



Professor Daniel Fu-Chang Tsai **National Taiwan University, Taiwan**

Biography

Daniel Fu-Chang Tsai is a family physician and bioethicist. He graduated from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine (NTUCM) and earned his PhD in bioethics from the University of Manchester, U.K. He is the founding professor of the Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Bioethics, a joint professor in the Department of Family Medicine and the Graduate Institute of Clinical Medicine, and the past Director of the Department of Social Medicine at the NTUCM. He is an attending physician in the Department of Medical Research, the founding Director of the Ethics Center, the chairman of the Research Ethics Committee, and the executive secretary of the Clinical Ethics Committee at National Taiwan University Hospital. He is also the Director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at National Taiwan University, the past Vice President of the International Association of Bioethics, and the past President of the Taiwan Association of Institutional Review Boards. He is a member of the Merk Ethics Advisory Panel. He was awarded Honorary Membership by the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics in 2015, Goldman-Berland Lectureship in Palliative Medicine in 2019, and Hastings Center Fellow in 2021. His research interests include research ethics, clinical ethics, cross-cultural bioethics, and medical ethics education.

Plenary 1: An ethical approach to the Eastern Adolescent

Abstract

Contemporary bioethics commonly put "respecting for autonomy" at a central position among bioethical principles or as "the first among equals", yet such position has often been challenged by theories such as feminist approach, ethic of care, communitarian theories, or cultural variances. The complexity and intrigue of this challenge are particularly pronounced in the context of medical decision-making for adolescents in East Asia. Traditional Asian values, such as "filial piety (孝順)" and the hierarchical parent-child relationships encapsulated in "Wu-lun (五倫), theories of five human relations)," alongside concepts like the "interdependent construal of the self" and "relational autonomy," significantly complicate the interpretation and practice of "adolescent autonomy" in medical decisions. This presentation will critically examine the application of "relational autonomy" to Eastern adolescents, highlighting its complications. It proposes that the author's "Confucian two-dimensional personhood theories" offer a more suitable framework for addressing the ethical considerations of adolescent autonomy in both Asian and global contexts.