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Bioethical voices

Newsletter of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics

Editorial

Giacomo SADO —Editorial board Director

I owe to Professor Carmi many of the things I know. One of them is related to my job as a journalist: the keystone, the secret of divulgation in a newspaper, on radio, on TV or with a book... it's all in the ability to tell. It's Columbus' egg of the ability to tell (narrative skill), because everyone knows or should know. Professor Carmi brilliantly uses the instrument of the story also to explain the ethical dilemmas and to suggest the most appropriate method to address and resolve them. This newsletter is born today - also by the initiative of Prof. Carmi - it will therefore not be a simple bulletin, nor even a container for press releases. Or at least not only that. We aim for it to be a very effective tool for the dissemination of ideas, to start for dialogue and to open a window on the very articulate universe of bioethics. That universe which has in the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics its common reference. A rigorous, orderly, clean divulgation, but always captivating. Seductive. Brilliant.

To fully achieve this, a collective effort will be necessary: with contributions from all around the world, sending us the news of their Unit - activities, proposals, debates and events - and also by the editorial staff, called to select, organize and publish everything, by periodical deadlines. Important background information relating to the different historical and geographical contexts in which those initiatives are born and develop will be described. We would like to do with bioethics what has been tried in other fields. That is, to take a difficult, serious and complex subject and present it—as we would art: TV programs or books or event theatre with many characters moving around on stage, each able to explain the ideas from different perspectives. To present complex thoughts and ideas with a lightness, but without trivialization.

In this we aiming high, but to do any less may run the risk of being isolated and unable to communicate with those outside our field.

You may say, "what has this to do with bioethics?". Bioethics too is just another book from the world and—we are all convinced—contains many important stories of out time. A time when we see populations torn by conflicts, and society impoverished by a lack of values and undergoing fundamental identity crisis.

Our aim for this newsletter is to present the issues to our reader as a story, or many stories together.

Every time a plot with a beginning and an end, which runs story after story, a story that is intertwined with another, without ever giving up the ideas and judgments. Ideas absolutely freely expressed. Readers and public will thus have at their disposal a wealth of information, of suggestions, of impressions and of judgments, also useful for further research with a more exquisitely scientific format.

These are the intentions, this is our style, these are the stories that the newsletter aims to contribute. Even with the limits of a number zero, still somewhat experimental.

It was necessary, however, to begin ...

Good adventure for everyone.

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Bioethics in the world

ETHICS COMMITTEES AND THE NEW EUROPEAN UNION REGULATION ON CLINICAL TRIALS

Claudio BUCCELLI[1], Nunzia CANNOVO
Ethics Committee of the University of Naples "Federico II"
[1] Director of the Bioethics Research International Office of the European Centre for Bioethics and Quality of Life – UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Italian Unit

Based as it is on the rationale of exclusively entrusting trials to high quality centres, Directive 2001/20/EC[1] reduced the number of Ethics Committees (EC) in Europe, but did not improve the quality[2] or quantity[3] of the studies.

In the interest of making the European Union (EU) more attractive for clinical research (the number of applications for clinical trial authorisation on the old continent decreased by 25% between 2007 and 2011), the Permanent Representatives Committee of the Council of the European Union (COREPER) approved a new Regulation[4] on clinical trials for medicinal products for human use, repealing the previous Directive 2001/20/EC and jeopardising the survival of Ekes and their institutional significance.

The Regulation will not come into force before the second half of 2016[5], but given the harmful effects it may have on Ekes is it essential that we take action now to mitigate the likely consequences on the ethical aspects of research in individual countries.

There is no denying that since 2001 the organisational structure of Ekes in European countries has remained varied[6] despite the European Directive, the purpose of which was to standardise the regulation of clinical trials in Europe. The EU responded to this heterogeneity by simplifying procedures, leaving the ultimate decision on how to implement the new features introduced in a climate of palpable scepticism to the Member States[7].

In other words, a strong attempt to harmonise procedures has become very probable cause of organisational disorder, but with an unequivocal objective: to reduce the time taken to discuss experimental studies, relieving the Sponsor (mainly represented by pharmaceutical companies) of the obligation of adjusting their choices to meet national regulations.

The above regulation grants the competent authorities (AIFA in Italy) full discretion as to whether to involve ECs in the evaluation phase or not[8] (Article 18 of the preamble).

