

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



## Symposium 3 speaker

**Dr VOO Teck Chuan**  
**National University of Singapore**

Trained in Philosophy, Bioethics methods, and Medical Jurisprudence, Dr Voo Teck Chuan is Research Assistant Professor at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. His work consists of research on and contribution to guidance on ethical issues in healthcare and infectious disease emergencies, including for the World Health Organization such as its Guidelines on the Management of Chronic Pain in Children. He also co-leads the Southeast Asian Bioethics Network, a Wellcome-funded initiative to build a vibrant, inclusive, and collaborative bioethics community in the region. Teck Chuan is on the editorial board of the Asian Bioethics Review, Public Health Ethics, and Springer book series "Philosophy and Medicine" and "Public Health and Health Policy Ethics". He is an elected member of the Board of Directors for the International Association of Bioethics, and sits on various ethics committees in Singapore, including the Bioethics Advisory Committee and National Medical Ethics Committee.

**Presentation title: To treat or not to treat? Ethical issues with gender-related self-treatment**

### **Abstract**

This talk will briefly cover the ethical debate on minors' consent to gender-related care and treatment. It will then present the ethical issues and dilemmas arising from minors who seek formal health services after perceived beneficial self-medication. Care in such cases may be ethically justified on a case-by-case assessment that non-access would result in more harm, and informed consent from both the minor and parents. To serve the best interests of minors seeking gender-related treatments, it is proposed that such treatment should be embedded within a research context.