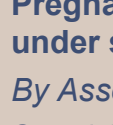


CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

May 2025, Issue 42



NEWS & ARTICLES

Pregnant US woman declared brain dead is being kept alive under state abortion law

By Associated Press // The Guardian

Georgia's strict anti-abortion law is being used to keep a brain dead pregnant woman on life support for months until the baby is born.

Regulating AI seems like an impossible task, but ethically and economically, it's a vital one

By Jun Du, Cher Li, and Xingyi Liu // The Conversation

Despite its complexity, regulating AI is both an ethical imperative and economic necessity to prevent unintended harms and ensure responsible and efficient technological development without excessive restriction on innovation.

Commentary: Vending machines for healthcare seem strange, but they're a step in the right direction

By Mathavi Senguttuvan // Channel News Asia

Unmanned telehealth kiosks may raise eyebrows, but with the right ethical and regulatory safeguards, they could significantly reshape how healthcare is accessed in Singapore.

Experts 'would refuse to take part' in mandatory castration for sex offenders

By Amelia Hill and Rajeev Syal // The Guardian

Proposals for mandatory chemical castration of sex offenders spark fierce backlash in the UK, with experts refusing to take part in such "ethically unsound" interventions.

AI therapy may help with mental health, but innovation should never outpace ethics

By Ben Bond // The Conversation

AI therapy may boost mental health access, but without strong safeguards and relevant patient-centred research, it risks amplifying bias and inequity, eroding trust, or even unintentionally reinforcing harmful behaviour.

This baby boy was treated with the first personalized gene-editing drug

By Antonio Regalado // MIT Technology Review

The first-ever personalized gene-editing therapy has been used to treat a baby with a rare and fatal metabolic condition—while raising critical questions about access, ethics, and the future of precision medicine.

PUBLICATIONS

Easier Said than Done: The Politics of Medical Integration

By Kathryn Muyskens // Asian Bioethics Review

Efforts to integrate traditional medical practices with biomedicine risk reinforcing epistemic injustice and cultural imperialism, calling for a pluralistic model over coerced assimilation.

A scoping review of the ethical issues in gender-affirming care for transgender and gender-diverse individuals

By Shilpa Surendran, Hui Jin Toh, Teck Chuan Voo, Chuan De Foo and Michael Dunn // BMC Medical Ethics

A scoping review of eighty-two publications maps various aspects of gender-affirming care and identifies key ethical issues and arguments, commonly based on principlism, used to justify or oppose different positions within these aspects, revealing significant disagreement and continuing challenges in providing care transgender and gender-diverse individuals.

Misalignments of values and preferences: Finding an ideal elder care arrangement

By Yi Jiao Angelina Tian, Tenzin Wangmo, and Julian Savulescu // Journal of Medical Ethics

This study shows that mismatches between older adults' and professional carers' moral outlooks on ageing and technology can undermine elder care, arguing that aligning their subjective values using the capabilities approach—within ethical limits—is key to implementing and realising the potential of smart home technologies.

On Religious Influence in Bioethics: The Limits of Pluriversalism

By Giovanni Spitalè, Federico Germani, Brian D Earp, Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Maide Barış, et al. // Bioethics

The authors challenge the increasing push for incorporating religious values into bioethical discourse, critiquing a novel "pluriversal" approach as ethically inconsistent and incompatible with universal human rights frameworks.

Towards Precision Geromedicine in Singapore

By Jonas John Posko Amalaraj, Louis Island, Jane Yu Ying Ong, Laureen Wang, Jose Hans M Valderas, Michael Dunn, Yap Seng Chong, Johannes Meij and Andrea B. Maier // GeroScience

Amid rising age-related disease burdens, this review positions Singapore as a global frontrunner in the clinical implementation of Precision Geromedicine—advancing healthy ageing insofar as it is aligned with established ethical and legal frameworks.

Respecting formerly autonomous persons: clarifying the role of the Personalised Patient Preference Predictor (P4) in substituted judgement

By Brian D Earp, Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Tessa van Veenendaal, Jemima Winifred Allen, ..., Julian Savulescu, et al. // Journal of Medical Ethics

The authors defend their proposal of the P4—a hypothetical GenAI-powered computer programme that could infer patients' underlying values and preferences in the context of surrogate decision-making, while countering critiques that seem to equate autonomy solely with explicit consent.

BLOG POSTS

Moving the Needle on Pathogen Sharing and Global Health Equity

By Ashwin Budden // Hastings Bioethics Forum

With the WHO Pandemic Treaty now formally adopted, the author urges that the as yet unresolved Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing system delivers on the promise of equity, ensuring low-income countries aren't left behind in future outbreaks.

Efficiency and Education: Finding Harmony in AI-Driven Medical Notes

By Trisha Nagin // JME Blog

As AI tools take over medical note-writing, this post warns that prioritising efficiency risks sidelining clinical reasoning and short-changing the educational growth of future doctors.

PODCASTS

Wrongfully Alive

By Sreenivasan Narayanan and Sathya Narayanan // Hosts: James Lim & Sinead Prince // CBmE&U Podcast

Sreenivasan Narayanan and Sathya Narayanan from Sreenivasan Chambers LLC talk about what should happen when children are conceived because someone was negligent, and how this has played out in Singapore's courts with hosts Sinead and James.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Register now.

Mode: In-person

Date: 4 - 7 June 2025

Location: Lausanne – Switzerland

MOH-NUS Masters Fellowship

Apply by 31st July 2025.

This prestigious programme offers Singapore citizens and permanent residents professionals opportunity to pursue a full-time study for Master of Science in Biomedical Ethics at NUS Medicine. Complete the programme in just 🕒18-24 months, starting January 2026.

Executive Certificate in Healthcare Law & Ethics

Register by 6 June 2025

Mode: Online & Asynchronous e-learning

Date: 14th Aug 2025 to 13th Nov 2025 / 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Evolving Ethics for Evolving Minds Conference

Register now.

Mode: In person in Spain

Date: 16th Oct 2025 to 17th Oct 2025

Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL) Conference

Register now.

Mode: In person in New Zealand

Date: 7th Dec 2025 to 9th Dec 2025