

# CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
CURATED BY CBME

December 2022, Issue 13



## NEWS & ARTICLES

### Genome sequencing trial to test benefits of identifying genetic diseases at birth

By Linda Geddes // *The Guardian*

Sequencing babies' genomes at birth can expedite diagnosis and subsequent treatment of several rare genetic diseases. But potential harms such as false positives and inadequate follow-up care must be acknowledged.

### Commentary: Be wary we don't go too far even as we pursue healthier living

By Michael Dunn // *Channel News Asia*

The author cautions healthcare professionals against healthist attitudes when dealing with patients who fail to take responsibility for their own health under the new Healthier SG paradigm.

### Global surrogacy agency accused of putting women at risk with 'unethical' medical procedures

By Shanti Das, Simon Bowers and Malia Politzer // *The Guardian*

Evidence of unethical medical procedures such as multi-embryo transfers and exploitative commercial practices in countries with lax regulation has been unearthed.

### 'Tis the season to give your doctor a gift, or is it a headache?

By Chong Siow Ann // *The Straits Times*

Giving or receiving gifts with inappropriate intentions or of inordinate value would be unethical. However, in some situations, accepting tokens of appreciation may be necessary to prevent deterioration of the patient-professional relationship.

### New Zealand anti-vax guardianship case: how rare is it and what powers do courts have?

By Eva Corlett // *The Guardian*

New Zealand High Court transfers guardianship of child whose parents refused to consent to transfusion of vaccinated blood for an urgent heart operation, to the health authorities. Cases like these are cropping up in other countries as well.



## PUBLICATIONS

### Loneliness at the age of COVID-19

By Zohar Lederman // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Argues that loneliness should be included in pandemic preparedness and public health policy, as a negative social determinant of health.

### Should Cash Subsidy Be Offered to Family Caregivers for the Elderly? The Case of Hong Kong

By Ruiping Fan and Lawrence Y. Y. Yung // *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*

The authors suggest cash subsidies do not monetise or tarnish the Confucian filial obligation, as caregivers will be better enabled to engage in their duties to their loved ones.

### Religious Preferences in Healthcare: A Welfarist Approach'

By Roger Crisp // *Bioethics*

Adopts the approach of 'demoralised welfarism' in responding to religious preferences in healthcare, grounded in the well-being of individuals and avoiding moral terminology in discussions.

### Autonomy, well-being, justice, professional responsibility and personal values: A commentary on Roger Crisp, 'Religious Preferences in Healthcare: A Welfarist Approach'

By Julian Savulescu // *Bioethics*

A commentary in support of Crisp's position, and elaborates on the argument that patients' well-being, autonomy, and preferences must be given greater weight than healthcare providers' own well-being and autonomy.

### Conditional donation: Is it justifiable to have different policies for different kinds of tissue

By Simon Paul Jenkins and Greg Moorlock // *Clinical Ethics*

Based on an evaluation of differences between two types of tissues, i.e., organs and gametes, the authors argue that none of the generally offered reasons sufficiently justify varying policies on conditional donations particularly in the case of these two tissues.

### Justifying and practising effective participation in the Court of Protection: an empirical study

By Camillia Kong, Rebecca Stickler, Penny Cooper, Mathew Watkins, and Michael Dunn // *Journal of Law and Society*

An analysis of semi-structured interviews with 56 legal experts in mental capacity law reveals deeper legal and ethical justifications for effective participation of persons who lack mental capacity in proceedings of the Court of Protection, as well as systemic and practical barriers to realising their participation.



## BLOG POSTS

### Clinical Ethics Case Studies: Should He Have Brain Surgery?

By Janet Malek and Ryan H. Nelson // *Hastings Bioethics Forum*

The first in a new Hastings Forum series of case discussions in clinical ethics based on real cases asks whether performing surgery on a 21 year-old male with cerebral palsy, quadriplegia, and intellectual disability just to temporarily return to baseline quality of life, outweighs the risks.

### A global vaccine tax to expand COVAX's mandate

By Felicitas Holzer, Federico Germani, Ivette Ortiz Alcántara, Julian März and Nikola Biller-Andorn // *JME Blog*

The authors suggest that a "VaxTax" should have been imposed on high-income countries under the COVAX model, to deter hoarding and ensure more equitable distribution of vaccines amongst low- and middle-income countries.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### The Ethics of Big Data and AI : Issues in Health and Healthcare

Educators: - Prof Julian Savulescu, Dr Owen Schaefer, Dr Victor Cole, Dr Muralidharan

Date: 21, 23, 27 and 30 March 2023

Time: 05:00pm - 08:00pm

Mode: Online

### 17th Annual International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation 2023

Theme: Clinical Ethics: Consultation and/or Education?

Dates: 7-10th June 2023

Venue: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome

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