary will cover the registration fee for the congress, for both in-person and virtual participants, and up to a fixed amount of the travel costs of in-person participants. Applicants from Region 1 (African countries, India, Pakistan) and Region 2 (South East Asia and Low Income Asian Countries; Centre and South America) can ask up to 500 CHF for travel costs while applicants from other regions can ask up to 300 CHF.

The application window for bursaries will be open from the 25th of November 2021 until the 20th December.

Criteria for application

Bursaries may only be issued to participants who:

- 1) Have an accepted abstract and agree to present their accepted work at the conference, either in person or virtually at the World Congress of Bioethics (Applications from FAB participants cannot be considered).
- 2) Are early career researchers (students and postdocs up until 5 years after obtaining their PhD).

Documents needed for application

Applicants will have to send a complete application in PDF format via email to the following address: maddalena.favaretto@unibas.ch. The application must include:

- 1) Name, surname, affiliation of the applicant (incl. address), reference to accepted abstract(s) (number and title) and declaration whether the participant will attend in-person or virtually to the conference.
- 2) Statement of financial need.
For in-person participants the statement must include also specification of the amount requested to cover travel costs (if applicable) with details regarding what the travel funding will be used for (e.g. If an applicant wants to use the funding to cover their flight they will have to provide an estimate of the cost of the flight from their country to the conference venue). Applicants from Region 1 (African countries, India, Pakistan) and Region 2 (SE and LIC Asia, Centre and South America) can ask up to 500 CHF for travel costs while applicants from other regions can ask up to 300 CHF.
- 5) Confirmation of need from applicant's institution.
- 6) Note of other available funding sources (if any).

Incomplete applications will not be considered for a bursary.

Confirmation of bursary acceptance

The Basel organizing group will confirm the initial offers of bursaries to the applicants after the reviewing and selection process are over, tentatively around 15th of February 2022. Applicants will be told that they either a) received a bursary (incl. what amount covering registration only (for virtual attendees) and registration, dinner and travel amount for in-person attendees); b) that they were approved in principle, but are waitlisted and will receive a bursary if/as additional funds become available, or c) that they did not receive a bursary.

Payment of bursaries

Registration costs will be covered directly by the conference organizers and award recipient will receive a notification of registration from us. In case participants have already registered for the conference (and hence paid the conference fee) before bursary award is announced, we will refund the registration amount that they have paid. All travel related bursary will be paid on a reimbursement basis during the last day of the conference. Copies of qualifying travel receipts amounting to the amount approved must be presented at that time (i.e. airfare, taxis, hotel portfolio, etc.) by the participant.

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International Association of Bioethics' 2022 16th World Congress of Bioethics

The World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) 2022 is the largest gathering of thought leaders in the field of bioethics and biomedical ethics. The three-day conference takes place every two years and brings together approximately 1.000 participants from around the globe including academics, practitioners and experts from a broad range of disciplines. The congress aims at facilitating cross national discussion of emerging issues in bioethics, making the event the perfect opportunity to engage with this cutting-edge community of interdisciplinary experts. The WCB 2022 focuses on the topic “Bioethics *post* Covid-19: Responsibility and transparency in a globalized and interconnected world.”

Who will participate?

- Academics, including Early Career Researchers, from a diverse range of disciplines
- Healthcare Practitioners and Professionals
- Biomedical Funding Bodies
- National and Regional Ethics Bodies
- Policymakers and Regulators
- Public Sector and Third Sector Stakeholders

WCB SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Congress does not generate profit and is funded solely through conference fees and sponsorships. In order to make the congress a success we are looking for sponsorship from organizations and companies interested in contributing to the dissemination and enhancement of the social and scientific debate around bioethics. The funds raised will be used towards implementing numerous aspects of the conference and to increase participation from low and middle income countries.

About WCB 2022

The WCB 2022 will provide a leading platform to discuss important questions of social and scientific value and the role that bioethics can and should have for our society and future generations. This will be accomplished through a broad range of activities, both in-person and virtual, such as:

- A cutting edge academic program exploring emerging issues in bioethics, public health ethics, global health, responsibility in scientific advancements and many more.
- Networking activities for both our in-person and virtual participants to facilitate exchange of information and ideas among the global bioethics community.
- Activities that will ensure that early career participants will have the opportunity to engage with bioethics and enhance their skills to thrive in the academic environment.

Conference Theme:

“Bioethics post Covid-19: Responsibility and transparency in a globalized and interconnected world”

Why sponsor?

- Enhance your international impact by networking and connecting with an audience of global bioethics leaders.
- Promote your products and services through enhanced company listings that include company overviews, product showcase, videos, and handouts.
- Establish international strategic partnerships and collaborations.
- Opportunity to listen to and exchange views with global experts and thought-leaders.
- Opportunity to solidify a foothold in the growing bioethics community.
- Access to leading-edge knowledge – find out about new research being undertaken in the field of bioethics.

Sponsorship Opportunities

In addition to the menu list associated with each option below, opportunities are also available (subject to IAB 2022 Organizing Committee approval) for sponsors to become associated with specific themes and/or specific session(s) during the conference.

