

The Journal of the Society for the Study of Medical Ethics

The *Journal of Medical Ethics* was established in 1975, 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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Submitting manuscripts for publication

Papers submitted for publication should be sent in triplicate to: The Editor, *Journal of medical ethics*, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LG. Rejected manuscripts are not returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, or international reply coupon. Papers should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. On a separate sheet a brief entry for 'Contributors to this issue' should be supplied, containing the title of the author's present post, degrees and/or professional qualifications, 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 The Publisher, *Journal of medical ethics*, Tavistock House East, 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 1982, p 218. 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; 1725/1814. As the 'Vancouver style' is incompatible with the long established style of references for legal articles, lawyers should use their own standard style, but avoid abbreviations so as 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 £22.00 in the United Kingdom and Irish Republic, and US \$56.00 in all countries overseas. Payment for overseas subscriptions should be made in dollars, ie, US \$48.00, or in your national currency based on the prevailing exchange rate to the US dollar of that currency, 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, 1172 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02134. All enquiries, however, must be addressed to the Publisher in London). All enquiries regarding air mail rates, single copies, advertisements, etc. should be sent to: The Publisher, *Journal of medical ethics*, Tavistock House East, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Thematic review and index

The thematic review of past issues appears in the June issue each year and an index to each volume appears in the December issue.

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deny that men are often willing to put up with suffering and unhappiness for what they believe and for the people they love. Engrossed in activities to which they give themselves they think little about their happiness and care little about the dangers and discomforts to which these activities may expose them. The fact that they are behind their actions, that they put up with pain and discomfort willingly, does not mean that they do so for the sake of some reward in which they will find happiness.

To say that 'men want to be happy' in this qualified sense is one thing, to say that they want the different things they seek as a means to happiness is quite another thing. In fact, happiness is something that always eludes those who seek it directly. Understandably, since it has no substance of its own. It is not something over and above the different things in which men find happiness. The moment any one of them is made into a *means* to happiness it can no longer bring happiness.

One may, of course, be unhappy and reflect on where one has gone wrong in one's life. One may feel one has lost one's way in life and give expression to

one's consternation in the words, 'I wish I knew what I wanted'. This search is sometimes described as a search for happiness. But what is being sought is not the means to happiness; it is something that the person can make sense of, see some point in, perhaps an occupation in which he can find an interest and grow. In it he would find happiness. He must be careful, however, not to let it become an evasion from what troubles him, a way of filling in the void within him. There will be this danger if he thinks too much in terms of finding happiness.

References

- (1) Plato. *Gorgias*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1973: 56–63.
- (2) Marquand J P. *H M Pulham esq*, 320. Quoted by Wisdom J. Gods. In: *Philosophy and psycho-analysis*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1953: 153.
- (3) Freud S. *Civilisation and its discontents*. London: Hogarth Press, 1949.
- (4) See reference (1) 91. See especially Callicles's opening speech, 76–82.
- (5) See reference (3) 26–27.
- (6) See reference (3) 57–58.

Contributors to this issue

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Case conference editor

Roger Higgs, *81 Brixton Water Lane, London SW2 1PH.*

to me to illustrate clearly the pitfalls confronting doctors involved in occupational health, and precisely how not to resolve the dilemma of confidentiality.

'With reference to past correspondence . . . Miss P went sick on 11th October. Dr I visited her on October 12th and certified her to be suffering from pharyngitis. He said he would call again on October 14th. He did so and stated that her temperature was normal and that she should be fit to visit the surgery yesterday, October 18th, to be declared fit for duty.

This morning, October 19th I confirmed that Miss P had not visited Dr I and received a message from her that she was too sick to do so. I rang Dr I and asked if he could call to see Miss P. Dr I called about 10.45 am and saw Miss P

and said that she had recovered from the pharyngitis but was now suffering from nervous debility following the attack. He had asked her permission to discuss her medical state with me, but this was refused. Dr I however gave as his private opinion that she was completely unsuitable for the position she now holds. He implied that she was a neurosensitive subject, mentally disposed towards sickness to the extent that she would never be able to carry out continuously or adequately her duties. In view of the fact that Miss P refused her permission for Dr I to discuss her medical state with me, Dr I was, naturally, very reluctant to express himself freely. He did however make it clear to me that he considered her to be entirely unsuited for employment here. . . .'

