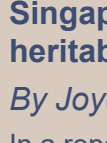


CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

October 2025, Issue 47



NEWS & ARTICLES

Singapore's Bioethics Advisory Committee urges caution on heritable gene editing

By Joyce Teo // *The Straits Times*

In a report released at the recent Asian Bioethics Network Conference, jointly organised by the BAC and CBmE, the top bioethics committee in Singapore warns against permitting heritable gene editing due to unknown long-term implications and safety risks.

AI could make it harder to establish blame for medical failings, experts say

By Nicola Davis // *The Guardian*

As AI becomes more ubiquitous in clinical practice, governance and liability still lag behind innovation—raising urgent legal and ethical questions about who bears responsibility should a patient have a negative outcome.

Living with dignity after stoma surgery

By Chong Joon Lan // *The Straits Times*

Beyond clinical outcomes, stoma care requires trust, empathy, education, and good relationships to navigate the associated stigma and ensure dignified management of life with a stoma.

The Guardian view on childbirth and medical negligence: rising payouts highlight the urgency of maternity improvements

By Editorial // *The Guardian*

The soaring cost of maternity negligence claims in the UK exposes deep ethical fractures in the maternity care system, where safety, accountability, and justice for harmed patients—both mothers and newborns—collide with the sustainability of public medicine.

Conflict at the drugstore: When pharmacists' and patients' values collide

By Elizabeth Chiarello // *The Conversation*

Can pharmacists exercise 'conscientious objection' and refuse to dispense certain medications (even with a valid prescription) on the basis of personal moral/religious beliefs?

Commentary: What Singapore can do to make the one 'principal doctor' model work

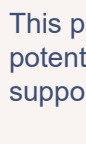
By Jeremy Lim // *Channel News Asia*

Singapore's recent move to assign a principal doctor for coordinated public healthcare across specialties promises better continuity and efficiency but prompts practical, legal, and ethical debates around overlapping capabilities, liability, navigating disagreements, and equity.

As a doctor, guiding my mum through hospital showed me true patient-centred care takes more than paperwork

By Ranjana Srivastava // *The Guardian*

A doctor's experience accompanying her own mother through a procedure at a hospital highlights how compassion, empathy, and patient-centredness matter just as much as protocols and checklists.



PUBLICATIONS

The ethics of Wegovy: promoting autonomy in pediatric care

By Nanette Ryan and Julian Savulescu // *Medicine, Healthcare and Philosophy*

This paper reframes Semaglutide (Wegovy), not as a moral shortcut, but as a potential autonomy-enhancing intervention for children when prescribed within supportive frameworks.

Keeping good documentation: the ethical and legal issues in medical records

By Peter Chiu-Leung Chow // *Singapore Medical Journal*

In the era of electronic health records, the author urges clinicians to document not just clinical findings and decisions but also patients' and doctors' perspectives and ethical concerns, towards maintaining reflexivity and humanising the records as part of good medical practice.

Is Consent-GPT valid? Public attitudes to generative AI use in surgical consent

By Jemima Winifred Allen, Ivar Rodríguez Hannikainen, Julian Savulescu, Dominic Wilkinson and Brian David Earp // *AI & Society*

This large-scale empirical study involving a representative sample of the UK public to gauge comparative views on the validity of medical consent when sought by three different agents—Consent-GPT, a junior doctor, and treating surgeon, reveals patients are more likely to agree with the human agents than the AI-assisted agents despite identical performance.

Clinical practice guidelines and the legal standard of care in disciplinary tribunals and negligence

By Darius Lim Xiang Wen, Thirumoorthy Thamotharampillai // *Singapore Medical Journal*

The authors argue that using clinical practice guidelines in deriving the standard of care is inappropriate and inadequate, preferring the Bolam-Bolitho framework towards developing a standard rooted in real-life, evidence-based medicine.

Privacy and Human-AI Relationships

By Christopher Register, Maryam Ali Khan, Alberto Giubilini, Brian David Earp and Julian Savulescu // *Philosophy & Technology*

As chatbots evolve into quasi-companions, this paper warns that AI's human-like intimacy could amplify privacy erosion, based on human relational psychology and prominent theories of privacy.

Perspectives of doctors on informed consent: findings of Singapore Medical Association survey

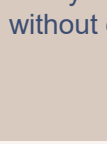
By Chee Kwan Ng // *Singapore Medical Journal*

An online survey of 567 doctors across Singapore uncovers exploratory data on how consent is sought from patients and documented in different practice settings—suggesting a gap between legal requirements, ethical ideals, and everyday realities.

Digital twins or AI SIMs? What to call generative AI systems designed to emulate specific individuals, in healthcare settings and beyond

By Christina Voinea, Sebastian Porsdam Mann, and Brian David Earp // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

As AI models increasingly mimic real people—from patients with declining cognition to deceased loved ones—this article proposes the term “AI SIMs” for referring to personalised AI systems capable of imitating particular individuals, especially towards conceptual accuracy and consistency in discussions around the opportunities, risks, and ethical considerations presented by these technologies.



BLOG POSTS



PODCASTS

CBmE&U: Dementia and Desires: Which you is the real you? With Rand Hirmiz

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

In Episode 15 of Season 2, Dr. Rand Hirmiz from Singapore Management University talks about how people with dementia can sometimes drastically change their preferences, how we should respect these different sets of views, the ways in which we form values, and the similarities and differences between the person pre-dementia and post-dementia.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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