

Journal of medical ethics

The Journal of the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics

The *Journal of Medical Ethics* has been established, with a multi-disciplinary 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.

The *Journal* includes papers on all aspects of medical ethics, analyses ethical concepts and theories and features case conferences and comment on clinical practice. It includes book reviews and details of lectures and symposia on issues raised by the practice of medicine.

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TECHNICAL EDITOR:

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Contents

Editorial

- An end to violence ?
BMA Ethical Handbook 103

Main articles

- The origins of violence
H J Eysenck 105

- The natural history of violence
Claire Russell and W M S Russell 108

- The general practitioner and the problems
of battered women
Jan Pahl 117

- Coping with the violent patient in
accident and emergency
Sylvia Winterbottom 124

- The response to violence
D J West 128

- Violence: a summary
Conor Cruise O'Brien 132

- Self-ownership, abortion and
infanticide
Ellen Frankel Paul and Jeffrey Paul 133

- Commentary:
Gerard J Hughes SJ 137

Debate

- Selective non-treatment of newborns
Richard Sherlock 139

- Response:
A G M Campbell and R S Duff 141

Analysis

- Acts and omissions
Colin Honey 143

Case conference

- 'There's naught but Care on ev'ry han' ' 145

- Book reviews 150

- News and notes 152

- Correspondence 154

- Lectures and symposia 155

Journal of medical ethics

Submitting manuscripts for publication

Papers submitted for publication should be sent in duplicate to Dr A V Campbell, the Editor, *Journal of medical ethics*, University of Edinburgh, New College, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 2LX. They should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. On the paper the name of the author should appear with initials or distinguishing christian name and the address to which editorial communications should be sent.

Abbreviations should be avoided except for those in general use. The names of journals, organisations, etc, should be printed in full.

References

In the list of references at the end of a paper each should be numbered in the order in which each reference appears in the text, and these numbers should be shown as superscripts in the text itself: thus, for example, in the text Bowden¹ and in the list ¹ Bowden, Paul (1976), *Journal of medical ethics*, 2, 163-172. A reference to a book would also be indicated in the text by a number set above the line and quoted in the list by that number thus: ¹ Abel-Smith, Brian (1976), *Value for Money in Health Services*. London. Heinemann. However, exceptions will be made when references are quoted according to the common practice of a particular discipline, eg, the law, when to alter these would cause confusion to specialists likely to use the reference list.

Four copies of the *Journal* will be sent to authors free of charge after their papers are published. Reprints of individual papers may be bought from The Publisher, *Journal of medical ethics*, Tavistock House East, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Notice to subscribers

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News and notes

The chance of a lifetime – 1980

Churchill Travelling Fellowships are open to all UK citizens of any age or occupation, and since no educational or professional qualifications are needed, they are of special interest to people who would not be eligible for other types of grants. (Churchill Fellowships are not normally given for academic studies).

The object of the awards is to enable those who would not otherwise have a chance, to gain a better understanding of the lives and work of people in countries overseas, and to bring back useful knowledge, skill and experience for the benefit of our community. About 100 awards are made annually, and there are now nearly 1300 Churchill Fellows.

Grants are offered in different categories each year; candidates whose trade, profession or interest are covered by any of them may propose a project they wish to carry out in whatever countries they choose. The only requirement is that they have to show that they can make effective use of the opportunity both while they are abroad and when they return. The 1980 Award categories include voluntary service workers and organisations, provision of care for latchkey children, and community health workers. A full list is available from the address given below.

The final selection for the next group of awards will be made by interview in London in January 1980. Successful candidates will be expected to start their travels during that year, making their own plans and arrangements within the scope of the grant. The grant will cover return air fare, plus all travel and living expenses abroad for a period of up to three months.

To apply send your name and address only on a postcard to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace,

London SW7 5PR. You will receive an explanatory leaflet and a form to complete, which must reach the Trust Office by 1st November 1979.

Health care for the single homeless: report of medical services study day

The Scottish Council for Single Homeless is a national voluntary organisation funded by the Scottish Office and local authorities and concerned with promoting the welfare of the single homeless. The Council is releasing a report of a study day organised about medical services for the single homeless which contains the texts of the talks given which, in spite of the eighteen month time lapse, are still very relevant. The Council's own recommendations to the health boards, the Scottish Home and Health Department, local authorities and voluntary organisations form the conclusion of the report.

