

CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

Oct 2024, Issue 35

NEWS & ARTICLES

Precision medicine to be covered by MediShield Life; new law mooted to govern genetic test use

By Zhaki Abdullah // The Straits Times

In recent developments from Singapore, new legislation governing the use of genetic and genomic test data has been announced, and precision medicine therapies will be covered under Medishield Life - the basic health insurance plan for citizens and permanent residents.

When is it time for an older doctor to hang up their stethoscope? We owe it to our patients to get it right

By Ranjana Srivastava // The Guardian

Comprehensive, fair, and respectful ways of evaluating older doctors' fitness to practice are increasingly needed.

Gynaecologist suspended after patient suffers miscarriage from uterine rupture following surgery

By Lydia Lam // Channel News Asia

A Singapore Medical Council (SMC) Disciplinary Tribunal has suspended 84-year-old Dr Christopher Chen for 12 months, for professional misconduct amounting to serious negligence following a procedure that resulted in uterine rupture.

Weight loss jabs not 'quick fix' for UK worklessness, health experts warn

By Nicola Davis // The Guardian

An announcement by the UK Health Secretary to trial weight loss drugs in helping unemployed people get back into work has been met with severe backlash from experts, based on the serious ethical and logistical issues with such use.

MaNaDr lapses a wake-up call to maintain ethical standards, say telehealth providers

By Lee Li Ying // The Straits Times

MOH has suspended telehealth service MaNaDr's license and SMC investigations against 41 doctors affiliated with the service have been initiated, for potential violations of ethical guidelines based on records of very short teleconsultations concluding in prescription of medications and issuance of medical certificates.

US startup charging couples to 'screen embryos for IQ'

By Hannah Devlin, Tom Burgis, David Pegg and Jason Wilson // The Guardian

Ethical and medical concerns have been raised by leading geneticists and bioethicists regarding the use of Heliospect Genomics' prediction tools developed with data provided by UK Biobank, to test 100 embryos for "IQ and other naughty traits".

PUBLICATIONS

The two lives of the Mental Capacity Act: rethinking East-west binaries in comparative analysis

By Hillary Chua, Camillia Kong, and Michael Dunn // Medical Law Review

A comparative analysis of mental capacity laws in England & Wales and Singapore reveals distinct differences beyond the 'East-West trope', in the statutory frameworks, intents and interpretations, reported judgments, and socio-cultural context.

A Triad Approach to Best Interests when Responding to Discharge Demands from Hospitalized Patients Lacking in Mental Capacity to Decide on Treatment

By See Muah Lee, Nydia Camelia Mohd Rais, and Gerard Porter // Asian Bioethics Review

Using two case analyses, the authors propose a triad approach to determining the best interests of mentally incapacitated patients who seek discharge against medical advice, requiring that the (1) treatment serve a rescue response; (2) restraints be proportionate with a foreseeable end; and (3) family is supportive.

Definition and recommendations of advance care planning: A Delphi study in five Asian sectors

By Masanori Mori, Helen YL Chan, Cheng-Pei Lin..., Raymond Ng Han Lip..., Sumytra Menon, et al. // Palliative Medicine

A delphi study carried out in five Asian sectors, namely Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan lays out consensus-based definition of advance care planning and recommendations for patient-centred, family-based, and culturally sensitive interventions and initiatives towards end-of-life conversations and care.

Hope pluralism in antenatal palliative care

By Sophie Bertraud, Mehrunisha Suleman, and Dominic Wilkinson // Journal of Medical Ethics

The authors posit a pluralistic approach to holding, conveying, and navigating hope in antenatal interactions between healthcare professionals and parents whose babies are affected by a serious medical condition that will likely result in the infant's death.

BLOG POSTS

Declaration of Helsinki turns 60 – how this foundational document of medical ethics has stood the test of time

By Dominic Wilkinson // Practical Ethics

The most recent revision of the 60-year-old Helsinki Declaration reinterprets issues such as the treatment of vulnerable populations, but requires more updates to match the pace of rapidly advancing technologies.

Breaking Boundaries: Reframing Clinical Ethics Discussions of Health Care for Incarcerated Patients

By Whitney Cabey, Nicolle K Strand, and Peter Simonsson // Hastings Bioethics Forum

Combining the case example of caring for patients experiencing incarceration and the larger issue of social injustices of mass incarceration in the US, the authors argue that clinical ethics consultations can go beyond individual cases and engage in advocacy.

PODCASTS

Accountability and AI

By Professor Simon Chesterman // Hosts: James Lim and Sinead Prince // CBmE&U

In Episode #5 of CBmE&U, hosts Sinead and James have a chat with Professor Simon Chesterman (David Marshall Professor and Vice Provost (Educational Innovation) at the National University of Singapore) about the black-box problem with AI. Simon answers questions about using beneficial AI even when we don't know how these decisions were made, who should be responsible when we don't know what went wrong, etc.

Traditional Chinese Medicine

By Dr Kathryn Muyskens // Hosts: James Lim & Sinead Prince // CBmE&U

In Episode #6 of CBmE&U, Sinead and James interview CBmE Research Fellow Dr. Kathryn Muyskens on the ethics of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Kathryn shares her expertise on what counts as TCM, the importance and humanity of TCM as distinct from 'Western' medicine, whether the inexplicability of TCM is ethically problematic for patient autonomy and consent, and more.

VIDEO

CENTRES ELECTIVES - Clinical Ethics Beyond the Basics:

Reproductive Ethics

Video lectures by Owen Schaefer

Back after a short break, the 7th module in our latest CENTRES initiative is on Reproductive Ethics, led by Dr Owen Schaefer, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics. Owen talks about some of the core concepts, analyses a compelled caesarean case, dives into the abortion debate, and introduces some of the ethical issues in Assisted Reproduction.

CENTRES ELECTIVES - Clinical Ethics Beyond the Basics:

Reproduction, Genetic Selection, and Procreative Beneficence

Video lectures by Julian Savulescu

The 8th module in our latest CENTRES initiative is on Reproduction, Genetic Selection, and Procreative Beneficence, led by Professor Julian Savulescu, Director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics. Julian's lectures touch a range of foundational concepts including procreative liberty and the moral issues involved in enhancing or selecting better children.

CENTRES ELECTIVES - Clinical Ethics Beyond the Basics:

Palliative Ethics

Video lectures by Chan Mei Yoke

The 9th module in our latest CENTRES initiative is on Palliative Ethics, led by Associate Professor Chan Mei Yoke, Senior Consultant at KK Women's and Children's Hospital. Mei Yoke provides an overview of the ethics of providing palliative care, medical futility and inappropriate therapies, the complexities of making decisions in this setting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 Asian Paediatric Ethics Conference

Register Now.

Mode: In-person

Date & Time: 6 Nov 2024 - 7 Nov 2024 | 9.00am – 6.00pm

Ethical, Legal, and Social issues of Human Brain Organoid Research and Application

Register Now.

Mode: Online

Date: 11 - 12 Nov 2024

Ethical and Legal Challenges in Surgical Innovation: Frameworks for Responsible Practice

Register Now.

Mode: In-person

Date & Time: 15 Nov 2024 | 9.00am – 12.00pm

The International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation (ICCEC) 2025

Call for Abstracts Now & Registration opens on 15th Nov 2024.

Mode: In-person

Date: 4 - 7 June 2025

Location: Lausanne – Switzerland

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