It is not clear from the file of correspondence what precisely happened to Miss P but there is a letter saying she should be dismissed on medical grounds.

This correspondence was dated 1966. One hopes that occupational health physicians twenty years later will be guided by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine's *Guidance on ethics for occupational physicians* to a more acceptable ethical stance. However, too often such decisions reflect not the moral codes of the medical profession but rather the personality of a doctor who desires so to please that he forgets his moral obligations.

For obvious reasons I should be grateful if you would withhold my name and address.

Workshop on medicine and science-policy

The Society for Applied Philosophy is holding an introductory workshop on philosophical and ethical issues in medicine and science-policy from 2-6 pm on Saturday, March 12, 1983 in the Philosophy Department, Bedford College London.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for members of the society and others to discuss and work together on some philosophical issues within the theory and practice of medicine. Short papers (of around 1000 words) are invited to form the basis for discussion. These may address wide issues such as the nature of health and illness; decision-making in the allocation of resources, and aspects of the doctor-patient relationship. Alternatively they may address more particular issues such as the question of when it is permissible

to treat a person without his consent; the ethical implications of the commercial advertising of drugs and the implications of accepting particular definitions of death.

The Society for Applied Philosophy was established to provide a focus for philosophical research with a direct bearing on areas of practical concern which are capable of being illuminated by the critical, analytic approach characteristic of philosophy, and by direct consideration of questions of value.

Anyone interested in attending the workshop should contact: The Convenor, Society for Applied Philosophy Workshop on Medicine and Science-policy, Gavin Fairbairn, 25 Russell Road, Whalley Range, Manchester M16 8DJ.

Lectures and symposia

Tuesday 4 January 1983

LMG lecture: MARRY EARLY AND MARRY OFTEN: The causes of marital breakdown. 5.45 pm St Mary's Hospital

Dr Jack Dominian, Consultant Psychiatrist, Central Middlesex Hospital

Thursday 6 January

LMG symposium: GOING TO POT: The consequences of legalising marijuana. 5.45 pm St Thomas's Hospital

Professor W W Holland, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Social Medicine, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School

Dr John Littleton, Reader in Pharmacology, King's College London
Mr Quentin Edwards, QC

Tuesday 11 January

LMG symposium: WHAT IF BISEXUALITY IS THE NORM? 5.45 pm University College Hospital

Dr Gerald Stern, Consultant Neurologist, University College Hospital

Dr Philip Boyd, Psychiatrist in Charge, Simmons House, St Luke's Woodside Hospital

Dr Margaret White, General Practitioner

Mr Antony Grey, Personal relations counsellor; Co-Director of Action for Sexual Knowledge (ASK)

Thursday 13 January

LMG symposium: CHILD ABUSE: Should parents be treated or punished? 6.15 pm Westminster Hospital

Professor J L Emery, Emeritus Professor of Paediatric Pathology, University of Sheffield

Alan Bedford, Principal Tutor, NSPCC School of Social Work

Alec Samuels, JP and Reader in Law, Southampton University

Monday 17 January

MMG symposium: MEDICAL CAREERS: How far will you go? 1.00 pm Lecture Theatre 3, Medical School, Oxford Road, Manchester

Anthony J Lane, Regional Medical Officer, North Western Regional Health Authority

David E Bolt, Chairman of the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Service

Professor James Parkhouse, Postgraduate Dean and Director of the Regional Postgraduate Institute, Newcastle upon Tyne

Tuesday 18 January

LMG illustrated symposium: GLUE SNIFFING: The kids' alternative to alcohol. 6 pm Charing Cross Hospital

Dr P B S Fowler, Consultant Physician, Charing Cross Hospital

Dr R G Jezzard, Consultant Psychiatrist, Guy's Hospital

Dr J A Vale, Director, West Midlands Poisons Unit, Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham

Mr David Wilkie, Social Worker, Leith

Thursday 20 January

LMG symposium: SOCIAL WORK: Profession or lobby? 5.45 pm Guy's Hospital

Professor M H Lessof, Professor of Medicine, Guy's Hospital Medical School

Dr Colin Brewer, Director, Community Alcohol Treatment Service, Westminster Hospital

Miss Janet Mattinson, Chairman, Institute of Marital Studies

Tuesday 25 January

LMG film and discussion: BREAST OR BOTTLE? 5.45-7.30 pm King's College Hospital

Professor Eric Stroud, Professor of Child Health, King's College Hospital Medical School