Of particular concern are the difficulties that many single homeless have in obtaining primary medical care, *i.e.* general practitioners' services, so crucial to all the community and therefore very serious for a section with a known high rate of morbidity and low rate of registration with general practitioners. A high incidence of complaints about feet, chest disease, psychiatric disorders and alcohol related problems were among the long lists of illnesses presented and diagnosed. Special schemes that operate in different kinds of ways in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow are described, but none of the contributors would claim their local provisions were a complete substitute for the National Health Service. Previously it was common practice for a single homeless person with a minor ailment to

attend the 'accident and emergency' department of the general hospital which tended to be ill equipped as far as records and continuity of case were concerned.

The report is being submitted to all health boards with the request that they ensure all single homeless have access to the normal medical services and that they should be encouraged to use the services. Additionally the Scottish Home and Health Department is being asked to take a more active part than it has done to date in promoting adequate facilities throughout the country until the needs of the single homeless are wholly met by the normal NHS facilities.

Further information and copies of the report (60p each) can be obtained from:

Laurie M Naumann
Director
Scottish Council for the Single Homeless
4 Old Assembly Close (Off High Street)
Edinburgh EH1 1QX
Telephone: 031-226 4382 (Office hours)

International Year of the Child and the National Childbirth Trust

The National Childbirth Trust have arranged in this International Year of the Child a day conference entitled 'Birth and the quality of Life'. It is due to take place October 13 1979 at The Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London N1, and will run from 10.00 am until 3.45 pm.

The speakers include: Professor Lucille Newman, Brown University, United States, Professor Murray Enkin from Ontario, Canada, Professor Norman Morris from The West London Hospital, Mrs Carter the National Federation of

Children's Book Clubs and a member of the Court Committee, Dr Curtis Jenkins who is a Paediatrician and General Practitioner and Felicity Kinross who will be showing the BBC film 'Manpower'.

For further details and tickets (£2.00 each) apply to:
The Secretary
National Childbirth Trust
9 Queensborough Terrace
London W2 3TB
Telephone: 01-229 9319/10
All applications should be in before 30 September 1979.

Changing values in medicine

The EVIST (Ethics and Values in Science and Technology programme of the National Science Foundation is supporting a conference entitled 'Changing Values in Medicine' sponsored by the Cornell University Medical College on November 11-13, 1979 at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York City. Speakers will include prominent physicians and philosophers.

Philosopher speakers will include Max Black, James Childress, Hans Jonas, John Ladd,

Alasdair MacIntyre, Ernan McMullin, Kenneth Schaffner and Stephen Toulmin.

Physician speakers will include William R. Barclay, Otto Guttentag, Franz Ingelfinger, Pedro Lain-Entralgo, Walsh McDermott and Edmund Pellegrino.

For information about this conference please contact:
Ms. Martez Camilleri, c/o 1979 CCVM, Suite 700, 1629 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006, or Dr Mark Siegler at (312) 947-6668.

Lectures and symposia

Readers are asked to check with their local medical group secretaries for further details. The addresses are on page 159 of this issue.

Thursday 20 September

OMF meeting: SMOKING – THE GOVERNMENT'S DILEMMA 8.00 pm
The Long Room, New College, Oxford

Mike Daub, formerly of ASH

October

SMG lecture: WOMEN IN MEDICINE New Medical School, Beech Hill Road, Sheffield

Tuesday 9 October

LMG film and discussion:
BIRTH WITHOUT VIOLENCE
6.00 pm Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham

Professor Norman Morris,
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, West London Hospital

Dr Frederic Leboyer, Chef de Clinique in the Paris Faculty of Medicine

Professor R W Taylor, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School
who will discuss the film 'A Child is Born'

Thursday 11 October

LMG symposium: EUTHANASIA: Can legislation be avoided?
5.45 pm Guy's Hospital Medical School

Professor R G Spector,
Professor of Applied Pharmacology, Guy's Hospital Medical School
Professor R B Zachary,
Professor of Paediatric Surgery, University of Sheffield

Dr Colin Brewer, Consultant Psychiatrist, Hillingdon AHA, and Research Fellow, Department of

Psychiatry, University of Birmingham

The Rt Hon Lord Justice Lawton, Chairman, Criminal Law Revision Committee

Monday 15 October

MMG lecture: ECT – AN ETHICAL FORM OF TREATMENT?
5.30 pm Lecture Theatre 3, Medical School, University of Manchester

