

CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

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NEWS & ARTICLES

Assisted Dying: Is Singapore Ready to Talk About This?

By Sinead Prince // MediCine

Singapore stands at a moral crossroads—although assisted dying isn't legal here, this article urges starting evidence-based, culturally aware conversations and research on public views before policy catches up.

Healthcare cluster rolls out ‘AI-free’ periods for doctors to prevent deskilling

By Lee Li Ying // The Straits Times

Intermittent AI-breaks for clinicians are being increasingly implemented to preserve clinical judgment and skills—highlighting the tensions between AI-supported efficiency and potential risks of digital dependency.

The big idea: why we should embrace AI doctors

By Charlotte Blease // The Guardian

Embracing “AI doctors” requires challenging our assumptions about the infallibility and expectations of human doctors. This could in turn, reduce diagnostic errors, expand access, and ensure the best possible patient care.

Can you say no to your doctor using an AI scribe?

By Saeed Akhlagpour // The Conversation

When AI scribes record patient encounters, the ethical issues of consent, privacy, and data truthfulness come sharply into view, necessitating that patients are properly informed about the pertinent details needed for obtaining consent.

Public hospitals to streamline care teams, patients will see one 'principal doctor'

By Ang Hwee Min // Channel News Asia

Putting patients on a "principal-doctor" care track promises continuity and focused, integrated care amid largely siloed specialties in Singapore's public hospitals.

We doctors will help our own – but not at the expense of other patients

By Ranjana Srivastava // The Guardian

Physicians may want to ease suffering for colleagues or loved ones—yet the author reminds us that such compassion must be carefully balanced with their duties to patients, as failing to do so risks undermining justice in how care is allocated.

PUBLICATIONS

Solones, Solo Reproduction and Vice

By Anantharaman Muralidharan and Julian Savulescu // Asian Bioethics Review

Solo reproduction may potentially become possible using in vitro gametogenesis, which may appear hubristic or narcissistic. But the authors argue such “vice” claims alone are insufficient grounds for prohibition.

Harms of the current global anti-FGM campaign

By Fuambai Sia Nyoko Ahmadu, Dina Bader, Janice Boddy, Mamasa Camara, Natasha Carver, et al. // Journal of Medical Ethics

Challenging the “one-size-fits-all” global campaign against Female Genital Mutilation, this essay argues that universal prohibition can backfire ethically and practically by ignoring cultural nuances and diverse experiences, and highlights the double standard when compared against “legitimised” genital surgeries in Western contexts.

Commercial impacts on Assisted Reproductive Technology: A scoping review

By Miriam Wiersma, Ian Kerridge, Siun Gallagher, Karin Hammerberg, Robert Norman, et al. // Journal of Bioethical Inquiry

This review maps how commercial forces—from costly “add-ons” and aggressive marketing to global reproductive tourism—shape assisted reproductive technologies, and proposes strategies for enhancing patient information, informed consent processes, and regulatory oversight.

Empowering Patient Autonomy: The role of Large Language Models (LLMs) in scaffolding informed consent in medical practice

By Jemima Allen, Neil Levy, and Dominic Wilkinson // Bioethics

Far from undermining autonomy, large language models could cognitively “scaffold” informed consent by (1) enhancing information accessibility and comprehension; (2) supporting value-clarification, and (3) facilitating culturally appropriate decision-making—if the risks of undue influence, and practical and epistemic challenges are carefully managed.

When is it safe to introduce an AI System into healthcare? A practical decision algorithm for the ethical implementation of black-box AI in medicine

By Jemima Allen, Dominic Wilkinson, and Julian Savulescu // Bioethics

This paper proposes a practical risk-based algorithm for black-box AI in medicine, arguing that ethical implementation should hinge not on explainability but on proportional oversight tied to technical robustness, implementation feasibility, and analysis of potential harms and benefits.

A vaccine emergency-when to overrule parental refusal of vaccination at birth for prevention of vertical transmission of hepatitis B virus?

By Robindra Basu Roy, Stephane Paulus, Dominic Kelly, Harpreet Brrang, Alison Taylor, et al. // Archives of Disease in Childhood

When parents refuse Hepatitis B vaccination for newborns, this paper looks into arguments for and against overriding refusal, and propose a dialogue process to manage such scenarios.

BLOG POSTS

Public Consultation on In Vitro Gametogenesis (IVG) and Stem Cell-Based Embryo Models (SCBEMs) by the Bioethics Advisory Committee (BAC) of Singapore is needed

By Alexis Heng Boon Chin // Springer Nature Research Communities

The author urges the BAC to open debate on IVG and stem-cell embryo models, as public trust in such frontier science depends on transparency and shared governance.

Uproar Over the UK Supreme Court’s Ruling on Sex and Gender – Why Broad Consultation Matters

By Shalom Chalson and Julian Savulescu // JME Blog

Widespread backlash to the UK Supreme Court's ruling on the interpretation of sex and gender under the Equality Act (2010) underscores the importance of appropriately broad consultation in high-stakes decisions.

Choosing what to believe in the face of illness

By David Curtis // Hastings Bioethics Forum

Illness often forces patients to weigh medical evidence against personal or spiritual convictions—raising a central ethical question about healthcare professionals' role in the patient's personal journey.

PODCASTS

CBmE&U: Should we trust medicine at all? with Jacob Stegenga

Hosts: Sinead Prince and Kathryn Muyskens // CBmE&U Podcast

In episode 13 of season 2, Prof Jacob Stegenga from Nanyang Technological University talks about why we should all be more sceptical about medical interventions, the placebo effect, research malleability, and publication bias.

CBmE&U: Can AI make better doctors? with Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

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

In episode 14 of season 2, Prof Walter Sinnott-Armstrong from Duke University gives us the reasons why AI can help people make the kinds of decisions they would make if they were the best version of themselves.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Asian Bioethics Network Conference 2025

Register Now.

Location: Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore
Date: 23th Oct to 24th Oct 2025

Evolving Ethics for Evolving Minds Conference

Register Now.

Mode: In person in Granada, Spain
Date: 16th Oct 2025 to 17th Oct 2025

Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL) Conference

Register Now.

Mode: In person in Christchurch, New Zealand
Date: 7th Dec 2025 to 9th Dec 2025

18th World Congress of Bioethics

Register Now.

Mode: In person in Johannesburg, South Africa
Date: 8th Jul 2026 to 10th Jul 2026