

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 ever-developing subject and the enhancement of 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. Intermittent series focus on the **teaching of medical ethics**; on the medico-moral problems directly experienced by health care workers (**At the coalface**); on the pursuit of arguments prompted by papers in the journal (**Debate**); and on briefly argued often unorthodox opinions related to medical ethics (**Point of view**). The journal also contains book reviews and correspondence.

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Papers submitted for publication should be sent in **quaduplicate** to: The Editor, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, c/o Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, 14 Prince's Gardens, London SW7 1NA. Rejected manuscripts are not returned. Papers should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. **The preferred maximum length of papers is 3,500 words – absolute maximum 5,500 (including references).** 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 *Journal of Medical Ethics*, BMA House, 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 try to facilitate reference by others. The journal is multidisciplinary and papers should be in clear jargon-free English, accessible to any intelligent reader.

Notice to subscribers

The *Journal of Medical Ethics* is published quarterly. The annual subscription rates are £41.00 in the United Kingdom and Irish Republic, and £58.00 in all countries overseas. US direct \$95.00. Payment for overseas subscriptions should be made in sterling, payable to Professional and Scientific Publications/JME A/c. Orders can also be placed locally with any leading subscription agent or bookseller. (For the convenience of readers in the USA subscription orders, with or without payment, can also be sent to: Professional and Scientific Publications, *British Medical Journal*, Box No 560B, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046.) All enquiries regarding air mail rates, single copies, advertisements, etc. should be sent to: *Journal of Medical Ethics*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

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ownership of results of research; monitoring the conduct of research, and legal implications and arrangements for compensation.

The final chapter contains 60 recommendations which deal with: the role of research ethics committees; assessing the aims, quality, risks and benefits of research; selection of patients and use of medical records; recruitment of patients (five of the recommendations under this heading are to do with consent); research involving children; research involving mentally handicapped patients; research involving the mentally ill; research involving prisoners; research involving severely ill patients; research involving pregnant patients; research involving elderly patients; initiation of research without consent; inducements to patients; inducements to researchers; randomised controlled therapeutic trials; conduct of research; monitoring the conduct of research, and arrangements for compensation.

Both reports are available from the Royal College of Physicians at a cost of £8.00 each. The two publications may be purchased together, at a price of £14.00.

Tennent Caledonian and Royal Bank of Scotland Research Fellowships 1991-92

Applications are invited for these Research Fellowships for the academic session 1991-92.

The fellowships are intended primarily, though not exclusively, for philosophers and political theorists on study leave from their own universities or colleges. Appointment is normally for one term and the fellowship carries a travel allowance, accommodation in St Andrews and a room in the Department of Moral Philosophy, and access to word-processing facilities. Further details are available from the Director, Dr John Haldane, Centre for Philosophy and Public Affairs, University of St Andrews.

Applications, including a cv, a short statement of research intentions or plans, and an indication of the term during which the fellowship would be held should be submitted no later than 16 November 1990 (though early applications are welcome) to: The Director of Personnel Services, College Gate, University of St Andrews, North Street, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9AJ, Scotland.

International information on embryo research published

Virginia Bottomley, Minister for Health, has announced the publication of a report, *Human in Vitro Fertilisation, Embryo Research, Fetal Tissue for Research and Treatment, and Abortion: International Information*, looking at embryo research in other countries.

Mrs Bottomley said: 'I have today arranged for a copy of this research report to be placed in the library. It was commissioned by the Department of Health in

recognition of the need for up-to-date, accurate information on these subjects. In particular the introduction of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill has focussed attention on the approach taken in other countries to the questions raised by the Bill.

The study was undertaken by Dr Jennifer Gunning, until recently Secretary of the Interim Licensing Authority.

Mrs Bottomley said: 'The report is a survey of the legislation and current practice in a number of countries. It does not attempt to analyse the merits of any particular approach and no conclusions are drawn.'

Staff openings at the Hastings Center

The Hastings Center expects to have openings at the following levels commencing on or before September 1, 1990:

Editor

The editor of the *Hastings Center Report* retains overall supervision and responsibility for editorial content and production of a bimonthly magazine, and its additional special supplements. This includes responsibility for commissioning articles, managing review process for all invited and unsolicited manuscripts, editing and copy editing, contact with authors, proofreading, working with production manager on layout, writing features, correspondence, working with membership department on promotion, phone inquiries, and all the other details attendant to publishing of the magazine. The center is particularly interested in candidates with a strong background in bioethics and cognate fields. We especially encourage people with backgrounds in journalism and publishing from a wide variety of disciplines.

Associate

An associate occupies a professional level position on the staff of the center and, under the supervision of the director, is expected to provide significant intellectual and managerial leadership for all facets of the center's work. The associate's duties require a combination of solid administrative skills, scholarly productivity, intellectual creativity, an ability to write rapidly and effectively, and a capacity to plan activities carefully and to meet strict deadlines.

Associates direct and supervise externally funded research projects, and they also participate in center educational programs. Associates are expected to sustain a vigorous, productive career of writing and scholarship in their own field. In addition they are expected, over time, to make significant contributions to the field of bioethics through publications growing out of center projects and through their independent publications and research.

The center is particularly interested in candidates with a strong background in the field of bioethics, and especially encourages applications from those from the

fields of medicine, philosophy, religion, the life sciences, the behavioural sciences, and the social sciences. Applications are welcome from those with degrees in other fields as well.

Those interested in submitting applications should send the following: (1) a narrative cover letter indicating why their background and interests would be appropriate for The Hastings Center, (2) a current *curriculum vitae* or resumé, and (3) the names of three people whom the center may contact, with permission, as references. Applications and letters of inquiry should be directed to: Personnel Office, The Hastings Center, 255 Elm Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-9974.

The Hastings Center is an equal opportunity employer.

Embryo research to go ahead: abortion limit lowered

Parliament has voted to permit embryo research to be

continued up to fourteen days and to lower the time limit for abortion from 28 weeks to 24 weeks.

Members of Parliament voted in favour of embryo research continuing by 364 to 193, a majority of 171. In so doing they followed the recommendations of the Warnock Committee on Human Fertilisation and Embryology.

Research will be regulated by a new statutory body, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

While lowering the legal limit for abortions to 24 weeks, now generally considered to be the stage at which the fetus is viable, MPs also removed any time limit to abortions needed to prevent a 'grave permanent injury to the physical and mental health of the pregnant woman' or if there was risk of serious fetal handicap in the child.

Only 23 of 183,798 abortions in 1988 took place after 24 weeks.

Both supporters and opponents of the 28-week limit agreed the 1967 Abortion Act had been liberalised by the vote.

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Nottingham NG7 2UH

SOUTHAMPTON MEDICAL GROUP

The Revd T Pinner, 8 Bassett Close,
Southampton SO2 3FP

Medical groups associated with the Institute of Medical Ethics have been established in British university teaching hospitals. Each academic year they arrange programmes of lectures and symposia on issues raised by the practice of medicine which concern other disciplines. Although these programmes are addressed primarily to medical, nursing and other hospital students they are open to all members of the medical, nursing and allied professions. There is no fee for attendance. Lecture lists are available by direct application to the appropriate co-ordinating secretary named above. A stamped addressed A4 envelope would be appreciated.

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The Institute of Medical Ethics is an organisation for research, education and information. It is financed by grants from charitable bodies, 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 and sponsors a major educational programme.

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.

In 1986 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 appeared in the IME Bulletin, was published in full in 1987.

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.



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