Dr F B Beswick, formerly Executive Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manchester

Dr Anthony Clare, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Psychiatry Maudsley Hospital

Tuesday 16 October

NMG lecture: HEALTH BY THE PEOPLE: Lessons from the Third World. 5.30 pm Clement Stephenson Lecture Theatre, Department of Agriculture, University of Newcastle

Professor J Webb, Department of Child Health, University of Newcastle

Dr Tony Waterson, Department of Paediatrics, University of Dundee

LMG symposium: THE POLITICS OF CANNABIS 5.45 pm King's College Hospital Medical School

Dr Steven Greer, Senior Lecturer and Consultant Psychiatrist, Department of Psychological Medicine, King's College Hospital

Dr Martin Mitcheson, Consultant in charge of the Drug Dependence Clinic, University College Hospital

Mr Roger Lewis, Research worker on development of drug dependence in Western Europe
Timothy Malyon, Legalise Cannabis Campaign Co-ordinator

AMG symposium: THE GROWTH OF PRIVATE MEDICINE: BENIGN OR MALIGNANT? 7.30 pm Hall, Nurses' Home, Foresterhill, Aberdeen

Thursday 18 October

LMG symposium: THE PLACE OF PSYCHIATRY IN SOVIET MEDICINE 5.45 pm University College Medical School

Dr Marina Voikhanskaya, The Fullbourn Hospital, Cambridge; formerly a psychiatrist in Leningrad

Professor M H Lader, Professor of Psychopharmacology, Institute of Psychiatry, University of London

Monday 22 October

MMG seminar: CLONING 5.30 pm Medical School, University of Manchester

Tuesday 23 October

LMG lecture: WHAT SORT OF DOCTOR DO YOU WANT? 5.15 pm Cohen Lecture Theatre, Duncan Building, Royal Liverpool Hospital, Prescot Street, Liverpool

SMG lecture: VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA—whose death is it anyway? 5.30 pm Lecture Theatre 1, South Academic Block, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton

Mr Nicholas Reed, General Secretary, Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Dr David Percy, Countess Mountbatten House, Southampton

Mr A F Walters, Department of Philosophy, University of Southampton

LMG symposium: HOMOSEXUALITY: Congenital or acquired? 5.45 pm Middlesex Hospital Medical School

Dr R D Catterall, Director,
Department of Venereology,
Middlesex Hospital

Professor Ivor Mills, Professor
of Medicine, University of
Cambridge Clinical School

Dr Sidney Crown, Consultant
Psychiatrist, The London Hospital

Dr M J MacCulloch, Medical
Director, Park Lane Hospital and
Director of the Special Hospital
Research Unit

BMG symposium: WHO CARRIES
THE CAN? The individual's or
society's responsibility for
illness? 7.30 pm Large Lecture
Theatre, Level 9, The Bristol
Royal Infirmary

Professor A E Reach, Professor
of Medicine, Bristol

Peter Draper, Unit for the
study of health policy, Guy's
Hospital, London

Dr Sandy Macara, Senior
Lecturer in Community
Medicine, Bristol

Thursday 25 October

LMG symposium: CAN STRIKES IN
HOSPITALS BE JUSTIFIED? 5.45 pm
Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead

Dr Michael Green, Consultant
Physician, Department of Geriatric
Medicine, Royal Free Hospital

Dr Francis Piggott, a founder
of the Junior Hospital Doctors'
Association, and a Secretary of
the BMA

Mr R L Jones, National Officer
for the Health Services, National
Union of Public Employees

Mr S J Dimmock, Lecturer in
Industrial Relations, Nuffield
Centre for Health Services Studies,
University of Leeds

Monday 29 October

MMG symposium: THE ROLE OF
THE UNIONS IN THE NATIONAL
HEALTH SERVICE 5.30 pm,
Manchester Royal Infirmary

Colin Barnett, Regional
Organiser of NUPE

Revd Canon Ronald H Preston,
Professor of Social and Pastoral
Theology, University of
Manchester

Tuesday 30 October

LMG lecture: THE ROLE OF THE
DISABLED IN SOCIETY 5.45 pm
St Bartholomew's Hospital

