



Safety Camp Declaration 2026

A Joint Mandate for Advancing Safety in Medicine

Augsburg, 04 March 2026

Preamble

The traditional understanding of safety in medicine – as the sum of professional competence, guidelines, quality indicators, and individual responsibility – is no longer sufficient. The environment in which healthcare systems operate has fundamentally changed.

Medical care today is shaped by increasing clinical complexity, geopolitical tensions, hybrid threats, cyberattacks, fragile global supply chains, and growing dependence on digital infrastructure. These developments require a broader understanding of safety in healthcare systems.

The **Safety Camp – 1st Conference for Medical Safety** responds to this new reality.

Safety Camp is not designed as a traditional medical congress. It represents a **strategic shift in perspective**, addressing medical safety within its expanded systemic context: as the intersection of **patient safety, cybersecurity, and health system resilience**. The objective is not abstract discussion but practical, actionable progress.

At the center of this approach lies a principle of **operational realism**: the ability to act is more important than theoretical perfection. Solutions that are implemented and continuously improved provide greater safety than ideal concepts that remain unrealized. In an increasingly uncertain world, safety depends on **speed, adaptability, and collaboration**.

The conference also highlights that a sustainable safety culture cannot be created through appeals alone. It requires **institutional structures**: clear leadership accountability, standardized processes in high-risk environments, systematic learning from errors, responsible use of data and technology, and the integration of patient perspectives. In this sense, safety becomes a **core governance responsibility**.

Equally important is a shift in the relationship between sectors. Medicine, industry, policy, and science must not be treated as separate domains but as **interdependent partners within a shared system of responsibility**. Under current geopolitical conditions, innovation, regulation, and healthcare delivery can only generate meaningful safety outcomes through coordinated action.

The **Safety Camp Declaration 2026** reflects this understanding. It is not a catalogue of demands directed at others, nor a political resolution. Instead, it represents a **commitment by the participants themselves** – by healthcare institutions, organizations, leaders, and systems.

The declaration defines areas in which the participants of Safety Camp will take responsibility and advance concrete action.

Safety Camp 2026 therefore marks a **starting point**: a platform where the right questions are addressed under realistic conditions. Medical safety must be re-examined not despite geopolitical uncertainty, but **because of it**.

The work now begins.

**By 2027 we commit to:****1. Operationalizing resilience in healthcare systems**

Risk assessments, emergency preparedness concepts, training exercises, and organizational resilience models will be introduced and tested across participating institutions. Implementation will take priority over perfection.

2. Embedding patient safety in leadership and governance

Responsibility for safety will become an explicit component of leadership mandates, institutional governance frameworks, and strategic decision-making – on par with quality, performance, and economic sustainability.

3. Strengthening specialized medical expertise

Healthcare systems must maintain and expand specialized competencies across medical disciplines, including capacities required to treat patients from crisis and conflict regions.

4. Building a systematic safety culture

Human factors, simulation training, structured safety communication, and protected incident reporting systems will become integral elements of clinical practice, professional training, and organizational culture.

5. Leveraging standardization to enable safety and innovation

Standardized processes, evidence-based checklists, and transparent metrics will be expanded in critical areas to reduce preventable harm while enabling safe integration of innovation. Cross-sector learning – particularly from high-reliability industries such as aerospace – will be actively pursued.

6. Using data responsibly for prevention and early warning

Available clinical and technical data will be used to strengthen patient safety, early detection, and prevention while strictly respecting data protection and avoiding the use of personally identifiable patient information.

7. Creating structural incentives for quality and prevention

The responsible adoption of safety-relevant technologies, including AI-supported systems, will be actively promoted. Conversely, the systematic underuse of existing safety capabilities will be critically addressed.

8. Promoting a constructive culture of learning from errors

Safety culture requires openness and learning. This includes protecting “second victims,” enabling collaborative teamwork, systematically documenting serious incidents, and preventing never events through structured analysis and prevention strategies.

9. Integrating the patient perspective in safety processes

Patient-reported outcome and experience measures, as well as patient representatives, will be systematically incorporated into safety analysis, prevention strategies, and communication processes.

10. Strengthening collaboration between medicine, industry, and science

Joint career pathways, dual affiliations, and cooperative development models will be promoted to accelerate the translation of safety innovations into clinical practice.

11. Expanding regional networks as pillars of resilient healthcare

Closer collaboration between healthcare institutions, industry, and policymakers will support the development of strong regional healthcare and innovation ecosystems – including start-ups – as foundations for resilient healthcare systems.

2026

SAFETY CAMP

Augsburger Allgemeine

Alles was uns bewegt

UNIVERSITÄTSKLINIKUM
AUGSBURG



Epilogue

Safety Camp invites all current and future participants to actively implement the commitments set out in this declaration.

At **Safety Camp 2027**, progress will be reviewed, barriers openly discussed, and results communicated transparently.

Safety Camp will remain a **permanent platform for collaboration, learning, and implementation** in the field of medical safety.

The conference is jointly organized by **University Hospital Augsburg (UKA)** and **Augsburger Allgemeine**.

Save-The-Date:

The next Safety Camp will take place on
28 January 2027.