Due to the unforeseeable pandemic situation, there is the possibility that the conference will take place exclusively online. Should this happen we will make sure to translate our sponsorship opportunities and offers to meet the needs of the organization in a virtual context. The offers marked with an asterisk (*) are the most likely to be subject to change.

Sponsorship Packages

Platinum Sponsor 4.500 CHF

We will work with you in order to agree upon a range of benefits to meet your business and marketing objectives. We have identified an extensive list of components in this Platinum Package, which are outlined below.

There is a high degree of flexibility within this package to ensure that your organization's specific sponsor requirements are achieved, and we are more than happy to discuss your requirements with you.

Coverage leading to WCB

- Coverage for your organization on all WCB 2022 promotional materials in the run up to the conference, including announcements and advertisements.
- Premier placement of branding on the WCB 2022 Sponsors page of the website to include your organization's logo, biography and link to your organization's website.
- Use of the WCB 2022 image in your organization's promotional activities tied to WCB 2022, once agreed with the WCB 2022 Organizing Committee.

During the WCB

- Premium exhibition space, including trestle table, power and two chairs*.
- 4 complimentary registrations for attendance at WCB 2022.
- 4 complimentary tickets to the Conference Dinner*.
- The opportunity to organize a branded exclusive event during WCB 2022 e.g., drinks reception or catering event (catering at an additional cost). Subject to not conflicting with the WCB 2022 program.

About the host: Institute for Biomedical Ethics

The Institute for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Basel (IBMB) is a vibrant centre for research on and teaching about ethical issues in medicine and the biosciences. The Institute was founded in 2011 and is affiliated with both the Science and Medical Faculties at the University of Basel – a unique situation for an ethics institute in Switzerland.

The IBMB has over a dozen PhD students and a team of senior researchers and post-docs working on a wide variety of projects in biomedical ethics. The IBMB's researchers are committed to an interdisciplinary endeavour aimed at finding ethical solutions to dilemmas raised by both new and traditional practices in biomedical ethics, including cutting-edge technologies, organ donation, palliative care, and research in developing countries, to name only a few.

- A prime spot for color advert in the conference program.
- Logo recognition in all communications with prime branding position.
- "Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor" projected throughout the conference.
- Advertisement flyer insertion in the delegate bag (conference kit)

Post Event

- Advertisement in the post conference material distributed to the participants after the conference.

Other possible benefits (to be agreed upon with the organizing committee):

- Welcome banners and other advertisement material (flyers, posters etc.) at the entrance of events during the conference (apéro, lunches, coffee breaks, conference dinner etc.) announcing that they are the sponsors of a particular event – upon provision of the material by the organization.

Gold Sponsor 3.500 CHF

We have identified an extensive list of components in this Gold Package, which are outlined below. There is a high degree of flexibility within this package to ensure that your organization's specific sponsor requirements are achieved, and we are more than happy to discuss your requirements with you.

Coverage leading to WCB

- Coverage for your organization on all WCB 2022 promotional materials in the run up to the conference, including announcements and advertisements.
- Branding on the WCB 2022 Sponsors page of the website to include your organization's logo, biography and link to your organization's website.
- Use of the WCB 2022 image in your organization's promotional activities tied to WCB 2022, once agreed with the WCB 2022 Organizing Committee.

During the WCB

- Exhibition space, including trestle table, power and two chairs*.
- 3 complimentary registrations for attendance to WCB 2022.
- 2 complimentary tickets to the Conference Dinner*.
- The opportunity to organize a branded exclusive event during WCB 2022 e.g. drinks reception or catering event (catering at an additional cost). Subject to not conflicting with the WCB 2022 program.
- Logo recognition in all communications.
- Color advert in the conference program.
- "Thank you to our Gold Sponsors" projected throughout the conference.
- Advertisement flyer insertion in the delegate bag (conference kit)*.

Post Event

- Advertisement in the post conference material distributed to the participants after the conference.

About the IAB

The conference is organized with patronage of the International Association of Bioethics (IAB). The IAB facilitates contact, networking and exchange of ideas and resources amongst those working in bioethics and related fields in different parts of the world.

More information about the IAB can be found on their website: <http://iab-website.iab-secretariat.org>

About the University of Basel

The University of Basel has an international reputation of outstanding achievements in research and teaching. Founded in 1460, the University of Basel is the oldest university in Switzerland and has a history of success going back over 550 years.

Other possible benefits (to be agreed upon with the organizing committee)

- Welcome banners and other advertisement material (flyers, posters etc.) at the entrance of events during the conference (apéro, lunches, coffee breaks, conference dinner etc.) announcing that they are the sponsors of a particular event – upon provision of the material by the organization.

Silver Sponsor 2.500 CHF

Coverage leading to WCB

- Branding on the WCB 2022 Sponsors page of the website to include your organization's logo, biography and link to your organization's website.
- Use of the WCB 2022 image in your organization's promotional activities tied to WCB 2022, once agreed with the WCB 2022 Organizing Committee.