In fact, the Regulation has omitted any legislation on ECs, including only a generic reference to the possibility of Member States formulating their own regulations in this regard. However, it is possible to infer from this that their role will be demoted to that of merely verifying the local feasibility of the experiments, in stark contrast with the finding that the principle of justice has come to dominate close examinations of the ethics of studies[9].

However, the choice made by the EU members goes against the international stance that has considered prior assessment of the trials by ECs to be essential ever since their first official institution with the Declaration of Helsinki of 1975. It seems to be following the lead of the American position[10;11], which started to try to avoid acknowledging the binding procedural value of this document in 2000, although it was made clear from the outset that ethics in biomedical research[12] (supported, of course, by ECs) has helped protect the rights and welfare of subjects undergoing experiments[13], especially those in vulnerable categories, for whom the need to apply the highest standards of ethical control is well established[14] in order to prevent abuses against them.

1 DIRECTIVE 2001/20/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL, of 4/4/2001, on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the implementation of good clinical practice in the conduct of clinical trials on medicinal products for human use. Official Journal of the EC of the 1/5/2001

2 Frewer LJ1, Coles D, van der Lans IA, Schroeder D, Champion K, Apperley JF. Impact of the European clinical trials directive on prospective academic clinical trials associated with BMT. Bone Marrow Transplant. 2011 Mar;46(3):443-7. doi: 10.1038/bmt.2010.139. Epub 2010 Jun 7.
Frewer LJ1, Coles D, van der Lans IA, Schroeder D, Champion K, Apperley JF.

3 Hartmann M.Impact assessment of the European Clinical Trials Directive: a longitudinal, prospective, observational study analysing patterns and trends in clinical drug trial applications submitted since 2001 to regulatory agencies in six EU countries. Trials. 2012 Apr 29;13:53. doi: 10.1186/1745-6215-13-53.

4 REGULATION (EU) No 536/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16/4/2014 on clinical trials on medicinal products for human use, and repealing Directive 2001/20/EC. Official Journal of the European Union L 158/1 of 27.5.2014

5 The new rules will not come into force until 6 months after the activation of the single EUportal (which is currently in development in EMA), which is not expected to be launched before 2016 (art. 99).

6 The EFGCP Report on The Procedure for the Ethical Review of Protocols for Clinical Research Projects in Europe (Update: April 2011) available at: http://www.efgcp.eu/

7 Heringa J. The proposed EU-regulation on clinical trials on medicinal products: an unethical proposal? Dute J.Eur J Health Law. 2013 Sep;20(4):347-62.

8 Art. 44, par. 3, "The ethics committee responsible participates in the evaluation of the information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, where this is provided for by the national law of the Member State concerned."

9 Pieper I, Thomson CJ. Justice in human research ethics. A conceptual and practical guide. Monash Bioeth Rev. 2013 Mar;31(1):99-116.

10 Forster HP1, Emanuel E, Grady C. The 2000 revision of the Declaration of Helsinki: a step forward or more confusion? Lancet. 2001 Oct 27;358(9291):1449-53.

11 Macklin R. After Helsinki: unresolved issues in international research. Kennedy Inst Ethics J. 2001 Mar; 11(1):17-36.

12 Goussard C. Ethics and biomedical research. Med Sci (Paris). 2007 Aug-Sep;23(8-9):777-81.

13 Dhai A.S The research ethics evolution: from Nuremberg to Helsinki. Afr Med J. 2014 Mar;104(3):178-80.

14 Horner JS. Retreat from Nuremberg: can we prevent unethical medical research? Public Health. 1999 Sep;113(5):205-10.

The current approach (which is implicitly more favourable to the pharmaceutical industry in economic terms and to researchers in pursuit of greater freedom of action) is to reduce the times required for carrying out experimental studies, focusing more on the scientific evaluation than the ethical and conduct-related aspects that are nevertheless inseparably connected to them.

The laws of the individual countries, the international documents and the gradual establishment of the ECs in a leading role in terms of fairness within the context of clinical trials have led to an increase in the acknowledgement of the fitness of these bodies for the pursuit of their institutional goal, i.e. to provide a public guarantee for the rights, safety and well-being of the subjects involved in the trials. Therefore, it seems distinctly inappropriate for the EU to surrender to the mounting pressure of recent years from the academic and commercial[15] worlds to reduce the role of the ECs[16;17;18] to lower -profile activities.