Dr M C K Chan, Senior Lecturer in Tropical Paediatrics, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

A representative of the Nestlé Company

Thursday 27 January

LMG illustrated symposium: ALCOHOLISM: Is abstinence the only way out? 5.45 pm The London Hospital

Professor R D Cohen, Professor of Medicine, The London Hospital Medical College

Dr Max Glatt, Unit Director, Jellinek Unit, Charter Clinic Chelsea

Dr Anthony Thorley, Director, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Unit, St Nicholas Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Monday 31 January

MMG lecture: CONFLICTS IN CARING: Man versus machine. 5.30 pm Lecture Theatre 3, Medical School, Oxford Road, Manchester

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

Professor Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff Department of Nursing, University of Manchester

Tuesday 1 February

LMG lecture: PREPARATION FOR DEATH. 5.45 pm Middlesex Hospital
Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Thursday 3 February

LMG illustrated lecture: VISUAL DISORDERS AND THE ARTS. 5.45 pm Royal Free Hospital

Mr P D Trevor-Roper, Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, Westminster Hospital

Wednesday 9 February

SMG symposium: SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED: 8.00 pm Lecture Theatre E, Medical School, Beech Hill Road, Sheffield

What assistance does society give to the handicapped person and his/her family? To what extent should society be responsible?

Monday 14 February

MMG symposium: MEDICAL RESOURCES: A fair deal for all? 5.30 pm Lecture Theatre 3, Medical School, Oxford Road, Manchester

R W G Johnson, Consultant Surgeon, Manchester Royal Infirmary
Kenneth M Boyd, Scottish Director, Society for the Study of Medical Ethics
Derek Crowther, Professor of Medical Oncology, University of Manchester

David G Taylor, Deputy Director, Office of Health Economics, London

Tuesday 22 February

LMG illustrated symposium: PARANORMAL EXPERIENCES: Phenomena or hallucinations? 5.45 pm St Bartholomew's Hospital

Dr I Kelsey Fry, The Dean, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College

Professor D Russell Davis, Emeritus Professor of Mental Health, Bristol University

Dr Carl Sargent, Joint Author with Professor Eysenck of *Explaining the Unexplained*; Department of Experimental Psychology, Cambridge University

Thursday 24 February

LMG illustrated symposium: ERRORS OF CLINICAL JUDGEMENT: How patients and doctors suffer. 6 pm St George's Hospital

Professor T R E Pilkington, Professor of Medicine, St George's Hospital Medical School

Professor M H Lader, Professor of Clinical Psychopharmacology, Institute of Psychiatry

Dr Martin Lees, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh

Mr Ian Kennedy, QC

Monday 28 February

MMG symposium: PHARMACOLOGICAL LEGISLATION: Safeguard or straitjacket? 5.30 pm Lecture Theatre 3, Medical School, Oxford Road, Manchester

George E Mawer, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Manchester

Charles F George, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Southampton

Dr Julian H Shelley, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bracknell, Berkshire

Tuesday 1 March

LMG illustrated symposium: EUTHANASIA: Is there a satisfactory alternative? 5.45 pm St Mary's Hospital

Dr Richard Lancaster, Consultant Physician, St Mary's Hospital

Dr T S West, Deputy Medical Director, St Christopher's Hospice

Dr John Harris, Lecturer in Philosophy, Department of Education, Manchester University

Thursday 3 March

LMG illustrated symposium: THE TRUTH ABOUT DIALYSIS: High cost and low return. 5.45 pm St Thomas's Hospital
Professor W I Cranston, Professor of Medicine, St Thomas's Hospital Medical School

Dr Victor Parsons, Physician, King's College Hospital; Physician to Renal Unit, Dulwich Hospital

Dr Kenneth Boyd, Scottish Director, Society for the Study of Medical Ethics
Mr P V Mancini, Economic Adviser, DHSS

Tuesday 8 March

LMG symposium: HELPING THE POLICE WITH THEIR ENQUIRIES: The doctor's conflicting loyalties. 5.45 pm University College Hospital

Dr H Baderman, Consultant in Charge, Accident and Emergency Department, University College Hospital

Dr Graeme Snodgrass, Consultant Paediatrician, The London Hospital
Dr John Alderson, Barrister at law, formerly Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall

