

CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

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NEWS & ARTICLES

Is it worth asking another doctor for a second opinion?

By Devanand Anantham // *The Straits Times*

Patients are well within their rights to seek a second opinion from another professional regarding their care. However, uncertainties due to differing opinions can increase patients' vulnerabilities, making it imperative that doctor-patient relationships are focused on building trust.

Commentary: If TCM really works, why are some still sceptical about it?

By Kathryn Muyskens // *Channel News Asia*

Plans to integrate Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) into Healthier SG are being considered. But stumbling blocks persist.

Medicine doesn't just have 'conscientious objectors' – there are 'conscientious providers,' too

By Raymond G De Vries // *The Conversation*

Moral injury can occur both when healthcare providers are forced to offer care that infringes upon their values and when they are prohibited from providing the care that their patients need. While "conscience clauses" in the US only protect providers from the former, the author argues that the latter should be covered too.

Doctors Need a Better Way to Treat Patients Without Their Consent

By Sandeep Jauhar // *The New York Times*

Doctors, ethicists, and other relevant experts should be cumulatively making decisions about whether a patient should be treated in the hospital despite their objections, not justages.

Balance needed to ensure stricter rules on MCs do not exclude genuine patients, doctors say

By Vihanya Rakshika // *The Straits Times*

With the recent proposal by MOH to tighten rules on issuing MCs, particularly through telemedicine, efforts are needed to assuage public concerns that it will be tough to get an MC even if genuinely ill.

UK infected blood scandal made worse by 'chilling' cover-up, inquiry finds

By Haroon Siddique and Rachel Hall // *The Guardian*

The final report of a 5-year public inquiry on the contaminated blood scandal in the UK reveals evidence of a systematic, decades long cover-up of ethical and legal violations of affected patients' rights and interests.

PUBLICATIONS

Regulatory safeguards needed if preimplantation genetic testing for polygenic risk scores (PGT-P) is permitted in Singapore

By Alexis Heng Boon Chin, Lee Wei Lim, and Sayyed Mohamed Muhsin // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Proposed safeguards include restrictions on application of PGT-P to prevention of clinically relevant polygenic disease traits, blocking patients' access to the raw genomic DNA sequencing data of their IVF embryos, and mandatory rigorous and comprehensive genetic counselling for patients considering PGT-P.

When can we Kick (Some) Humans "Out of the Loop"? An Examination of the use of AI in Medical Imaging for Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

By Kathryn Muyskens, Yonghui Ma, Jerry Menikoff, James Hallinan, and Julian Savulescu // *Asian Bioethics Review*

The authors argue that in some instances, keeping humans in the loop about AI mechanisms being deployed in their diagnosis/care can result in significant opportunity costs.

Ethics & Law on Advance Care Planning: A Perspective from Singapore

By Sumytra Menon and Chua Shumin Eunice (Edited by Raymond Han Lip Ng, Diah Martina, Cheng-Pei Lin, and Masanori Mori) // *Advance Care Planning in the Asia Pacific*

A chapter in the recent publication on Advance Care Planning (ACP) in the Asia-Pacific region, addressing the cultural, legal, and ethical background of ACPs in Singapore.

Goals-of-care discussion in older adults: a clinical and ethical approach

By Isaac Kah Siang Ng, Benjamin Ming-Yew Hooi, Kay Choong See, and Desmond B Teo // *Singapore Medical Journal*

The authors propose a five-step 'SPEAR' model towards engaging in goals-of-care (GOC) discussions with older patients and/or their families and broaching sensitive topics such as resuscitation status during inpatient care, advance care plans, etc.

Psychiatric Illness and Clinical Negligence: When Can "Secondary Victims" Successfully Claim for Damages? Recent Developments from the United Kingdom

By Edward S Dove // *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*

A dissection of Paul v Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, where the UK Supreme Court recently restricted the circumstances in which claims can be made as a 'secondary victim', for psychiatric illness arising from witnessing (or attending shortly thereafter) a loved one's death due to a doctor's negligence.

BLOG POSTS

From Regulation to Innovation: The Impact of the EU AI Act on XR and AI in Healthcare

By Marcelo Corrales Compagnucci // *Bill of Health (The blog of the Petrie-Flom Center)*

The human-centric framework established by the new EU AI act addresses potential risks posed by AI and extended reality technologies in patient care. This post recommends standards and frameworks that can be employed to manage these risks.

Mothers of today, mothers of tomorrow

By Emanuele Mangione // *JME Blog*

The author considers the possibility and implications of two 'complete' biological mothers of a baby, 'recombining' genetic and gestational motherhood using a hypothetical combination of existing ART techniques - maternal spindle transfer and reciprocal effortless IVF.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Short Course on Ageing and Ethics - The Ethics of Families in Ageing Societies

Register Now.

Dates: 3 & 10 June 2024

Time: 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Mode: Online

Short Course on Ageing and Ethics - The Ethics of Communities and Cultures in Ageing

Register Now.

Dates: 24 June 1 July 2024

Time: 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Mode: Online

Executive Certificate in Healthcare Law & Ethics

Registration period opens from 6 May to 5 June 2024

Dates: 15 Aug 2024 to 15 Nov 2024

Mode: Synchronous online sessions + asynchronous e-learning

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