The new European regulations[19] on pharmacological research definitely signify a step backwards in terms of the safeguarding of the rights and protection of subjects involved in experiments, as it does not necessarily require the institutional involvement of the EC (which is limited simply to hoping for it between the lines[20]), deeming it sufficient to implement the "principles that originate[21]" in the Declaration of Helsinki in the evaluation procedure for studies by the competent Authorities identified by the Member States.

Moreover, restricting ethical inquiry just to local feasibility studies by independent bodies, which each Member State will have to establish, dangerously undermines the results of the cultural growth promoted and carried out by the ECs[22] regarding the necessity for each trial to ensure respect for the rights of the person and their physical safety, preventing abuse and illegality activities affecting them.

The risk of reducing the role of the ECs comes at a time of great scientific and technical challenges, in the context of which, to quote Jonas[23] "the world itself has become a laboratory," and it is increasingly easy to drift towards the reification and co modification of the individual.

Just as it is desirable for the Member States not to give up the cultural heritage that has been built up through the activities and experience of ECs in recent decades, it would be advantageous for the ECs to mobilise to denounce the exploitation that could result from a restrictive reading of the Regulation in question.

The inherent danger lies in the possibility of throwing away the good the ECs have achieved in Europe for economical motives that have no interest in the protection of the subjects involved in the trials. Moreover, it threatens to undermine the very integrity and credibility of the investigators and research institutions, as well as the patients' rights.

The reformulation of the European regulatory framework "seems to be characterised by a lack of planning that does not take into account either the overall situation of clinical research, or the nature and substantial responsibilities of ethics committees within public health, and within civil society more generally[24]."

For these reasons, it is vital that, before the new provisions come into force, the communities of ECs and large international organisations (UNESCO, WMA and others) with a special sensitivity towards and predilection to ethical and conduct-related concerns, including those in the sensitive area of human experimentation, carefully reflect on solutions for the lasting preservation of the guarantor role played by the ECs until now.

15 Various Authors. "Proactive document on some critical problems within independent clinical research in Italy." Written during the Congress (3-4 March 2010) about "Istituto Superiore di Sanità" and organised by the Scientific Society FADOI (Federazione delle Associazioni dei Dirigenti Ospedalieri Internisti), called "Independent Research in Italy – Five Years After the Decree on Non Profit Studies." Available from: http://www.quotidianosanita.it/allegati/allegato8130641.pdf

16 Furukawa Pde O, Cunha IC. Research ethics committees: challenges in the submission and evaluation of scientific projects. Rev Bras Enferm. 2010 Jan-Feb;63(1):145-7.

17 Bilbault P1, Belorgey C, Zannad F, Golinelli D, Pletan Y; participants of Round Table n°4 of Giens XXV. Clinical Trials Legislation - preparing for the revision of the European Directive Scheduled for 2011.Therapie. 2010 Jul-Aug;65(4):301-8, 291-9. doi: 10.2515/therapie/2010038. Epub 2010 Sep 21.

18 Waligora M. A European consistency for functioning of RECs? We just lost our chance.J Med Ethics. 2013 Jun;39(6):408-9. doi: 10.1136/medethics-2012-101228. Epub 2012 Dec 8.

19 Boer AD1, Schipper I. New EU regulation on clinical trials: the impact on ethics and safeguards for participants. Indian J Med Ethics. 2013 Apr-Jun;10(2):106-9.

20 Art. 18, Preamble of Regulation and art. 2, paragraph 2.1, sub note 4)

21 Art. 43 of the Preamble of the Regulation sub note 4)

22 Among the many: WMA. Medical Ethics Manual. Ethics Unit of the World Medical Association, 2005; UNESCO. Establishing Bioethics Committees.United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, France, 2005

23 Jonas H., Freedom of Scientific Inquiry and the Public Interest, Hastings Center report 1976, 6(4): 15-17.

24 Editorial article by the Editorial Board of the journal Janus. "All the limits of the hasty reorganisation of ethics committees." Published on 05/31/13. Available on: http://www.janusonline.it

