

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



Symposium 4 speaker

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I completed my training in Paediatrics in 1998. After a tenure in private and mission hospitals, I joined as Faculty at the Department of Paediatrics in Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore in 2003. In 2009 I completed 3year Clinical Fellowship and PhD in Paediatric endocrinology from the Liggins Institute, Auckland, New Zealand. Currently I am a clinician, teacher and researcher in Paediatrics as well as Paediatric endocrinology at CMC, Vellore.

Christian Medical College Vellore is one of the biggest tertiary care referral hospitals in India with a large turnover of ~ 8000 outpatients/ day. We take care of patients belonging to all socioeconomic strata from various parts of India and the neighboring countries. Poor patients are offered subsidized/ free treatment with funds from various sources and this subsidy is entirely decided upon by the treating medical team. With limited resources for subsidized treatment, we are often in a dilemma as to how much of financial support should be given and how to prioritize beneficiaries between those with acute illnesses versus those with chronic disabilities/developmental delay. With access to advanced investigation and treatment modalities, management individualized to patients becomes a daily challenge for the medical team. In this work scenario, foundation for ethical practices in decision making and the courage to follow it through becomes vital.

Presentation title: Genomics in Paediatric practice – issues and solutions- experience from the Hong Kong Genome Project

Abstract

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Presentation title: Moral courage and Resilience

Abstract

In our day to day practice in the healthcare sector we face several ethical dilemmas. Although in most of the situations we are aware of morally right decision, several constraints prevent us from taking the right decision. It is in this context courage to stand up for one's core values and to do the right thing even if we get penalized and the resilience to pursue it till completion is important. The ultimate goal for every healthcare provider should be to provide the best service to the patient keeping in mind their best interests. This becomes particularly relevant in Paediatric practice when we take decisions on behalf of children who cannot be advocates for themselves.

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In this talk on Moral Courage and Resilience, I propose to discuss 4 case scenarios which are true stories from our institution. Each of these cases has a story on how decisions were taken to give the best chance to the child. How in the midst of ethical dilemmas, someone showed moral courage – be it a resident , consultant or the administrative head of the institution.