



2026

MPL Association
Conference

Highlights & Takeaways

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
LIABILITY ASSOCIATION

The annual MPL Association Conference is the flagship event for the medical professional and hospital liability industry bringing together more than 450 professionals representing 13 countries, and nearly every type of insurer, vendor,

and affiliated company.

Questions?

Contact
**Membership@
MPLassociation.org**
www.MPLassociation.org

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FROM OUR ATTENDEES:

- ★ It is always great to meet and exchange ideas. I learn almost as much outside the classroom as I do inside.
- ★ Everything was excellent! Conference topics, speakers, sponsor spotlights, venue, etc... This was a powerful and insightful conference!
- ★ It was great to get to speak to colleagues across the industry.

OVERALL:

Quality of Education: 4.6/5
Overall Meeting Rating: 4.6/5



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Keynote: The Disruptive Trends Shaping Tomorrow

SPEAKER: Sam Jordan, Futurist, The Future Today Strategy Group

ATTENDEE FEEDBACK:

- ★ "Invite her back!"
- ★ "Amazing speaker!"
- ★ "The pace of change is so rapid even annual updates are not frequent enough to be sufficient."

With a sobering look into the near and not-too-distant future,

Sam Jordan kicked off the conference with an exploration of how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technologies will shape the future of the workforce, and the delivery of medicine. Science fiction came into clear focus with current applications of AI and real-world predictions of what's next. Sam took her strong energy and deep insight into an "Ask the Expert" session following the keynote. This was a new feature of the Conference and 97% of the participants found it useful—extending the keynote into a more one-on-one discovery session.

**91%
of attendees**
could use this
information
immediately or
within the next 6
months



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

International Healthcare Trends and MPL: A Look Around the Globe



ATTENDEE FEEDBACK:

- ★ "Good to understand that we share so many similar difficulties."
- ★ "Great discussion about different trends across the globe."

PANEL FEATURING: Rashi Bansal, CEO Medical Indemnity; Matt Lee, CEO of The Medical Defense Union; Jaco Van der Sandt, CEO of PPS Health Professional Indemnity; and Gerald Zarlengo, MD, Chairman and CEO of COPIC

When it comes to trends in healthcare and medical professional and hospital liability, the issues faced by all nations can be remarkably similar. From country to country the challenges faced by healthcare organizations, medical professionals, and the liability environments in which they operate have become increasingly alike. This highly-rated session demonstrated those similarities and showcased solutions being employed around the globe.

International Section Meeting

The International Section of the MPL Association met during the Conference to share country-based updates and discuss common issues. Twenty-two representative members discussed a broad range of issues related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), tort reform, policy changes in sexual abuse and misconduct, and the continued growth in damages and legal costs. Of note, most participants noted that they are not experiencing the same nuclear verdicts in their countries as seen in the United States. But with regulatory shifts toward more governmental oversight from physician-led efforts, and proposed major legal reforms, it's uncertain if those larger verdicts aren't too far away.

Mark your calendar: International Legal/Claims Workshop—coming to London in November! For international chief legal and claims professionals. Event invitation and information will be sent to member companies.

International members represent 11 member companies across six countries.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Hospital/Health Systems: Plaintiff Attorney Tactics in Today's HPL Lawsuits and Avenues for Successful Defense

SPEAKER: Daniel Ferhat, Esq. Saxton and Stump

Plaintiff attorney tactics in today's HPL lawsuits often follow a similar playbook. It's time for the defense to step up and create our own. As part of a broader "Hospital and Facility" focus, this session discussed insights into emerging trends and noteworthy cases in hospital professional liability.

Starting with the fundamentals, this session reminded the defense the importance of humanizing the medical team and clinical professionals. The various types of direct examination themes that can be used, and how to teach the jury what modern medicine looks like. Of course, storytelling continues to be one of the most powerful tools to employ, and how building witness authenticity helps in that effort.



Hospital-Health System Liability Insurance Section Roundtable

A special Roundtable hosted 13 self-insured hospital and health system organization executives just before the Conference convened. Discussion included a claims benchmarking study available from Aon and the IPass Institute's demonstrated approach to improving patient handoffs—both companies are MPL Association Partners. Additional discussions focused on consolidation and system growth, vicarious liability expansion, artificial intelligence in clinical decision making, and credentialing/staffing risks. Some early planning around a virtual roundtable in the Fall of 2026 also took place. Please contact the MPL Association for more information at Membership@MPLassociation.org.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Guiding Providers to Become Powerful Witnesses for Better Claims Outcomes

PANELISTS: Suzanne Blundi, JD, President of MMC Risk Consultants; Beth Cushing, SVP of Claims at CRICO; and Gita Pensa, MD, FACS of GSP5 Consulting

This highly rated session featured a panel of experts sharing how to present a clear and unbiased position while being in a highly uncomfortable position as a defendant. Looking at how hospitals, systems, and insurers can empower physicians to become more impactful in the defense of their claim, data was shared about the changing nature of exposures, how jurors have evolved (specifically by generation), and how opinions/information are generated in today's multi-media/information-overload environment.

**90%
of attendees**
said they could use
this information
immediately



ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Attendees had the option to attend more than 20 educational and informational sessions, networking events, as well as visit the exhibit hall with 23 companies dedicated to supporting the industry. Add in the Conference App that equipped attendees with additional networking and connection options, the adjacent broker and reinsurance events, Association receptions, and a guided walking tour of Philadelphia and it's easy to see why this year's Conference ranks in the highest attended and top-rated.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

28-30 | Underwriting and Marketing Workshop

Sept 30-Oct 2 | Claims and Risk Management/Patient Safety Workshop

November

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

2-3 | Finance and Investment Forum

2-4 | Introduction to Medical Professional Liability Insurance Workshop

4-6 | IT Forum

5-6 | Corporate Counsel Workshop

LONDON

3-4 | International Legal/Claims Workshop (Int'l members, by invitation)

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LIABILITY ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS • 1977 - 2027

2027

MPL Association Conference

MAY 19-21 | THE BILTMORE | LOS ANGELES