About legislation and judgments

Austria

News from the European Association of Health Law

In April this year the University of Latvia hosted a European Health Law Conference on "Access to Health Care" in Riga. Health Lawyers from more than 40 countries, including South Africa and the US, addressed current ethical and legal challenges relating to the right to access to health care, including access to health care in disaster scenarios, as well as priorities, funding and rationing in health care. Several outstanding keynote speakers raised important issues in this context. One of them, Tapani Piha, Head of Unit at the European Commission DG Health and consumers, reported about the current "EU m-health strategy" and its legal challenges. Ineta Ziemele, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), presented mile stone decisions of the ECHR in the field of health law and its influence on Member States' laws. A full conference report as well as conference presentations can be downloaded at the homepage of the European Association of Health Law at www.eahl.eu/.

Verena Stühlinger, Senior Scientist at the Department of Public Health and Health Technology Assessment, UMIT, Austria (www.umit.at). Verena Stühlinger is a member of the advisory board of the European Association of Health Law and National Contact Person (Austria) for the association (verena.stuehlinger@umit.at).
Prof. Gabriele Werner – Felmayer, gabriele.werner-felmayer@i-med.ac.at

Croatia

Could the right of choice have precedence over public health?

Croatian Constitutional Court recently rendered a very interesting decision in which it evaluated if the right of choice has precedence over public health. It did not concern religious rights, but a different type of choice – choosing, as a parent, what is right for your children. Namely, the issue before the Court was whether parents are allowed to prohibit their children to be vaccinated, despite public prohibition of such choice. The Court decided that they are not allowed to do so, because public health and health of a child have precedence over their parenting rights. This decision is interesting for professionals abroad, as it is one of rare decisions of that sort, especially now in the times when more and more organizations rise up against obligatory vaccination. It is yet to be seen how this decision will reflect foreign regulators.

Dr. Juraj Brozovic, juraj.brozovic@gmail.com



Pula Arena, Croatia

Education

INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF TEACHERS

The Steering Committee of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics discussed, decided and announced the establishment of the International Forum of Teachers of Ethics, Bioethics and Medical Law (IFT) as a part of the Chair's Education Department during its Annual Meeting that was held on the 18 November, 2013, in Naples, Italy.

Guiding principles of IFT are to promote the Declaration on bioethics principles and approaches, to promote the cooperative projects, and to promote the quality of education. The aim of the new organizational structure is to advance the study, discussion and teaching of bioethics as a whole. It will work across all Units to generate mutual understanding and to have a real impact on educational policy.

At first the Education Department elaborated the Statutes of IFT. The Statutes was distributed for comments to the Heads of Units and their opinions were taken into consideration. An open and transparent process for selecting members of the IFT was developed too.

All who have graduated from a university or equivalent academic institution, who are or were involved in teaching of bioethics, ethics or medical law, and who are interested in the fulfillment of the aims of IFT fill in an application form and CV. The decision to admit a teacher to the IFT is made by the President and the Director after verifying that the application complies with the articles in the Statutes. Every member of IFT gets an acceptance letter in confirmation of his/her membership. The Education Department elaborated a certificate for membership that will be distributed among the registered members of IFT during the Jerusalem Conference of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, January 2015.

The predominant part of Heads of Units and members of their Steering Committees are members of the first group of the registered founding members of the Forum. So far we have 215 members from 43 countries.

We hope to add to the growing body of knowledge in the global bioethics, contribute to the creation of a community of professionals who adhere to the bioethics principles and standards, and develop new and innovative solutions to the vital problems of global health.

Prof. Sashka POPOVA, Director

Prof. Amnon CARMI, President

Argentina

Courses of the Degree Curriculum

- Module: ETHICS AND SCIENCE (1,500 students yearly) (2004 – 2014). Chair: Prof. Juan Jorge Michel Fariña (UBA)

- Bioethics seminars in the Introductory Course for Master a Ph.D. Degree (2009-2014)
- Principles of Bioethics facing the disaster in Neuquén (2012-2014). Prof. Dr. Moty Benyakar
- Special seminar for physicians, first aiders and mental health team in Neuquen, Argentina.

•Workshop for the development of a Protocol for employees and leaders, to deal with Human Factors in the disaster of Neuquén, facing ethical issues. Neuquén, Argentina (2012-2014)

• Principles of Bioethics facing the disaster in San Martín de los Andes (2011-2014). Prof. Dr. Moty Benyakar Special seminar for physicians, first aiders and mental health team in San Martín de los Andes, Argentina.