During the WCB

- Exhibition space, including trestle table, power and two chairs*.
- 2 complimentary registrations for attendance to WCB 2022.
- The opportunity to organize a branded exclusive event during WCB 2022 e.g. drinks reception or catering event (catering at an additional cost). Subject to not conflicting with the WCB 2022 program.
- Logo recognition in all communications.
- Color logo in the conference program.
- "Thank you to our Silver Sponsors" projected throughout the conference.



Individual Sponsorship Opportunities

Even for individual sponsorship opportunities, we will be happy to assist you personally to achieve your business goals and needs. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or propositions.

Program - Sponsor the Plenary Room for the duration of the conference 3'000.00 CHF - Sponsor a themed symposium 1'000.00 CHF - Sponsor a workshop or session 1'000.00 CHF - Conference Lunch (1 day) 1'500.00 CHF - Conference Tea/Coffee break (each) 1'000.00 CHF	Participants - Sponsor an invited keynote speaker 1'000.00 CHF - Sponsor a participant from a Low Income Country 1'000.00 CHF - Sponsor travel assistance for student participants 500.00 CHF - Sponsor the dinner for a student of a Low Income Country 100.00 CHF
Social - Conference Dinner 3'000.00 CHF - Conference Dinner Drinks 1'000.00 CHF - Social event* 1'000.00 CHF - Swiss exhibition** and entertainment 750.00 CHF	Conference bags - Tote bag 2'000.00 CHF - Conference kit (notepad, pen etc.) 1'500.00 CHF - Advertisement insert into the delegate bag 500.00 CHF

*Exhibition opportunities during the conference****

There are numerous exhibition spaces available at WCB 2022. The floor plan will be released upon request to interested parties. The exhibition space will be table top only and prime spots will be reserved for platinum and gold sponsors.

One day 300.00 CHF	Three days 750.00 CHF
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The price includes:

- Trestle table
- Free Wi-Fi
- Power socket
- 2 chairs

- 2 exhibitor passes, including coffee breaks and lunches
- Logo on website - exhibitors page
- Logo on conference program – “Thanks to Sponsors and Exhibitors” page

Please note: As an added benefit, all exhibitors will be eligible to a 25% discount on registration fees to attend the conference sessions and a 50% discount on the price of an insert into the delegate bag.

* Please contact us for further details

** With this unique sponsorship opportunity the contribution of the sponsoring organization will be used to support the presence (exhibition fee, general expenses) of a Swiss artisan to present their craft at the conference venue or support the expenses for the organization of a performance from Swiss artists.

***In case the conference becomes completely virtual, we will refund your fees.

APPLICATION FOR SPONSORSHIPS/EXHIBIT SPACE AT 2022 WCB

EXHIBITOR / SUPPORTER CONTACT INFORMATION

First: _____ Last: _____ Credentials (MD, PhD, etc) _____
Company: _____ Title _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____ Website: _____

SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Platinum Sponsor – 4'500.00 CHF (includes complimentary booth) | ☐ Swiss exhibition and entertainment - 750.00 CHF |
| ☐ Gold Sponsor - 3'500.00 CHF (includes complimentary booth) | ☐ Sponsor an invited keynote speaker - 1'000.00 CHF |
| ☐ Silver Sponsor – 2'500.00 CHF (includes complimentary booth) | ☐ Sponsor a participant from a Low Income Country - 1'000.00 CHF |
| ☐ Sponsor the Plenary Room for the duration of the conference – 3'000.00 CHF | ☐ Sponsor travel assistance for student participants - 500.00 CHF |
| ☐ Sponsor a themed symposium - 1'000.00 CHF | ☐ Sponsor the dinner for a student of a Low Income Country - 100.00 CHF |
| ☐ Sponsor a workshop or session - 1'000.00 CHF | ☐ Tote bag - 2'000.00 CHF |
| ☐ Conference Lunch (1 day) - 1'500.00 CHF | ☐ Conference kit (notepad, pen etc.) - 1'500.00 CHF |
| ☐ Conference Tea/Coffee break (each) - 1'000.00 CHF | ☐ Advertisement insert into the delegate bag - 500.00 CHF |
| ☐ Conference Dinner - 3'000.00 CHF | |
| ☐ Conference Dinner Drinks - 1'000.00 CHF | |
| ☐ Social event - 1'000.00 CHF | |

EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ☐ Standard Tabletop – 300.00 CHF one day | _____ QTY (if more than one) |
| ☐ Standard Tabletop – 750.00 CHF three days | _____ |

We prefer that our exhibit not be located next to the following companies:

BOOKING AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Once this application is received by the Institute for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Basel, and if the opportunity is still available, the contact person will receive the invoice with further information regarding payment. If the opportunity is no longer available, the contact person will receive notification so that another opportunity may be selected. Payment in full from the Company is expected within 15 business days of receipt of the invoice.

You can send the filled-in application via email to: maddalena.favaretto@unibas.ch

You can also send a physical copy of the application at the following address: Institute for Biomedical Ethics
University of Basel
Bernoullistrasse 28
CH-4056 Basel

For more information, please send an email to: maddalena.favaretto@unibas.ch or call +41 61 207 02 03.