

CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

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NEWS & ARTICLES

Healthcare innovation: AI-enhanced and enabled, but not AI-decided

By Ong Ye Kung // The Straits Times

The Minister for Health recognises that AI can transform healthcare—as long as we don't hand over core competencies to technology.

Commentary: With UK success, should Singapore reconsider 3-parent IVF?

By Owen Schaefer // Channel News Asia

With the recent successes in birthing babies with DNA from three people in the UK, the author believes Singapore may need to revisit its cautious stance on mitochondrial replacement.

'Healthocide': experts warn of rise in targeting of health services in conflict

By Rachel Hall // The Guardian

Experts warn that deliberate attacks on hospitals and medics in Gaza and other conflict zones amount to "healthocide," as medical neutrality crumbles.

Commentary: Don't make people dealing with a mental health crisis tell their story twice

By Jared Ng // Channel News Asia

Singapore's national mental health helpline (1771) is a lifeline—but with callers often being transferred or waitlisted and reliving their trauma, hard questions about training, staffing, trust, and quality of care must be asked.

Age Well Neighbourhoods to integrate existing initiatives, be progressively rolled out across S'pore

By Ang Qing // The Straits Times

Amidst a series of new initiatives to support seniors age in place, Age Well Neighbourhoods will knit together health, social, and community programmes—bringing preventive, dignity-focused ageing support closer to home.

More than a disability, dementia takes a toll on the whole family – and more young patients are getting it

By Taufiq Zalizan // Channel News Asia

Young-onset dementia is rising in Singapore, exposing huge gaps in care and leaving families to shoulder the emotional and financial weight of an ageing society.

World's 'oldest baby': what a 30-year-old embryo tells us about the future of fertility

By Nicky Hudson // The Conversation

A 30-year-old frozen embryo birth isn't just a medical marvel—it's a fertility time capsule with deep ethical echoes for reproductive futures.

PUBLICATIONS

Gender identity development and coming out among transgender and gender diverse youth: A qualitative study on youth and parental experiences in Singapore

By Shilpa Surendran, Brian D Earp, Voo Teck Chuan, and Michael Dunn // International Journal of Transgender Health

Semi-structured interviews with transgender and gender-diverse youth in Singapore indicate how filial piety, stigma, National Service obligations and other sociocultural and legal factors can influence gender identity development and the coming out process.

Normative, empirical, and pragmatic ethical objections to Singapore permitting human genetic enhancement via germline genome editing

By Alexis Heng Boon Chin and Timothy Anand Weerasekera // Science and Public Policy

In a hypercompetitive, Confucian society like Singapore, permitting germline gene editing for human enhancement could supercharge consumer eugenics—deepening socioeconomic inequalities while eroding social cohesion—the authors argue.

AI-assisted consent in paediatric medicine: ethical implications of using large language models to support decision-making

By Jemima Winifred Allen, Brian D Earp, and Dominic Wilkinson // Journal of Medical Ethics

Could chatbots help children understand complex medical choices? LLMs may democratise paediatric consent and facilitate informed decision making—with adequate safeguards, careful integration, and ensuring that they complement (rather than replace) essential human roles.

A systematic scoping review of mentor training in medical education between 2000 and 2024

By Jun Rey Leong, Adele Yi Dawn Lim, Nila Ravindran, Ranitha Govindasamy, Nur Amira Binte Abdul Hamid, et al. // BMC Medical Education

Good mentors can not only shape future doctors' values but also improve patient care and outcomes. This study reviews data on mentor training in medical education, revealing a need for increased structured training and investment in professional identity development of mentors.

Daoist Views on Disability and Genetic Intervention

By Shizuko Takahashi, Alexa Jo Nord-Bronzyk, and Kathryn Lynn Muyskens // Hastings Center Report

What happens when we approach disability not as a problem to be fixed but as part of a harmonious life? A Daoist lens challenges dominant bioethical assumptions about control, enhancement, and the "normal".

A qualitative study of true self judgments, epistemic access, and medical decision-making

By James Toomey, Jonathan Lewis, Ivar R Hannikainen, and Brian D Earp // Journal of Medical Ethics

When deciding for themselves, people tend lean towards their "true selves; but when deciding for others, they seem to rely on proxies like the patient's seemingly 'authentic' wishes—deeply complicating the evidentiary standards of surrogate decision-making.

Distance caregiving using smart home technologies: balancing ethical priorities in family decision-making by only children

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

Based on semi-structured interviews with distance caregivers who were their parents' only children, smart-home tech promises safety but forces painful trade-offs with autonomy, privacy, dignity, and the irreplaceable value of human presence.

Digital Doppelgängers, Human Relationships, and Practical Identity

By Cristina Voinea, Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Julian Savulescu, and Brian D Earp // Bioethics

LLM-based digital doppelgängers like "griefbots" and digital replicas can potentially extend connection even after death. But they risk trapping people in curated illusions and reshaping what it means to be ourselves.

Vaccines, government misbehavior, and the medical profession

By Jerry Menikoff // Clinical Ethics

When governments and political leaders themselves spread vaccine falsehoods, should doctors stay quiet? This piece insists that the profession must defend evidence and educate, even when politics runs against it.

Ethical practice as a shared professional endeavour: Is healthcare ethics education fit for purpose?

By Michael Dunn // Nursing Ethics

Healthcare ethics shouldn't be siloed—the author argues that ethics, law, and professionalism must be taught as a common, team-based curriculum to prepare future practitioners in different roles for the realities of collective moral responsibility in care.

BLOG POSTS

He said, “I want to live.” But he refused care

By Ryan Marshall Felder and Adira Hulkower // Hastings Bioethics Forum

In this case study, ethicists analyse how the primary care team should proceed with caring for an unrepresented patient without decision-making capacity who wants to live but has declined necessary diagnostic tests needed to develop a treatment plan.

Why are patients and families not told the truth about Electroconvulsive Therapy?

By John Read, Sarah Price Hancock, Lisa Morrison, Lucy Johnstone, Chris Harrop, and Sue Cunliffe // JME Blog

Despite its risks and contested evidence, electroconvulsive therapy is often presented to patients without full disclosure—raising hard questions about consent and truth-telling in psychiatry.

PODCASTS

CBmE&U: Sticky & Icky: Trusting Your Moral Gut with Brandon Yip

Hosts: James Lim & Sinead Prince // CBmE&U Podcast

In episode 12 of season 2, Dr Brandon Yip from Singapore Relationship age gaps and asks whether we can really trust our emotions and instincts to guide our responses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Asian Bioethics Network Conference 2025

Open for Registration

Date: 23th Oct to 24th Oct 2025

Location: Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore

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