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Symposium 2: Evolving Ethical Issues in Paediatric Research – A perspective from Singapore

Abstract

Paediatric research has evolved significantly over decades, early research focus on improving child health; reducing infections through vaccinations, reducing and preventing disease morbidity and combating malnutrition, improving survival in preterm infants, still holds importance and relevance

We now have other end of spectrum of malnutrition i.e. obesity and other chronic disease e.g. asthma and diabetes that threatens not only to child health but with long term health implications as adults, hence the focus has shifted towards understanding long-term health consequences and prevention strategies.

Early screening and intervention in neurobehavioral and neurodevelopment disorders involving the family and community, is important to ensure the child derives maximum benefits

Genomic research with personalised medicine offers promising strategies in management of childhood oncology and rare genetic disease.

Despite regulation changes to encourage development of new paediatric drugs, ethical concerns, smaller numbers in recruitment, industry motivations in funding of paediatric-specific drug development and designing age-appropriate clinical trials are still hurdles that has led to limited options for paediatric therapies.

The growing integration of artificial intelligence, big data, and digital health technologies presents both

Biography

Dr Agnes Ng is the founding member of the Department of Paediatric Anaesthesia. Her interests lie in education, and she is heavily involved in undergraduate, postgraduate, and simulation based education.

She is also the founding member of the Asian Society of Paediatric Anaesthesiologists, formed with the intention to improve networking amongst Asian paediatric anaesthesiologists. She constantly develops equipping workshops for this society, to improve standards of paediatric anaesthesia in Asia.

At KK Women's and Children's Hospital, her involvements include promoting Patient Safety in Sedation. She also sits on the board for the Research and Ethics Committee, and the Transplant Ethic Committee.

Her interests are: Medical Ethics, Education and Simulation