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## Note from the Editor

Yevgeniya Kalinina

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# A Note from the Editor

YEVGENIYA KALININA\*

Welcome to Volume 31 of the *Maryland Journal of International Law*, a special four-part edition on international human rights and freedoms. We thank the authors for their insightful scholarship and everyone else whose hard work made this publication possible.

Volume 31 starts with a selection of pieces from an internationally curated symposium entitled *Roundtable on Clinical Trials and Access to Essential Medicines in African Countries*. The event was co-sponsored by *MJIL* and the *Maryland Journal of Health Care Law & Policy* and took place in Baltimore, Maryland on October 29–30, 2015, the culmination of five years of collaboration between the Faculty at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law and Chancellor College Faculty of Law in Zomba, Malawi. At this important event, participants tackled the many challenges facing the global health community to implement policy that actualizes the human right to health and access to essential medicines. Several articles memorializing these discussions are included in this publication, which address specific barriers to access caused by international intellectual property rights and breakdowns in systems of care. We thank the participants for their thoughtful contributions, Professors Peter Danchin and Diane Hoffmann for laying the groundwork for the event, and the many administrators and other individuals that worked on this project for making it a success.

This publication also includes important discussions on freedom of speech and freedom of religion—rights often promised, sometimes taken for granted, but seldom truly secure. Part II begins with the work of author Benjamin Pomerance, who through his in-depth review of six historic revolutions, illustrates that freedom of expression often serves as the rallying cry during the revolutionary process, but is then often abandoned in post-revolutionary societies. Part III continues a

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\* Editor in Chief, *Maryland Journal of International Law* Volume 31, 2016–2017; Dr. Yevgeniya Kalinina, also known as Jane Kalinina, graduated from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in May, 2016 with a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) and Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.). She continues the work of Hannah He, Editor in Chief of *Maryland Journal of International Law* Volume 31, 2015–2016, who graduated from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in May, 2016 with her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) and proudly serves in the United States Army as a JAG Officer.

series first published in Volume 29 and includes two thought-provoking case studies from the *Politics of Religious Freedom Project*, a four-year interdisciplinary initiative that addressed the transformation in religious freedom seen across the globe. Part IV concludes with a selection of Student Comments discussing diverse contemporary issues facing the international community today.

We thank the faculty and the administration at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law for their continued support of the *MJIL* and the international and comparative law program. I would also like to personally thank the executive board and editorial staff of the *MJIL*, and Jerri Shahverdi, a full-time editor on the *Maryland Law Review*, for her assistance with finalizing this publication.

Sincerely,

Jane Kalinina