Group Captain Leonard
Cheshire

November

SMG symposium: BIRTH AT
HOME Jessops Hospital for Women,
Sheffield

Thursday 1 November

LMG symposium: INFANTICIDE
6.00 pm St George's Hospital
Medical School, Tooting

Professor Bryan Brooke,
Professor of Surgery, St James's
Hospital, Balham

Professor John Lorber, Professor
of Paediatrics, The Children's
Hospital, Sheffield

Mr D M Forrest, Consultant
Paediatric Surgeon, Westminster
Children's Hospital

Dr Jonathan Glover, Tutor in
Philosophy, New College, Oxford

Monday 5 November

MMG seminar: WHEN AND
WHERE TO BE BORN 5.30 pm
Medical School, University of
Manchester

Tuesday 6 November

LMG symposium: BEHAVIOUR
MODIFICATION: Treatment or
Education? 5.45 pm The London
Hospital

Thursday 8 November

LMG symposium: MORAL
DILEMMAS IN INTENSIVE CARE
6.15 pm Westminster Medical
School

Professor Harold Ellis, Professor
of Surgery, Westminster Medical
School

Dr Jack Tinker, Director of
the Intensive Therapy Unit,
Middlesex Hospital

A representative of the Nursing
Intensive Care Group (London)

Father Gerard Hughes SJ,
Head of the Department of
Philosophy, Heythrop College

Saturday 10 November

AMG Day Conference: THE
ELDERLY EXPLOSION: WHOM WILL
IT HURT? 10.30 am, Arts Centre,
King Street, Aberdeen

Monday 12 November

MMG lecture: VIOLENCE IN THE
FAMILY—SOME ASPECTS OF CHILD
ABUSE 5.30 pm Lecture Theatre 3,
Medical School, University of
Manchester

Dr Christine Cooper,
Consultant Paediatrician, Royal
Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-
upon-Tyne

Elizabeth Law, Principal
Assistant, Casework Services
Division, Manchester Social
Services

Tuesday 13 November

LMG lecture: VIOLENCE IN
HOSPITAL 5.15 pm Cohen Lecture
Theatre, Duncan Building,
Royal Liverpool Hospital, Prescot
Street, Liverpool

SMG lecture: PRIORITIES IN
MEDICINE—Is cancer more
important than backache?

5.30 pm Lecture Theatre 1,
South Academic Block,
Southampton General Hospital,
Southampton

Professor Michael Whitehouse,
Medical Oncology, University of
Southampton

Dr Ward Gardner, Medical
Department, Esso Refinery,
Southampton

Mr Kingsley Williams, Wessex
Regional Health Authority

LMG symposium: VIRUS
RESEARCH: A threat to public
health? 5.45 pm St Mary's
Hospital Medical School

Dr Peter Richards, Dean,
St Mary's Hospital Medical School

Dr Henry Darlow,
Microbiological Research
Establishment, Porton Down

Professor Kevin McCarthy,
Professor of Medical Microbiology,
University of Liverpool

BMG lecture: EURO-NURSE—THE
NURSE OF THE FUTURE 7.30 pm
Large Lecture Theatre, Level 9,
The Bristol Royal Infirmary

Christine Chapman, Director
of Advanced Nursing Studies,
Welsh National School of Medicine,
University Hospital of Wales

Mr Cyril Frain, Director of
Nurse education, Frenchay
Hospital, Bristol

Thursday 15 November

LMG symposium: ABORTION: Are
some methods more moral than
others? 5.45 pm St Thomas's
Hospital

Dr Brian Creamer, Consultant Physician and Dean, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School

Mr J M Brudenall, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, King's College Hospital

Mrs Janet Richards, Lecturer in Philosophy at the Open University

Friday 16 November

NMG debate: PROFITS OR PATIENTS:

A debate on the relationship between doctors and the pharmaceutical industry 5.30 pm
Clement Stephenson Lecture Theatre, Department of Agriculture, University of Newcastle

Professor J H Walker, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Newcastle

Professor M D Rawlins, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Newcastle

Mr M Thomas, MP, East Newcastle

Dr L Kopelowitz, General Practitioner

A representative of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

Monday 19 November

MMG seminar: SUB-FERTILITY - NEGLECTED STILL? 5.30 pm
Medical School, University of Manchester

Tuesday 20 November

LMG symposium: DOCTORS AND TORTURE 5.45 pm
University College Hospital Medical School

