

From past to future: European Doctors celebrate 175th anniversary of the Royal Dutch Medical Association by discussing digitisation of healthcare

7 November 2024, Amsterdam

Doctors from across Europe are today celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Royal Dutch Medical Association (RDMA) in Amsterdam. To commemorate the milestone, the RDMA is hosting a conference themed 'The European Doctor and Digital Health' at the iconic NEMO Science Museum.

The event kicks off the General Assembly of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), which gathers representatives from Europe's medical associations in Amsterdam from 7–9 November, hosted by the RDMA.

Dr René Héman, Chairman of the RDMA, highlighted the importance of adaptation and collaboration in healthcare's future. "As we embrace the future, continuous evolution and adaptation to societal changes are imperative. Through respectful collaboration within and outside the healthcare sector and by sharing knowledge on both national and international levels, we lay a strong foundation for future healthcare developments and innovations," said Héman.

"We are not only celebrating our rich history today but also the dynamic future of healthcare. The opportunities that digitisation brings to healthcare are immense, and we are eager to discuss the challenges and opportunities these developments bring," added Héman. "It is an honor to welcome colleagues from across Europe to our anniversary celebration."

Dr Christiaan Keijzer, President of CPME, said: "Today's event is a testament to the profound impact the RDMA has had both in the Netherlands, and as a committed and valued partner on a European and global level.

"Now we look to the future together. We need to ensure a safe digital transformation of healthcare. Rapidly evolving medical technologies, increasing healthcare demands, and global public health challenges mean that our collaboration with RDMA and partners across Europe is more important than ever."

Distinguished speakers, including Abigail Norville (Deputy Secretary-General of the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport) and Prof. Dr. Henk Marquering (Professor of Translational Artificial Intelligence), will explore the technological impacts on healthcare. Legal and ethical aspects of digital health are also a focal point, with Prof. Corrette Ploem, (Professor of Law, Healthcare Technology and Medicine), and Prof. Dr Tamar Sharon (Professor of Philosophical Ethics and Political Philosophy), leading these discussions.

Note to editors

*The **Royal Dutch Medical Association (RDMA)** is the professional organisation for Dutch doctors. It was established in 1849. Since 1999 the RDMA has become a federation of medical practitioners' professional associations.*

The RDMA has been leading the way for Dutch doctors and health care in the Netherlands. Why? The answer is actually very simple: to ensure that doctors can provide the best possible care.

*The **Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)** represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.*