Mr Paul Sieghart, Chairman, Executive Committee, *Justice*

Thursday 10 March

LMG illustrated symposium: EXIT VS LIFE: The consequences of polarising public opinion. 6.15 pm Westminster Hospital

Professor A F Lant, Professor of Therapeutics, Westminster Hospital Medical School

Professor Sir John Walton, Professor of Neurology, Newcastle-upon-Tyne University

Dr J M Finnis, Fellow and Tutor in Jurisprudence, University College, Oxford

Saturday 12 March

SMG day conference: HEALTH SERVICE ON TRIAL. 10.00 am Lecture Theatre E, Medical School, Beech Hill Road, Sheffield

A look at the achievements of medicine past and present and a critical appraisal of their true value. Is the Health Service as it stands, the most effective means of promotion of health in our population? What are alternatives? Subjects such as: Over-prescription of drugs; Alternative Medicine; Development of a 'Prevention is better than cure' type attitude towards health care, will be discussed in workshops and seminars.

Tuesday 15 March

LMG illustrated symposium: THE DOCTOR, THE PATIENT AND THE PAIN: Does medical familiarity breed contempt? 6 pm Charing Cross Hospital

Mr A E S Richards, Consultant Surgeon, Charing Cross Hospital

Professor Margaret Boden, Professor of Philosophy and Psychology, Sussex University

Professor P D Wall, Director, Cerebral Functions Research Group, University College London

Mrs Barbara Saunders, Sister, Terminal Care Support Team, St Thomas's Hospital

Continued on following page

News and Notes

First advice centre for medical accident victims

An organisation to help the victims of medical accidents has been set up following a grant from the Greater London Council.

Called Action for the Victims of Medical Accidents (AVMA), it has grown from the transmission of Peter Ransley's award-winning play *Minor Complications*.

The play, based on a real case, portrays the enormous difficulties encountered by a woman with two children when seeking compensation

after a hospital operation went badly wrong.

AVMA's advice centre, at Auckland Road, London opened on September 1. It will be run by the organisation's first director, Arnold Simanowitz, a London solicitor. The centre will help those who have suffered medical accidents to assess what has happened to them. If negligence is a possibility, it will put victims in touch with solicitors, and solicitors in touch with medical experts.

'Mounting a negligence action is very difficult', says Simanowitz. 'We are extremely concerned that people with good cases are dropping them, or sometimes not even starting them because they feel they have no chance against the system'.

Moral choice and medical crisis symposium

The Fifteenth Symposium on Philosophy and Medicine, *Moral Choice and Medical Crisis*, will be held in Greenville, North Carolina, on March 17-19, 1983. This programme is sponsored by the Humanities Section, East Carolina University School of Medicine and the North Carolina Humanities Committee. Speakers will include George Engel, Edmund Pellegrino, Jay Katz, Robert Veatch, and H Tristram Engelhardt Jr. For further information, please contact John Moskop or Loretta Kopelman, Humanities Section, East Carolina University School of Medicine, Greenville, NC 27834. (919) 757-2618.

Continued from previous page

Thursday 17 March

LMG symposium: THE DYING CHILD. 5.45 pm Guy's Hospital

Dr B G R Neville, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Guy's Hospital
Miss Margaret Atkin, Principal Social Worker, Social Service Department, Great Ormond Street Hospital

Dr T J R Bruce, Consultant in Psychological Medicine, St Bartholomew's Hospital

Mrs Joan Wills, formerly National Secretary of the Compassionate Friends

Tuesday 22 March

LMG symposium: ATTEMPTED SUICIDE: Have the Samaritans the answer? 5.45 pm King's College Hospital

Dr Steven Greer, Reader in Psychological Medicine, King's College Hospital

Dr Chad Varah, Chairman of Befrienders International (The Samaritans Worldwide)

Dr N Kreitman, Director of the MRC Unit for Epidemiological Studies in Psychiatry, Royal Edinburgh Hospital

Thursday 24 March

LMG illustrated symposium: LEAD: When all else fails legislate. 5.45 pm The London Hospital

Dr B T Colvin, Senior Lecturer in Haematology, The London Hospital Medical College

Professor P J Graham, Walker Professor of Child Psychiatry and Consultant Psychiatrist, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street

Dr Robin Russell Jones, Deputy Chairman, CLEAR

Mr Douglas Harvey, Director General, United Kingdom, Petroleum Industry Association Limited

Notice for contributors to the Journal of medical ethics

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Authors are asked to avoid footnotes wherever possible. Articles for the *Journal* should be between 1200 and 3000 words in length except book reviews which should be between 300 and 1200 words. Abbreviations should be avoided. The names of journals, organisations etc should be given in full.