Dr J A Holmes, Consultant Psychiatrist, University College Hospital

A representative of the Association of Police Surgeons of Great Britain

A representative of the Chilean Health Group in London

Canon Paul Oestreicher, lately Chairman, British Section, Amnesty International

Thursday 22 November

LMG symposium: STILLBIRTH: Grieving for no-one? 6.15 pm
Westminster Medical School

Mr D M Forrest, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Westminster Hospital

Dr David Morris, Consultant Paediatrician, to the Brook Hospital and the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich

Mrs Hazelanne Lewis, Director of the Stillbirth Association who will discuss the film 'Stillbirth'

Tuesday 27 November

LMG symposium: HUMAN VIVISECTION Should patients be used as guinea pigs? 6.00 pm
Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham

Professor T W Glenister, Professor of Anatomy and Dean, Charing Cross Hospital Medical School

Dr Maurice Pappworth, author of *Human Guinea Pigs*

Dr J E J Altham, Lecturer in Philosophy in the University of Cambridge

Thursday 29 November

LMG symposium: THE UNCONSCIOUS DONOR: Should the law on transplants be changed? 5.45 pm
Guy's Hospital Medical School

Professor J S Cameron, Professor of Renal Medicine, Guy's Hospital Medical School

Professor R Y Calne, Professor of Surgery, University of Cambridge Clinical School

Dr P D G Skegg, Fellow and Tutor in Law, New College, Oxford

Mr Robert Sterndale Burrows, HM Coroner, Cambridge

December

OMF meeting: PATIENTS - TEACHING MATERIAL?

Tuesday 4 December

LMG lecture: DOES ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE WORK? 5.15 pm
Cohen Lecture Theatre, Duncan Building, Royal Liverpool Hospital, Prescott Street, Liverpool

LMG illustrated lecture: THE PLACE OF THE OLD IN A COST-EFFECTIVE SOCIETY 5.45 pm
King's College Hospital Medical School

Dr Roger Williams, Director of the Liver Unit, King's College Hospital

Dr John Agate, Consultant in Geriatric Medicine to the Hospitals of Suffolk

Mr Malcom Johnson, Research Secretary of the Personal Social Services Council; and Chairman Research Advisory Group, Age Concern

Mr Kenneth Wright, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of York

Thursday 6 December

SMG lecture: THE PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE OF ACUPUNCTURE 5.30 pm
Lecture Theatre 1, South Academic Block, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton

Dr D I Dowson, Wimborne, Dorset

LMG illustrated lecture:

PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE 5.45 pm
The London Hospital
Dr Christine Cooper, Consultant Paediatrician, The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

BMG/National Council for Civil Liberties joint symposium: MEDICAL CONFIDENTIALITY - BOON OR CURSE? 7.30 pm
Large Lecture Theatre, Level 9, The Bristol Royal Infirmary

Professor Dworkin, Professor of Law, University of Southampton

Dr Alan Row, Deputy Chairman BMA Central Ethical Committee

Daniel Roberts, Chairman Bristol NCCL

Monday 10 December

NGM symposium: HYPNOSIS 5.30 pm
New Lecture Theatre, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle

Chairman and speakers to be arranged

Tuesday 11 December

LMG symposium: CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS 5.45 pm
Middlesex Hospital Medical School
Dr C G D Brook, Consultant Paediatrician, Middlesex Hospital
Professor P J Graham, Walker Professor of Child Psychiatry, Institute of Child Health, University of London; member of the Warnock Committee

Dr Christopher Kiernan, Deputy Director of the Thomas Coram Research Unit

Thursday 13 December

LMG symposium: **DOUBLE STANDARDS IN HEALTH CARE: a consequence of private practice?**
5.45 pm Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

Professor Neil McIntyre,
Professor of Medicine and
Clinical Sub-Dean, Royal Free
Hospital School of Medicine

Mr H Beric Wright, Executive
Director, BUPA

Dr Keith Ball, Consultant
Physician and Senior Lecturer in
Preventive Medicine, Central
Middlesex Hospital

Mr A J Culyer, Assistant

Director and Reader in Economics,
Institute of Social and Economic
Research, University of York

Bristol Medical Group

Bristol Medical Group plan to
hold a series of multidisciplinary
weekly seminars on 'Care of the
Dying' during the Autumn
session. There will be places for
12 students. Dates will be
announced later.

