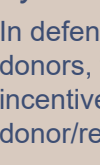


CLINICAL ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

June 2026, Issue 55



NEWS & ARTICLES

Commentary: Healthpoint rewards for blood donations are a right step forward

By Julian Savulescu // Channel News Asia

In defense of Singapore's recent announcement to award Healthpoints to blood donors, this commentary argues that modest, well-regulated non-monetary incentives can help avert blood shortages while preserving altruism, donor/recipient safety, and public trust.

'There is no way to stop this': 'Biotech Barbie' Cathy Tie on her mission to genetically modify babies

By Jenny Kleeman // The Guardian

As He Jiankui's ex-wife Cathy Tie resolutely pushes toward human embryo gene editing for clinical use, this piece interrogates her claims of inevitability and transparency in the process with concerns about secrecy, commercialisation, eugenics, and irreversible human experimentation.

AI in healthcare: Singapore has the tools. Now comes the hard part

By Jonty Heaversedge // The Straits Times

Singapore's barriers to adoption of AI in healthcare AI are no longer technical, but about responsible implementation at scale, sustainability, and making the system more "human".

Should you get a second medical opinion? A surgeon explains why doing so can make you a more confident patient

By Danielle Friedman // The Conversation

Positioning second opinions as an extension of respect for patient autonomy and informed consent, the author argues in favour of patients seeking another perspective without treating it as a betrayal of the doctor-patient relationship.

The hidden costs of high dental fees on an ageing population

By Nicole Lam // Channel News Asia

This report reframes dental care as a systemic health and ageing issue rather than an elective expense, arguing that prohibitive out-of-pocket costs push patients toward delayed or inferior care with even higher costs and other adverse implications in the future.

Experts criticise plan for American-only Ebola quarantine centre in Kenya

By Melody Schreiber // The Guardian

A proposed US-run Ebola quarantine centre in Kenya for "Americans only" has come under fire as experts raise concerns about clinical safety, legal legitimacy, equity, and global solidarity, warning that exclusionary border-protection logic may undermine established outbreak response ethics.

Windsor case puts Singapore's nursing home oversight under the spotlight

By Vanessa Lim // Channel News Asia

The recent revocation of Windsor Convalescent Home's license raises difficult questions about the gaps in Singapore's extensive regulatory framework governing the operation of nursing homes.



PUBLICATIONS

Artificial intelligence and medical futility

By Sinead Prince, Dominic Wilkinson, Owen Schaefer, Finn Lip, Brian Earp and Julian Savulescu // BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making

This paper surveys literature on the ethics of medical futility as well as existing/potential AI tools using a critical narrative review method, to argue that AI may help clarify prognosis, patient preferences, cost-effectiveness, and disputes, subject to careful integration and regulation.

Eliciting normative judgments for ethically and politically legitimate policy-making

By Lydia Tsiakiri, Shang Long Yeo and Julian Savulescu // Monash Bioethics Review

This paper comparatively evaluates referendums and Collective Reflective Equilibrium in Practice—two methods of public decision-making—to conclude that ethically contentious health policies require more than majority votes: legitimacy depends on eliciting justificatory reasons, filtering bias, and constructively engaging with disagreement.

Dignity as recognition respect: lessons from the cases of Charlie Gard, Alfie Evans and Isaiah Haastrup

By Nanette Ryan // BMC Medical Ethics

Revisiting three high-profile paediatric end-of-life cases, this paper offers a novel account of dignity — not as agency, sentience, or flourishing, but as an appeal to "recognition respect", that should ground deliberation and adjudication of such cases.

Harms of the current global anti-FGM campaign

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

This essay challenges the dominant global campaign against female genital mutilation, arguing that such reductive, racialised and ethnocentric narratives can produce their own moral harms, including healthcare mistrust, community surveillance, legal double standards and the silencing of alternative cultural and lived experiences.

Suicide is not a public health issue and perhaps very few things should be

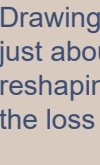
By Tessa Jane Holzman and Julian Savulescu // Journal of Medical Ethics

Responding to an expressivist critique of their article featured in the December 2025 edition of this bulletin, the authors argue that national suicide prevention policies risk elevating a sanctity-of-life ideal over autonomy, especially when the choice could be rational.

Ethical issues in the clinical use of diagnostic technologies for rare causes of psychosis

By Matthew L. Baum, Graham Blackman, Adam Al-Diwani, Adam Handel, Dominique Endres, Sophie Binks, Jonathan Pugh, John Ward, Julian Savulescu and Iilina Singh // The British Journal of Psychiatry

Investigations for rare, reversible causes of psychosis raise difficult ethical questions around diagnostic justice, moral responsibilities of individual clinicians and systems, and unintended consequences that may end up reinforcing stigma, psychiatric exceptionalism, paternalism, and epistemic injustice.



BLOG POSTS

The ontological shift: Why AI in clinical practice is a question of being

By Farid bin Masood // Journal of Medical Ethics Forum

Drawing on Heidegger's work, this post argues that AI use in healthcare is not just about optimisation and calculable outputs but reveals an ontological shift, reshaping how we understand care, empathy, and clinical judgment while risking the loss of medicine's tacit, relational, and human dimensions.

Physician or Provider? What's in a Name?

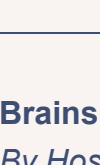
By Brandon Ambrosino // Hastings Bioethics Forum

In the context of recent objections to calling physicians "providers", the author argues that although language matters in resisting healthcare commodification, such rigid title-policing may also reinforce hierarchy, professional prestige, and gendered devaluation of non-physician healthcare professionals.

The illusion of the "benign" cosmetic thyroidectomy: An ethics and teamwork wake-up call

By Behaylu Tesfamaryam Hagos // Journal of Medical Ethics Forum

Through a case of life-altering harm after an elective cosmetic thyroidectomy, this post warns that "rare" risks cannot be minimised in consent discussions, especially in resource-constrained settings where potential surgical complications demand transparent counselling and formal multidisciplinary care.



VIDEOS & PODCAST

Brains in Jars with Insoo Hyun

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

Professor Insoo Hyun (Harvard Medical School) discusses the exciting science of brain organoids, raising core questions about their moral status, donor rights, consent, ownership.

When to start the conversation: Palliative care is for living, not just dying with Neo Han Yee and Charmaine Sim

By Host: Joyce Teo // The Straits Times: Health Check Podcast

Centred on Singapore's new "A Kinder ICU" initiative, this podcast episode foregrounds palliative care as support for living through critical illness, and explores the importance of earlier conversations about quality of life, grief, futility, and compassionate care before reaching the end of life.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MME Matters: Biomedical Ethics for Every Doctor

Register Now!

Mode: Online, NUS Learning Management System

18th World Congress of Bioethics

Register Now!

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Date: 8 - 10 July 2026

Essential Topics in Clinical Ethics (ETCE) Course

[5 spots left] Register Now!

Mode: Online via Zoom

Date: 22 July 2026 - 12 August 2026 (Every Wednesday)

Time: 2.00 to 4.15pm (SGT)

Neuroethics Asia Conference 2026

Register Now!

Venue: NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House, Singapore

Date: 6 - 7 November 2026

Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law

Register Now!

Venue: Boorloo/Perth, Western Australia

Date: 29 November 2026 - 2 December 2026

CENTRES Clinical Ethics Conference 2027

Save the date!

Venue: Shaw Foundation Alumni House, Singapore

Date: 28 - 29 January 2027

Singapore Research Ethics Conference 2027

Save the date!

Venue: One Farrer Hotel, Singapore

Date: 23 - 24 March 2027

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