- Inter-curricular Workshops about "Deontology and Ecobioethics" (September, 2014). University of Salvador. Faculty of Psychology. 800 students .

Community Programs

Teachers course: Ethics in Education (2004-2014). (160 teachers yearly).

Multimedia development (1999-2014)

Ethics in Education
Ethics in Disaster Intervention
Ethics and Science
Ethics and Music
Ethics and organizations

All of this Multimedia is permanently developed by the IBIS (International Bioethical Information System – Michel FARIÑA, BENYAKAR). All of them are focalized to train professionals, teachers and researchers, under the UNESCO Bioethics principles, to deal with human factors, and with professional interaction with assisted population and patients.

Web design (English versions) (2005-2014)
www.teachingbioethics.org
www.ethicsandfilms.org

Austria

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING – A TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS

The Tyrolean Hospice Community (Tiroler Hospiz-Gemeinschaft, www.hospiz-tirol.at) offers Advance Care Planning (ACP) workshops for health care professionals working in home care, hospitals or nursing homes. Participants learn about the concept of ACP, how to enable patients to express their wishes as well as how to assist relatives when patients are no longer able to express their wishes. Furthermore, how to fill in advance care planning documents is trained. In this half-day, interactive workshop, participants learn how to apply Advance Care Planning in their specific health care setting.

Dr. Elisabeth MEDICUS, elisabeth.medicus@hospiz-tirol.at

Bulgaria

LEGAL REGULATION IN THE MEDICAL PRACTICE

The academic teachers in the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Sofia initiated a new specialty for health managers "Legal Regulation in the Medical Practice". The specialty was introduced in the University in May 2014. The first module of this specialty was put into practice with the participation of 11 managers from the health care system.

Croatia

ETHICS TEACHER TRAINING IUC COURSE

Teaching was focused on passing knowledge to legal experts and students, but also on practical application of the principles of bioethics. Namely, the Unit supports the organization of the Ethics Teacher Training IUC Course, organized by the Medical Faculty, University of Zagreb, which is held in Dubrovnik every July. It offers an opportunity for participants from around the globe to expand their knowledge and enhance their capacities in ethics.

UNESCO PUBLICATIONS IN CROATIAN LANGUAGE

Furthermore, the Unit was active in presenting UNESCO Publications in Croatian language, but also adding the most important international documents, as well as some commentaries on Croatian medical law. It is important to emphasize that more than 100 students were engaged not only in discussions regarding topics in those publications, but also in the very creation of Croatian versions.

GROUP FOR THE PROTECTION OF PATIENTS' RIGHTS

Finally, 50 students were engaged in the volunteering in the Group for the Protection of Patients' Rights of the Legal Clinic of Faculty of Law. Since its establishment in 2011, the Group solved more than 100 cases, helping citizens with insufficient funds with their medical legal issues. Some of the cases included legal advice regarding health insurance, possibility of treatment in the foreign country, medical negligence, medical malpractice, rights of people with physical and mental disabilities, right to reject treatment due to religious reasons and much more.

Dr. Juraj BROZOVIC, juraj.brozovic@gmail.com

Italy

Minors and Adolescents Ethics Education: Cyberbullism Prevention

The project is promoted by the European Centre for Bioethics and Quality of Life - UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Italian Unit, Dr. Stefano Crétier, Coordinator of the Educational project.

Youth Bioethics Education pilot project

The project is promoted by the European Centre for Bioethics and Quality of Life - UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Italian Unit, Director Dr. Miroslava Vasinova.

Dr. Alessandra Pentone, alesspent@hotmail.com

Japan

Clinical Ethics Case Conferences (Monthly)

Case area: HIV, pregnancy, DNAR, appendicitis, foreigner, prenatal diagnosis, etc.