Edinburgh Medical Group

The following day conference and

talks have been arranged for the
Autumn term. Further details will
be available in early September
from the Co-ordinating Secretary
whose address appears on page 159
of this issue.

Day Conference: **CAN WE
LEGISLATE FOR HEALTH?**

Debate: Joint EMG/Medical
Students Council, University of
Edinburgh **ABORTION**

Lunchtime talk: EMG/Faculty
of Medicine **DOCTORS ORDERS:**
Are the Doctors the best people
to give advice?

Medical groups

Further information on Medical Groups

For fuller details, complete lecture lists are available from the secretaries of the medical groups listed below. Please enclose a stamped addressed A4 envelope

ABERDEEN MEDICAL GROUP

Dr James Hendry and Dr David Hood, Medical Buildings Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB9 22D

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Anthony Parsons, Department of Obstetrics, Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Edgbaston. Birmingham B15

BRISTOL MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Jack Czauderna, 37 Brigstock Road, Bristol

CAMBRIDGE MEDICAL GROUP

Mr Patrick Doyle, Department of Urology, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hill's Road, Cambridge

CARDIFF MEDICAL GROUP

Mrs Vivien Turner, 71 Pencisely Road, Llandaff, Cardiff

DUNDEE MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Douglas Shaw, Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Dundee, Nine Wells Hospital, Dundee

EDINBURGH MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Brian Potter, EMG Project Office, 24 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN

GLASGOW MEDICAL GROUP

Dr John Dagg, Department of Medicine, Gardiner Institute, Western Infirmary, Glasgow G11 6NT

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Colin Powell, Dept of Medicine, Royal Liverpool Hospital, Liverpool L7 8XP

LONDON MEDICAL GROUP

Director of Studies, 68 Tavistock House, North Tavistock Square. London WC1H 9LG

MANCHESTER MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Mary Lobjoit, Teaching Unit 4, University Hospital of South Manchester, Nell Lane, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 8LR

NEWCASTLE MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Christopher Drinkwater, 14 Belle Grove Terrace, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 4LL

OXFORD MEDICAL FORUM

Dr James Falconer Smith, 20 Park Close, Bladon. Oxon OX7 1RN

SHEFFIELD MEDICAL GROUP

Dr Martin Hayes-Allen, 183 Whitham Road, Broomhill, Sheffield S10 2SB

SOUTHAMPTON MEDICAL GROUP

Dr T R M Billington, 56 Glen Eyre Road, Southampton SO2 3NJ

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T W Glenister

Dean, Charing Cross Hospital, Medical School

Anthony Thorley

Consultant Psychiatrist, Newcastle

Sir Brian Windeyer

former Vice-Chancellor, University of London

Lord Winstanley

General Practitioner

Stephen Krikler

Middlesex Hospital Medical School

Martin Waldron

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

Adam Law

Middlesex Hospital Medical School

Robert Walters

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

Edward Shotter

Director of Studies, ex officio

Society for the Study of Medical Ethics

The Society for the Study of Medical Ethics is an independent, non-partisan organisation for the multidisciplinary study of issues raised by the practice of medicine.

The Society 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; to remain non-partisan and independent of all interest groups and lobbies.

Since 1963 the London Medical Group, a student group for the study of issues raised by the practice of medicine, has arranged a series of lectures and symposia, now twice weekly throughout the academic year, in the 12 London teaching hospitals and medical schools.

In 1967 the Edinburgh Medical Group was established with similar aims, and subsequently medical groups have been formed in a majority of the British medical schools—currently Newcastle, Sheffield, Glasgow, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff, Southampton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Cambridge and Oxford.

In 1972 junior doctors, who had themselves been associated with the London Medical Group, founded the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics to develop these aims at a postgraduate level.

In 1975 research fellows were appointed by the Edinburgh Medical Group which has established, in conjunction with the University of Edinburgh, a research project in medical ethics and education. This is funded by the Leverhulme Trust Fund and the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust.

The Society for the Study of Medical Ethics is a registered educational charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. It relies on voluntary grants and donations and is not supported from government sources.

There is no individual membership of the Society. Those interested in this work are invited to subscribe to the *Journal of medical ethics*. The lectures, symposia and conferences of the associated medical groups, although addressed primarily to medical, nursing and other students, are open to all those professionally interested. Details are published in the *Journal*.

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