

Position Statement, WAMM 2019

The second World Airway Management Meeting 2019 (WAMM), was a multidisciplinary conference hosted by the European Airway Management Society (EAMS), the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) and the Society for Airway Management (SAM) on November 13-16, 2019 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. During a plenary session on the first full day of the conference, an invited speaker, during his lecture, made insensitive and offensive references related to sexuality and violence against women.

The individual involved in the incident was reprimanded promptly for their comments and images. Initial statements of apology on Twitter by WAMM_2019 were inadequate and rushed. They did not reflect the seriousness of the incident. This was due in part to the unsolicited and unexpected nature of the episode in the midst of running an international conference. The WAMM organising committee wishes to apologise for the inadequacy of the initial response and hopes that this statement serves to elucidate each host society's position on this incident as well as plans to avoid similar behaviour at future scientific meetings. Comments, photos, jokes or innuendo of a sexual nature or those depicting domestic violence have no role in a global, educational conference.

WAMM, EAMS, DAS and SAM have a zero-tolerance policy of such behaviour.

As a result, all of the host societies plan to develop or revise their Speaker Code of Conduct for ensuing medical conferences. All invited speakers will be required to agree to abide by the Speaker Code of Conduct in advance of their participation. This underscores the importance of considerate and educationally sound discourse. Verbal discussion, written or pictorial material must be devoid of any references of violence, sexual discrimination or discrimination based on gender, religion, race, sexual orientation or nationality. Discrimination in any form has no role in the overall mission of each of these educational societies.

WAMM, EAMS, DAS and SAM, are taking this initiative to ensure that at future scientific conferences attendees will be enabled to learn in an educationally appropriate atmosphere. All conference faculty will have clear guidelines for acceptable content and behaviour. The goal of each of the host societies remains to advance patient safety, knowledge and scientific research regarding airway management on a global level.

This statement has been supported by the boards of WAMM, EAMS, DAS and SAM.