Participants: Doctors, Nurses, Social workers, Others (bioethics, medical English)

Reflection of dilemma in clinical cases (Workshops)

The first workshop: Reflection of dilemma in clinical cases April 26, 2014

The second workshop: October 10, 2014

Manipal (Southern India)

Bioethics certificate program

Bioethics certificate program prepares practitioners and researchers in medicine, philosophy and law to address bioethical challenges. The course is conducted by Manipal University in collaboration with Clinical Development Services Agency and Manipal Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics. The course, opened for 50 participants, starts on September the 11th 2014 and ends on November the 16th 2014. The course coordinator is Dr Nandini Kumar. For more information, please write to: mcpd.mu@manipal.edu

Prof. Mary Mathew, marypathkmc@yahoo.com

Russia

Refresher courses for teachers on bioethics

Courses on the basis of Volgograd Socio-humanitarian center of additional education - Federal level. (April 2014, 72 hours).

Refresher courses for physicians on bioethics

Courses of improvement for medical law physicians (144 hours, February 2014).

South Africa

Postgraduate Programmes in Bioethics and Health Law

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, teaches bioethics and health law across the undergraduate programmes at the Faculty of Health Sciences. It also runs an MSc Med (Bioethics and Health Law) programme, a PhD programme in Bioethics and Health law, and offers short courses in bioethics and health law for graduates. The MSc Med (Bioethics & Health Law) is a two year part-time programme that aims to train excellent graduates who display skill and proficiency in the fields of bioethics and health law. Application for the 2015 programme will be accepted until 31 October 2014.

The short course programme comprises of four certificate of competence short courses in Bioethics and Health Law. The courses (Foundations of Bioethics; Foundations of Health Law; Research Ethics: Conducting Research Responsibly and Advanced Health Ethics) are open to all graduates.

The PhD programme in Bioethics and Health Law is the only one on the African continent. Though newly established, there is a high demand from applicants wanting to do the programme. It is expected that some of the first students to register for the programme will graduate in 2015.

Serbia

Seminar " Bioethics of life and death"

On 24 June 2014, the Center for the Study of Bioethics, in partnership with the Serbian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and the Center for the Promotion of Science, has organized a seminar entitled "Bioethics of Life and Death", at the Science Club of the Center for Promotion of Science. Guests from the EU, as well as associates of the Center for the Study of Bioethics and the Serbian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics took part in the seminar. Several issues in relation to the bioethics of life and death were addressed: radical life extension, its possible social and psychological consequences, the question of cell life extension, as well as related issues.

Seminar "Disaster Bioethics: In the Aftermath of the Floods in Serbia"

On 10 June 2014, the seminar "Disaster Bioethics: In the Aftermath of the Floods in Serbia" gathered a number of bioethicists, philosophers, physicists, and psychologists who have all tried to shed light on bioethical problems that have surfaced regarding the recent catastrophic floods in Serbia. The seminar was organized by the Center for the Study of Bioethics in cooperation with the Serbian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and the Center for the Promotion of Science. It was opened at the Center for the Promotion of Science by Aleksandra Drecun, the Director of the Center for Promotion of Science, and by the Director of the Center for the Study of Bioethics and Head of the Serbian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Professor Vojin Rakić. The following presentations were delivered: Vojin Rakić: "Do we become more moral when facing disasters?"

Milan M. Ćirković: "Risk analysis: Predictive capability, scalability and selectional effects"; Goran S. Milovanović:"Intuitive risk assessment and the issue of cognitive and moral enhancement";Ana Vlajković: "Psychological aid in disaster settings: from theory to practice".

UKRAINE

Establishment of the Educational and Scientific Center for Medical Law in Kyiv

The Educational and Scientific Center for Medical Law at the Law Faculty of the Kyiv National University named after Taras Shevtchenko was established in July 2014 (director – ass. Prof. R. Hrevtsova). The Center, together with the Chairs of the Law Faculty, work on elaboration of the programs of medico-legal and bioethics-related disciplines ("Human Rights and Biomedicine," etc.) for LLMs.



Kiev, Ukraine

Research

Argentina

POST DEGREE Seminar

- PhD Course: Reprogenetics and Assisted Fecundation: Ethical and Clinical Dilemmas. (80 students yearly).
Chair: Prof. Juan Jorge Michel Fariña (UBA)
- Ph.D. Program : Chair: Prof. Dr. Moty Benyakar
Research team about Human Factors in Disruptive situations for the Ph.D. on Psychology of the University of Salvador. Special group that develops an integral syllabus, based on the study of the theory and practice of the psychodynamic daily clinic activities, the relationship between health professionals and patients, and the development of the UNESCO Bioethics principles. 51 Ph.D. students under the same program, during 2 years.

