

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.

ISSN 0306-6800

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this essay which appears in Jonas's book, *Philosophical essays: from ancient creed to technological man*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974: 105-131.

- (2) See reference (1): 119.
- (3) Shafer A. Experimentation with human subjects: a critique of the views of Hans Jonas. *Journal of medical ethics* 1983; 9; 76.
- (4) See reference (3): 77.
- (5) See reference (3): 122.
- (6) See Milgram, S. *Obedience to authority: an experimental view*. New York: Harper and Row, 1974.
- (7) On page 199 of *Obedience to authority*, Milgram says: 'The central moral justification for allowing a procedure of the sort used in my experiment is that it is judged acceptable by those who have taken part in it. Moreover, it was the salience of this fact throughout that constituted the chief moral warrant for the continuation of the experiments.'

News and notes

Imperial College Annual Intensive Ethics Course

The course will be held from 13-17 September 1993 in London. Designed as an introduction to philosophical medical ethics for doctors, medical and nursing teachers, ethics committee members, medical administrators and medical lawyers, the course involves lecture/seminars and small and large group work.

The course is directed by Dr Raanan Gillon,

Editor of the *Journal of Medical Ethics* and speakers will include British and international authorities in the field. Participant ratings over the last ten years have consistently given an overall rating of better than 9 out of 10 satisfaction.

For details write to Pamela Manser, Continuing Education Centre, Imperial College, London SW7 1NR. Telephone: 071-225 8667.

News and notes

VIIth European Conference

The VIIth conference of the European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care will take place in Oslo, Norway, August 19–22, 1993. The theme of the conference will be: Economics, Technology and Health Care. 'Technology' should be understood in a wide sense to include all medical interventions.

Anyone wishing to attend the conference should fill in a registration form, available from the Center for Medical Ethics in Oslo. Two full days of programme (August 20–21) are planned, with arrival on August 19 and departure on August 22. Address all inquiries about organisational matters of the conference to: Center for Medical Ethics, University of Oslo, Gaustadalleen 21, N-0371 Oslo, Norway.

Ethics: Practice and Teaching, 1993

For the second year in a row, the Hastings Center, the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions will co-sponsor a workshop on the teaching and practice of ethics.

The workshop, entitled Ethics: Practice and Teaching, will be held July 18–23, 1993, on the campus of Colorado College in Colorado Springs, and will feature lectures on

issues in ethics that cut across disciplines plus intensive four-day seminars in focused areas of ethics.

The seminars will be small – about 10–20 people each – to encourage interaction and in-depth learning. Seminars topics will include medical ethics, business ethics, moral psychology and ethics in academe; several seminars will have a specifically pedagogical focus, such as using literature to teach ethics.

In addition, workshop participants will be given the opportunity to make presentations based on their own work or research, and the workshop will feature plenty of free time for informal interaction so participants can learn from each other, as well as from the workshop faculty.

Some members of the workshop faculty: John Arras of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine-Montefiore Medical Center; Tom Beauchamp of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics; Bruce Jennings and James L Nelson of the Hastings Center; William F May of Southern Methodist University; Brian Schrag of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics; Maureen Scully of the Sloan School of Management at MIT; and David H Smith of the Poynter Center.

For more information on the workshop, call or write: Ethics Workshop, The Poynter Center, Indiana University, 410 North Park Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana, 47405; telephone (812) 855-0261; Fax (812) 855-3315; e-mail APPE@INDIANA (Bitnet) or APPE@INDIANA.EDU (Internet).

A right to health care

Although not legally established, the idea that Americans have a right to some level of health care has been widely discussed for many years in literature about fair access to health benefits.

The National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature has issued a new paper, *A Right to Health Care*, number 20 in its Scope Note Series, which provides a brief essay discussing the background of the debate and 15 pages of annotated bibliographic citations to literature concerned with whether or not health care should and can be provided to all. Certain groups in the United States are already the recipients of government-funded health services, and much has been written about extending these services to all citizens.

The Scope Note Series offers an overview of topics in biomedical ethics and provides immediate reference to facts, opinions, or legal precedents (if applicable). Useful to medical and legal practitioners, scholars, journalists, students, and interested laypersons, Scope Notes are available from the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057-1095, for \$5 each, prepaid (\$8 for overseas airmail).

A Right to Health Care was published in the *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 2 (4): 389–405, December 1992.

The Institute of Medical Ethics: working parties and medical groups

Working parties

The institute currently has two working parties, one on the ethics of prolonging life and assisting death and the other on the ethical implications of AIDS. The working party on the ethics of prolonging life and assisting death has produced two discussion papers: Assisted death, *Lancet* 1990; 336: 610-613; and Withdrawal of life support from patients in a persistent vegetative state, *Lancet* 1991; 337: 96-98.

The working party on the ethical implications of AIDS has produced four discussion papers: HIV infection: the ethics of anonymised testing and testing pregnant women, *Journal of medical ethics* 1990; 16: 173-178; AIDS and the ethics of clinical care and treatment, *Quarterly journal of medicine* 1992; 302: 419-426; AIDS, ethics and clinical trials, *British medical journal* 1992; 305: 699-701, and

AIDS and the ethics of medical confidentiality, *Journal of medical ethics* 1992; 18: 173-179.

Each discussion paper was written by the institute's Research Director, Kenneth Boyd.

Medical groups

ABERDEEN MEDICAL GROUP

Dr M D McArthur, Department of Medicine for the Elderly, Wood End Hospital, Aberdeen AB9 2YS

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL GROUP

Mr R Sawers, Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TG

BRISTOL MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Oliver Russell, Reader in Mental Health, Bristol University, Department of Mental Health, 41 St Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8DZ

DUNDEE MEDICAL GROUP

Dr David B Walsh, Consultant in Biochemical Medicine, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee DD1 9SY

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Dr Brian Chapman, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Lauviston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9YW

GLASGOW MEDICAL GROUP

Dr E Hillan, Department of Nursing Studies, Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ

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Mr Brian Bentley, Principal of the School of Radiography, General Infirmary, Belmont Grove, Leeds LS2 9NS

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Dr R K McKinley, Department of General Practice, University of Leicester, Leicester General Hospital, Gwendolen Road, Leicester LE5 4PW

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Heather Draper, Lecturer in Health Promotion, Department of General Practice, Liverpool University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX

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

Dr Margaret Lloyd, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, The Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Pond Street, London NW3 2PF

ST GEORGE'S MEDICAL GROUP

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

ST MARY'S HOSPITAL ETHICS FORUM

Jane Tessier-Denham, St Mary's Hospital Ethics Forum, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Praed Street, London W2

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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Ltd, Bedford. Printed in Great Britain by Derry & Son Ltd, Nottingham.
registered charity, No 261876.

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ht International Ltd Inc, 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA.

