

CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

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NEWS & ARTICLES

Commentary: Super-aged Singapore must talk about assisted living – and assisted dying

By Dileep Nair // Channel News Asia

This timely commentary argues that dignity in a super-aged society like Singapore extends beyond palliative care and support for ageing-in-place, calling for serious public conversations and consultations about assisted dying as part of a broader ethic of end-of-life choice and care.

‘Unbelievably dangerous’: experts sound alarm after ChatGPT Health fails to recognise medical emergencies

By Melissa Davey // The Guardian

An independent safety evaluation of OpenAI's ChatGPT "Health" feature has revealed instances of failure to identify emergencies in more than half the cases where urgent medical care would be considered necessary, exposing patients to potentially grave harm and raising urgent concerns about the safety of consumer-facing medical AI.

Over 20 doctors and dentists caught practising without valid credentials between 2023 and 2025

By Yap Wei Qiang // The Straits Times

The regulatory importance of valid registration and renewal of practising certificates for doctors and dentists isn't solely about avoiding harms to patients, but also to ensure adherence to standards of professionalism and maintaining public trust.

50 years ago, Karen Quinlan's coma sparked the movement for patients' rights near the end of life

By Robert S Olick // The Conversation

Revisiting the Karen Ann Quinlan case 50 years after the decision was delivered, this piece explores the profound impact of the case on the law and ethics of end-of-life care, towards pursuing death with dignity.

NHS is letting women down through ‘medical misogyny’, says Wes Streeting

By Alexandra Topping // The Guardian

A report by internet forum Mumsnet analysing data collected from the site and surveys of users reveals structural and embedded “medical misogyny” in the NHS, evidenced by repeated dismissal, disbelief, and undertreatment of women's pain and health concerns.

PUBLICATIONS

Ethical, legal, and social issues of AI use in emergency healthcare: a scoping review

By James Edgar Lim, Fahad Javaid Siddiqui, Angela Ballantyne, Michael Dunn, Sinead Prince, et al. // BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making

This scoping review of 33 relevant papers posits that while the ethics of AI in emergency healthcare is often framed around familiar concerns such as bias, transparency, privacy, trust, and accountability, the literature has not adequately grappled with what is distinctive about emergency settings: urgency, uncertainty, and/or high-stakes decision-making contexts.

Bifurcations in beneficence: can biomedicine and traditional Chinese medicine be integrated?

By Kathryn Muyskens, Zera Yingrui Te, and Michael Dunn // Journal of Medical Ethics

Notwithstanding the challenges and legitimate concerns surrounding the integration of traditional and biomedical health practices, the authors argue that any form of integration should engage with the ontological and normative divergences between them, and suggest some common norms for collaborative practice.

Beyond the algorithm: rethinking the network account of trustworthy AI through lexical threshold-based multidimensional utility analysis

By Fei Song, Julian Savulescu, and Michael Dunn // AI & Society

Arguing that trustworthy AI cannot be assessed at the level of the algorithm alone, the authors defend a broader, network account and propose a new framework for weighing conflicting trust-relevant attributes across technological, human, and institutional nodes.

What is Being Transferred in Human Head Transplant (HHT)? A Confucian Perspective

By Yonghui Ma and Kathryn Muyskens // Neuroethics

Drawing on the Confucian tradition's relational conception of identity and role-based ethical frameworks, this paper argues that human head transplantation is ethically impermissible not simply because of surgical risk or religious objections, but because it fails to preserve the embodied, relational, and functional conditions that make a good human life possible.

The Right to Privacy as a Right to Obscurity: On Big Data, Inferences, and Attention

By Clint Hurshman // Philosophy and Technology

The author argues that big-data inferences can violate privacy even when based on legitimately acquired data, because privacy is not only about wrongful acquisition of information, but also about protection against the excessive attention enabled by modern computational power.

Reclaiming “Abnormal” Embryos after Preimplantation Genetic Testing for Aneuploidy: Patients’ Perspectives on Transferring Embryos Against Institutional Advice

By Shizuko Takahashi, Sonia Gayete-Lafuente, Elizabeth Choong, Lara Guijarro-Baude, David H Barad, Pasquale Patrizio, Michael Dunn, Julian Savulescu, Norbert Gleicher // Human Reproduction Open

This qualitative study examines how patients challenge PGT-A classifications and assert reproductive agency by choosing to transfer embryos labelled “abnormal” despite institutional refusal.

BLOG POSTS

When harm reduction becomes hope: An ethics consult in pediatric innovation

By Alex Gariti // JME Forum

Using the case of an infant with cystic fibrosis being provided an unapproved therapy outside standard regulatory pathways, this post argues that when parental innovation yields real benefit amid uncertain risk, the most ethical response may be not outright prohibition but continued and careful clinical oversight combined with humility.

Genetic Therapies for Rare Diseases: Developing Ethical Regulatory Policies

By Carline Riley Chapman and Nirvan Bhatia // Hastings Bioethics Forum

Scaling gene-based therapies for rare diseases demands ethically oriented regulatory reform that better balances timely access for patients with high unmet needs against persistent uncertainties about safety, efficacy, and fairness.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GLP-1 in Children and Adolescents: Navigating the Ethical Landscape

Register Now!

Mode: Online via Zoom
Date: Friday 8 May 2026
Time: 3.00 to 6.00pm (SGT)

9th Asia Dengue Summit (ADS)

Venue: Orchard Hotel Singapore
Date: 15-17 June 2026

18th World Congress of Bioethics

Register Now!

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
Date: 8-10 July 2026

Neuroethics Asia Conference 2026

Call for Abstracts! (Abstract submission deadline: 31 May 2026)

Venue: NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House, Singapore
Date: 6-7 November 2026

Essential Topics in Clinical Ethics (ETCE) Course

Register Now!

Mode: Online via Zoom
Date: 22 Jul 2026 to 12 Aug 2026 (Every Wednesday)
Time: 2.00 to 5.00pm (SGT)

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