

Proceedings of the First Workshop on Ethics in Clinical AI Applications (ETHICAIA)

The first workshop on **Ethics in Clinical AI Applications (ETHICAIA)** was held on 16 August 2026 in Bremen, Germany, in conjunction with the 35th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-ECAI 2026).

ETHICAIA provides a dedicated venue for AI researchers to engage with the ethical challenges raised by the development and deployment of artificial intelligence in clinical settings. The workshop aims to strengthen the place of ethical considerations, including fairness, robustness, accountability and societal impact, within mainstream AI research on healthcare. While grounded in technical research, it draws on perspectives from clinical practice and ethics, encouraging participants to connect methodological advances with their real-world implications. Contributions were invited from across AI, including machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, multimodal systems and foundation models applied to healthcare.

The program opened with a keynote by Michèle Barbier (Inria and Independent Ethics Expert for the European Commission), titled “Beyond Optimization: Preserving Human Dignity in the Era of Generative AI, Virtual Twins, and Responsible Innovation in Healthcare.” The talk addressed the dilution of responsibility in AI-supported clinical decisions, the role of governance frameworks such as the EU AI Act, and the need to keep care grounded in human judgment and moral responsibility. The paper presentations covered topics such as LLM-based simulated patients, bias in clinical large language models, risks in multi-agent clinical AI systems, the role of ethics review in AI research, and conversational AI in elder care. The day closed with an open discussion on the future of the ETHICAIA workshop series.

The workshop received 13 submissions. Each paper included in these proceedings was reviewed by at least two members of the program committee. The proceedings comprise the seven papers presented at the workshop, reflecting the range of topics and perspectives discussed during the event.

We would like to thank all authors for their contributions, our keynote speaker for an inspiring talk, and the members of the program committee for their careful and constructive reviews, which ensured the scientific quality of the workshop. We are also grateful to the organizers of IJCAI-ECAI 2026 for the opportunity to hold this workshop.

Workshop organizers

- Roland Roller, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), Germany
- Karën Fort, LORIA, Université de Lorraine, France
- Massimo Esposito, National Research Council (CNR), Italy
- Paolo Soda, Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma, Italy, and Umeå University, Sweden

Program committee

- Maxime Amblard, Université de Lorraine
- Eleftherios Avramidis, DFKI
- Clémentine Bleuze, Inria
- Aljoscha Burchardt, DFKI
- Arnab Das, DFKI
- Valerio Guarrasi, Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma
- Michael Hahn, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Jin-Dong Kim, Database Center for Life Science (DBCLS)
- Vincent P. Martin, Inria
- Nona Naderi, LISN, Université Paris-Saclay
- Aurélie Névéol, CNRS
- Susana Paço, Robert Koch Institute (RKI)
- Rosa Esther Martín Peña, Leibniz Universität Hannover
- Lisa Raithel, TU Berlin
- Rosa Sicilia, UniCamillus
- Matteo Tortora, Università di Genova
- Max Tretter, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Karin Verspoor, RMIT University
- Pierre Zweigenbaum, CNRS

Important dates

- Submission deadline: 25 May 2026 (extended from 15 May)
- Notification of acceptance: 8 June 2026
- Workshop: 16 August 2026