

The Journal of the Institute of Medical Ethics

The *Journal of Medical Ethics* was established in 1975, with a multidisciplinary editorial board, to promote the study of contemporary medico-moral problems. The editorial board has as its aims the encouragement of a high academic standard for this developing subject and the influencing of the quality of both professional and public discussion. The journal is published quarterly and includes papers on all aspects of medical ethics, analyses ethical concepts and theories and features case conferences and comment on clinical practice. It also contains book reviews.

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Papers submitted for publication should be sent in quadruplicate to: The Editor, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 151 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5PB. Rejected manuscripts are not returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, or international reply coupon. Papers should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. A total word count is appreciated. On a separate sheet some brief biographical details should be supplied, including the title of the author's present post, degrees and/or professional qualifications, (if any) and any other relevant information.

Four copies of the journal will be sent to authors free of charge after their papers are published. Offprints of individual papers may be bought from Professional and Scientific Publications, Tavistock House East, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

In March 1981 the *JME* adopted a simplified 'Vancouver style' for references: details are given in various issues, including December 1986. They are also available from the editorial office. The full text of the 'Vancouver Agreement' was published in the *British Medical Journal* in 1982; volume 284; 1766-70. As the 'Vancouver style' is incompatible with the long established style of references for legal articles, lawyers should use their own standard style, but avoid abbreviations so as to facilitate reference by others. The journal is multidisciplinary and papers should be in clear jargon-free English, accessible to any intelligent reader.

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ISSN 0306-6800

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Thematic review and index

The thematic review of past issues appears in the June issue each year and an index to each volume appears in the December issue.

- York: Academic Press, 1977.
- (22) Much of the DNA in humans is apparently never used for the production of proteins (the usual gene product) and so spontaneous mutations in this genetic material will have no effect on the phenotype of the organism. Also, the genetic material that is read for protein production is read as a triplet code and the code is such that any mutation in the third base of a triplet will not always affect the protein being produced. In contrast a mutation in the first or second positions of a triplet may have a range of effects on the protein being produced, and may even stop its production.
- (23) Some genes are only functional at certain stages of development and once that stage is past remain switched off. One instance of this is in the production of human haemoglobin where different clusters of genes are active during the embryo phase, fetal phase, and child and adult phase. Mutations during adult life in the embryo phase gene complex would have no effect on the adult, as these genes are then inactive.
- (24) Mutations are of various types – deletion, insertion, base substitution, inversion and duplication – which may involve only small regions of the genetic material. There are also relatively large-scale structural changes such as transposition, inversion, translocation and duplication which have major effects on the function of the genome.
- (25) See for example Grisez G C. *Abortion: the myths, the realities and the arguments*. New York: Corpus Books, 1970. Iglesias T. *In vitro* fertilisation: the major issues. *Journal of medical ethics* 1984; 1: 32–37 and also reference (8).
- (26) Quinn W. Abortion: identity and loss. *Philosophy and public affairs* 1984; 13: 24–54.
- (27) See references (6) and (26)
- (28) Edwards R G, Trounson A. Discussion on the growth of human embryos *in vitro*. In: Edwards R G, Purdy J M, eds. *Human conception in vitro*. London: Academic Press 1982: 219–233.
- (29) Snell R S. *Clinical embryology for medical students* (2nd ed). London: Little Brown and Co, 1972.
- (30) Morison J E. *Foetal and neonatal pathology* (2nd ed). London: Butterworths, 1968.
- (31) Walters W A W, Renou P M. Pregnancy care. In: Wood C, Trounson A, eds. *Clinical in vitro fertilisation*. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1984: 147–156.
- (32) See reference (8) Santamaria J: 49.
- (33) Daly T. Discussion in Conference Proceedings. *In vitro fertilisation: problems and possibilities*. Clayton, Victoria: Centre for Human Bioethics, Monash University. 1982: 62.
- (34) See reference (25) Iglesias T: 36.
- (35) Roberts C J, Lowe C R. Where have all the conceptions gone? *Lancet* 1975; 1:498–499.

News and notes

Institute of Medical Ethics
London Medical Group

25th annual conference **Children at risk**

The conference will examine moral dilemmas in the treatment and abuse of children by parents and doctors.

Date and place:

Friday and Saturday 12 and 13 February 1988 at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Conference fee: £75 (IME members £60, students £10).

Details and application form (SAE PLEASE) from the Conference Secretary, London Medical Group, PO Box 20, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LG (tel 01-387 8132).

Journal of Medical Ethics

Journal of medical ethics, 1987, 13, 209-214

The Journal of the
Institute of Medical Ethics

Volume Thirteen
Numbers 1-4

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professions. There is no fee for
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4561-59-1

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The Institute of Medical Ethics is a cen information. It is financed by grants from government sources and members' subscriptions.

It was established as the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics, and is an independent, non-partisan organisation for the multi-disciplinary study of medico-moral issues raised by the practice of medicine.

The institute aims to influence the quality of both professional and public discussion of medico-moral questions; to promote the study of medical ethics; to ensure a high academic standard for this developing subject; to encourage a multidisciplinary approach to discussion of the consequences of clinical practice; to stimulate research in specific problems, and to remain non-partisan and independent of all interest groups and lobbies.

The institute undertakes research on medico-moral questions, sponsors a major educational programme and provides an information service for members.

Two reports, *The Ethics of Resource Allocation in Health Care* by Kenneth Boyd and *Dilemmas of Dying* by Ian Thompson, were published, by the Edinburgh University Press, a few years ago.

Last year two more reports were published. One, on the ethics of clinical research investigations on children, *Medical Research with Children: Ethics, Law and Practice* by Richard Nicholson was published by the Oxford University Press and *Life Before Birth - the Search for a Consensus on Abortion and the Treatment of Infertility* by Kenneth Boyd, Brendan Callaghan and Edward Shotter, was published by SPCK. The *Pond Report on Teaching Medical Ethics*, a summary of which has appeared in the IME Bulletin, has been published in full this year.

The institute derives from the London Medical Group, a student group for the study of issues raised by the practice of medicine which, since 1963, has arranged a comprehensive programme of lectures and symposia on medico-moral issues raised by the practice of medicine. Similar groups associated with the institute have been established in university teaching hospitals at Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford, Sheffield and Southampton.

Membership of the institute is open to all those who work in the medical and allied professions or who have an interest in medical ethics. Members receive a monthly briefing on current developments, the Bulletin of the IME. The quarterly *Journal of Medical Ethics* is available by separate subscription.

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