

Inaugural Asian Paediatric Ethics Conference 2nd and 3rd October 2023



Symposium 3 speaker

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Dr Aishworiya Ramkumar is a developmental behavioural paediatrician and a Consultant at the Child Development Unit, Khoo Teck Puat – National University Children’s Medical Institute at the National University Hospital, Singapore. Her clinical interest is in childhood autism in which she recently completed fellowship training at the UC Davis Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (MIND) institute USA. She leads clinical research in autism, including in screening and outcomes and has a Masters in Clinical Investigation in this area.

Aishworiya is also a member of the Paediatric Ethics and Advocacy Committee (PEACe) at National University Hospital and has led teaching in clinical ethics-related discussions for undergraduates and postgraduate medical trainees. She has also participated at international ethics conferences as a teaching faculty. She believes in embracing both the art and science in medicine and that contemplation of medical ethics as integral to this end.

Presentation title: Genetic Testing in Autism

Abstract

This session will discuss whether the state and/or society should undertake the responsibility of providing financial subsidies for genetic testing for children diagnosed to be on the autism spectrum. Following a brief introduction to autism and the role of genetic factors in its etiology, the utility of genetic testing will be discussed in terms of beneficence and maleficence to children, their parents and the society. The case for society to facilitate testing when needed will be made, together with a discussion on the positive and negative effects of that. Through this session, participants will gain a better understanding of the role of genetic testing in autism and specific scenarios where testing should be advocated for.