

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

The *Journal of Medical Ethics* is published quarterly. The annual subscription rate is £75.00 for all countries. However, the rate in the USA for subscribers who order directly from the publishers is \$133, payable by cheque or the charge/credit cards listed below. Payment for all other subscriptions may be made by VISA, Mastercard, or American Express or by sterling cheque or draft drawn on a UK bank. All payments should be made to the **British Medical Journal**. Subscription orders may also be placed with any leading subscription agent or bookseller. For the convenience of readers in the USA, orders may be sent to the **British Medical Journal**, Box No 560B, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046. All other orders and enquiries for airmail rates, single copy sales and advertising should be sent to **British Medical Journal**, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, United Kingdom.

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News and notes

Ethics at the beginning of life

In late 1994 a special issue of the *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology* will be published on the topic of ethics and the beginning of life. The aim is to publish papers from philosophers, psychologists, midwives and nurses, obstetricians and paediatricians, and other interested persons dealing especially with ethical aspects of fetal and neonatal life.

Particularly welcome will be papers dealing with fetal and neonatal screening; contraception; the termination of pregnancy; euthanasia at the beginning of life; the development of awareness in the fetus and young infant; research using fetal or infant subjects, and medical decision-making relating to these areas. Papers should be written for the general readership of the journal, and should not assume the professional background knowledge of the author. Both empirical and non-empirical papers will be welcome.

Contributions should be addressed to the guest editors of the special issue: Dr Robert Drewett, Department of Psychology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 31E (tel 091 374 2612); or Dr Jane Singleton, Division of Psychology, School of Health and Human Sciences, University of Hertfordshire, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB (tel 0707 284612).

Both editors will be happy to discuss preliminary ideas with potential contributors, who should follow the journal's Notes for Authors when sending contributions. The deadline for submission of manuscripts is June 30th 1993.

Principles of health care ethics

This year a large multi-author introduction to health care ethics is to be published by John Wiley. Edited by the editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, Dr Raanan Gillon, it is intended as a general introduction for health care workers to the multitude of ethic issues arising in health care. In addition it has a sub-theme of the usefulness or otherwise of Beauchamp and Childress's four principles (autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice) in health care practice.

The intention is that the reader, of whatever religious, cultural, political or philosophical persuasion, will reflect on the usefulness or otherwise of these basic *prima facie* principles in providing an analytical framework for moral reflection, without losing sight of the complexity, variety and particularity of the moral problem she or he faces.

For further information please contact: Lucy Jepson, John Wiley and Sons Ltd, Baffins Lane, Chichester, Sussex PO19 1UD.

Continuing education programmes

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation is sponsoring two new continuing education programmes. "Current trends in bioethics" will begin on March 20th and "Building culturally competent practice in health care" will begin on March 26th.

Both courses will be held at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Bunts Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio.

For further information please contact: The Cleveland Clinic Education Foundation, Department

of Continuing Education, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Room TT-31, Cleveland, OH 44195-5241. 216-444-5696 (local); 800-762-8173 (other); 216-445-9406 (fax).

Medical law congress

The World Association of Medical Law will hold its 10th World Congress in Jerusalem from 28.8.94-1.9.94. Details from Professor Amnon Carmi, Congress President, c/o Stier Group Ltd, 28 Hayezira Street, Ramat Gan 52521, Israel.

Women's health - the right to choose

The Eighteenth National Nurses Symposium, organised by Nursing and Midwifery Professional Development, St James's University Hospital Trust and the Department of Continuing Professional Education at the University of Leeds, will take place at the University of Leeds on 20 and 21 April 1993. The symposium is entitled *Women's Health - The Right to Choose*; the aim is to enable participants to gain an insight into women's health and its provision and whether they have a right to choose. The programme will include other health issues relating to women.

Further details from: Mrs Hilary Helme, Department of Continuing Professional Education, Continuing Education Building, Springfield Mount, Leeds LS2 9NG. Telephone: (0532) 333233.

Beyond autonomy

A conference entitled Beyond Autonomy: New International Per-

spectives For Bioethics will be held on April 16–18th, 1993. The conference will explore current critiques of autonomy-based ethics from an international perspective; notions of personhood from embryos to the demented elderly; the place of persons in the com-

munity of values, and how far the envelope of concern should be extended.

The keynote speaker will be Edmund D Pellegrino, MD, Director of the Georgetown Center for Advanced Study of Bioethics. Dr Pellegrino will also receive the

International Bioethics Institute's Annual Award for Distinction in Bioethics. The conference is organised by the International Bioethics Institute, 1721 Mar West, Tiburon, California, CA 94920, USA. For information contact William Atchley at that address.

Medical groups

ABERDEEN MEDICAL GROUP

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BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL GROUP

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DUNDEE MEDICAL GROUP

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Mrs Maureen S Macmillan, Nursing Studies Research Unit, 12 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh

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LIVERPOOL MEDICAL GROUP

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LONDON

THE UNITED MEDICAL ETHICS GROUP (GUY'S AND ST THOMAS'S HOSPITALS)
Dr Graham Clayden, Reader in Paediatrics, St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EH

THE ROYAL FREE ETHICS GROUPS

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ST GEORGE'S MEDICAL GROUP

Dr N Eastman, St George's Hospital Medical School, London SW17 0RE

MANCHESTER MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Geoffrey Jessup, 27 Oakwood Lane, Bowden, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 3DL

NEWCASTLE MEDICAL GROUP

The Revd Bryan Vernon, Anglican Chaplain, Newcastle University, Department of Primary Health Care, School of Health Care Sciences, The Medical School, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH

NOTTINGHAM MEDICAL ETHICS GROUP

Dr T C O'Dowd, Department of General Practice, University Hospital and Medical School, Clifton Boulevard, 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 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* by Kenneth Boyd, Brendan Callaghan and Edward Shotter, published by SPCK; *Lives in the Balance: the Ethics of Using Animals in Biomedical Research*, edited by Jane Smith and Kenneth Boyd, published by Oxford University Press; *Teaching and Learning Nursing Ethics*, edited by Ursula Gallagher and Kenneth Boyd, published by Scutari, 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; HIV infection: the ethics of anonymised testing and of testing pregnant women, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 1990; and HIV infection and AIDS: the ethics of medical confidentiality, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 1992, each 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, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle and Southampton.

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