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 The Publisher, *Journal of medical ethics*, Tavistock House East, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Simplified 'Vancouver style'

All papers submitted for publication in Volume 9 and following issues should contain the following:

- 1 On page one of the manuscript there should be:
 - a) the title of the article which should be concise but informative

- b) names, initials and academic degrees of author or authors
- c) names of department(s) and institution(s) to which the work should be attributed, if any
- d) disclaimers, if any
- e) source(s) of support, if any
- f) address of author(s)

2 On page two there should be:

- a) an *interesting* abstract or summary of not more than 150 words. Emphasise important and/or new aspects of the article to attract the potential reader.
- b) key (indexing) terms – below the abstract, provide and identify as such, three to six key words or short phrases that will assist indexers in cross-indexing your article and that may be published with the abstract. Where appropriate, use terms from the Medical Subject Headings List from *Index Medicus*.

3 Acknowledgments;

Acknowledge only persons who have made substantive contributions to the study. Authors are responsible for obtaining written permission from everyone acknowledged by name because readers may infer the latter's endorsement of data and conclusions.

4 References:

Number these consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text, tables, and captions, by arabic numerals (in parenthesis). The list of references at the end of the paper should be numbered in the order in which each reference appears in the text. Try to avoid using abstracts as references; 'unpublished observations' and 'personal communications' may not be used as references, although references to written, not verbal, communications may be inserted (in parenthesis) in the text. Manuscripts accepted but not yet published may be used as references – designate the journal followed by 'in press' (in parenthesis). Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted should be cited in the text as 'unpublished observations' (in parenthesis).

References must be verified by the author(s) against the original documents.

The following scheme, a simplification of the 'Vancouver style' for biomedical

journals, should be followed for each reference: in the text – number (in parenthesis); in the list – author (list all authors if six or less; if seven or more, list only the first three and add 'et al'), title, name of publication if different from title; place of publication and publisher (where appropriate); year of publication; and, where appropriate, volume, number and page references of article or chapter referred to. Examples of correct forms of reference are given below:

- a) Standard journal article:
 - (1) Paul E F, Paul J. Self-ownership, abortion and infanticide. *Journal of medical ethics* 1979; 5: 133–138.
- b) Corporate author:
 - (2) Conference of Royal Colleges and Faculties of the United Kingdom. Diagnosis of brain death. *Lancet* 1976; 2: 1060–1070.
- c) No author given: Anonymous. On telling dying patients the truth [editorial]. *Journal of medical ethics* 1982; 8: 117–119.
- d) Personal author(s):
 - (3) Hick J. *Death and eternal life*. Glasgow and London: Collins, 1976.
- e) Editor, compiler, chairman as author:
 - (5) Phillips C E, Wolfe J N, eds. *Clinical practice and economics*. Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical, 1977.
- f) Chapter in book:
 - (6) Armstrong C N. Intersexuality in man. In: Armstrong C N, Marshall A J, eds. *Intersexuality in vertebrates including man*. London: Academic Press, 1964: 349–352.
- g) Agency publication:
 - (7) The Linacre Centre for the Study of Ethics and Health Care. Paper 1: The principle of respect for human life. In: *Prolongation of life*. London: The Linacre Centre for the Study of Ethics and Health Care, 1978.
- h) Newspaper article:
 - (8) Dinwoodie R. Volunteers die as heart drug results baffle doctors. *The Scotsman* 1980 Sept 5: 11 (cols 1–6).
- i) Magazine article:
 - (9) James J. Homoeopathy – the treatment of like with like. *The Listener* 1980 Aug 21: 234–236.

Journal of Medical Ethics

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**Volume eight
Numbers 1-4**

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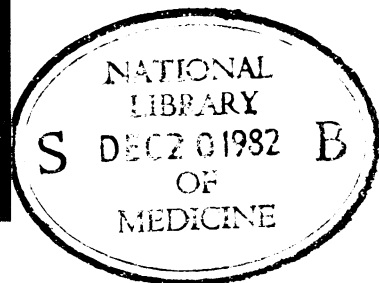
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Risk assessment in relation to medical ethics

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