

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 health care 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**); on medical ethics in literature (**Medical ethics and literature**); and on briefly argued often unorthodox opinions related to medical ethics (**Point of view**). The journal also contains book reviews and letters.

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Papers submitted for publication should be sent in **quadruplicate** 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 (including references) is requested. 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.

Two 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 1990. They are also available from the editorial office. The full text of the 'Vancouver Agreement' was published in the *British Medical Journal* in 1988; volume 296; 401–405. 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

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News and notes

Intensive Five-day Course on Medical Ethics

The annual Intensive Course on Medical Ethics at Imperial College is scheduled for 7-11 September 1992. Offering an introduction to 'medico-moral analysis' to medical, nursing and other health-care teachers and practitioners, members of ethics committees, and others with an interest in the field, the course offers lecture seminars, small and large-group discussions and case analysis.

The multidisciplinary lecturers include Sir Douglas Black, President of the Institute of Medical Ethics and past President of the Royal College of Physicians; Professor Gordon Dunstan, Professor of Moral Theology; Professor David Raphael, Professor of Philosophy; Professor John Harris, Professor of Applied Philosophy; Dr R G Frey, Department of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University, Ohio; Dr Len Doyal, Senior Lecturer in Medical Ethics, St Bartholomew's Hospital, and Dr Raanan Gillon, Visiting Professor of Medical Ethics, St Mary's Hospital Medical School and Editor, *Journal of Medical Ethics*.

Approval for PGEA, hospital study leave and AMA accreditation are being sought.

For further information contact Dr R Gillon, Health Service, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, 14 Prince's Gardens, London SW7 1NA.

IAB conference

The International Association of Bioethics has published its first newsletter. An invitation to host the

IAB's inaugural conference was issued to members of the association's steering committee and to institutional members.

And as a result the inaugural conference is to be in Amsterdam, Holland from 4-7 October 1992.

The attention of members with an interest in the ethical, social and legal implications of the use of new genetic technology and in the scientific advances themselves is drawn to the *Eubios Ethics Institute Newsletter*, which is issued by one of the members of the IAB. Airmail annual subscription is US\$17. For more information contact: Dr Darryl Macer, Eubios Ethics Institute, PO Box 125 Tsukubagakuen, Ibaraki 305, Japan.

For further information about the IAB please contact: Mrs Kay Boyle, Administrative Officer, IAB, Centre for Human Bioethics, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria 3168, Australia. Fax: Int + 61 3 565 3279.

Third International Conference on Health Law and Ethics

The Third International Conference on Health Law and Ethics, sponsored by the American Society of Law and Medicine and hosted by the Canadian Institute of Law and Medicine, will be held in Toronto, Canada from 19-23 July this year.

Topic areas to be presented are: National health care systems; Women's health; AIDS; Epidemiology and public health; Reproductive health, and Transplantation.

For further information contact: the American Society of Law and Medicine, 765 Commonwealth Avenue,

16th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA.

European Intensive Bioethics Seminar

The course is offered by scholars from various countries and intends to provide participants with both a formal and practical understanding of contemporary bioethical issues. It will run from 3-7 August 1992 at Nijmegen in The Netherlands. Special attention will be paid to European traditions in health care ethics. Course fee (includes tuition, course materials, and meals): 1.250 Dfl (approximately 543 ECU, 675 US\$, £390.00 or 87.500 Japanese Yen). For more information contact: Dr J V M Welie, Department of Ethics, Philosophy and History of Medicine, Catholic University of Nijmegen, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Tel [31] (0)80-615320 or 617079, Fax [31] (0)80-541862.

Post Adoption Centre seminars

During 1992 the Post Adoption Centre will be focussing on partnership and pooling information in order to mitigate the impact of potentially traumatic life experiences.

On Friday June 12 there will be a seminar on Issues of Human Identity: What Can Be Learnt from Infertility and Adoption? and on Monday September 21 there will be a seminar on Family Mediation: What Can Be Learnt from Divorce and Adoption?

Both seminars will be held in London. For further information contact: the Post Adoption Centre, 8 Torriano Mews, Torriano Avenue, London NW5 2RZ. Tel: 071-284 0555.

(See also book review page 54).

Institute of Medical Ethics

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The Institute of Medical Ethics is an organisation for research, education and information in the broad area of health care ethics. 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 dispassionate multidisciplinary study of medico-moral issues raised by the practice of medicine.

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

Institute reports include: *The Ethics of Resource Allocation in Health Care* by Kenneth Boyd, on ethical issues arising from scarcity of health care resources; *Dilemmas of Dying* by Ian Thompson, on ethical issues arising in the care of the dying, both published by the Edinburgh University Press; *Medical Research with Children: Ethics, Law and Practice* by Richard Nicholson, an analysis of the ethics of clinical research investigations on children, published by the Oxford University Press; *Life Before Birth – the Search for a Consensus on Abortion and the Treatment of Infertility* by Kenneth Boyd, Brendan Callaghan and Edward Shotton, published by SPCK, and *The Pond Report on the Teaching of Medical Ethics*, which was published directly for the institute.

Among shorter recent institute reports are: Assisted Death, *Lancet*, 1990 and HIV infection: the ethics of anonymised testing and of testing pregnant women, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 1990, both written by the institute's Research Director, Kenneth Boyd, on behalf of institute working parties.

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

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