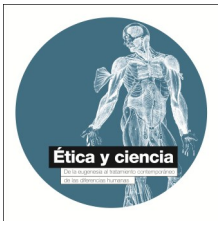
RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Science and Technology Program UBACYT (Universidad de Buenos Aires Ciencia y Técnica) Project 2011-2014: (Bio)Ethics and Human Rights: an analysis of the UNESCO Declaration. Director: Prof. Juan Jorge Michel Fariña
- "The cinematographic narrative as a way of access to the Bioethics complexity, presented in the UNESCO Bioethics Declaration". Lic. Irene Cambra Badii. (PhD thesis, USAL)
- "Development of a model for strengthening the 'Psychic immunity' of bus drivers that faced disruptive events". Dr. León Cohen Bello. (PhD thesis, USAL)
- "Rate of suicides in young people, due the environmental impacts". Dr. Hector Basile
- "The effects of translocation impact in diplomats, in health, values and ethical relations" Lic. Valeria Riccheri.
- "Bioethics and Psychoanalisys: A Narrative approach". Lic. Natacha Lima (PhD thesis, UBA).
- "Narrative Bioethics: Jacques Lacan and the 'clinical text' as a new speech gender". Lic. Hadée Montesano. (PhD thesis, UBA)
- Ethics and human rights: Its articulation into the Universal declaration (UNESCO 2005) facing the new dilemmas of the professional practice. Research project 2011-2014, Director: Prof. Juan Jorge Michel Farina. Institution: Science and technique program, University of Buenos Aires.

The Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights was established by UNESCO in October 2005. It confirms the intimate bond between the notions of Ethics and Human Rights. This project aims at studying that articulation as it appears on a specific scenario: the new dilemmatic issues of the health practice. The project is compound by three stages. The first one will be focused on the update of REST, Racial Ethical Sensibility Test. The second stage will constitute an empirical work through interviewing a sample of practitioners, in order to research the professional conceptions facing critical situations of the practice, which will be analyzed from the ethical perspective. The third stage will be focused on the systematization of the data achieved during the two first steps, and the development of a multimedia system, which will be part of IBIS, International Bioethical Information System. The transference of the results will include a vast range of activities, from postgraduate courses to national programs of Ethical training in education.

BIOETHICS AND APPLIED ETHICS MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENTS











Austria

Prenatal Sex Selection and the Role of International Organizations

In China, India and Vietnam, but also in certain Southeastern European and South Caucasian countries, prenatal sex selection distorting sex ratios at birth up to 120 male per 100 female births, does not only lead to demographic imbalance and increasing violence, but it also further deepens gender inequality and reinforces gender stereotypes. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, as well as the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, both dealt amongst others with distorted sex ratios. Ever since, the United Nations as well as other international organizations have put the issue on their agenda and started interventions. In 2011, the UN interagency statement on "Preventing Gender-Biased Sex Selection" again highlighted the need for urgent intervention. With the continuous development of the post 2015 process and the ICPD follow up, it will become clear how high the issue is ranked on the international organizations' agenda and how effective their actions finally are. For a recent review see: http://gsj.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.184/prod.374

Johanna Kostenzer, PhD candidate in Political Science and International Relations at University of Innsbruck, Austria (Johanna.Kostenzer@mci.edu).

Gender selection in Pakistan - A booming business and a potential threat

Sex determination by prenatal diagnosis followed by selective abortion is a gender-selective practice in countries where distorted sex ratios can be observed. India and China are best known for this problem that is also prevalent in Pakistan. Sex selection can also be part of medically assisted reproduction which nevertheless is prohibited in most countries due to ethical concerns, although keeping this stance is currently debated as outlined by Dondorp et al. (http://humrep.oxfordjournals.org/content/28/6/1448.long) (2013). In Pakistan, sex selection for non-medical reasons is not regulated and offered through internet as part of assisted reproductive services, mostly by private providers, who operate across the country involving local and international medical staff (see for example services offering sex selection for family balancing https://www.facebook.com/AustralianConcept/photos/pb.231056257246.-2207520000.1408395936./10151661352157247/?type=3&theater; brochures available in English and in local languages). Considering the growing business of international assisted reproduction fueled by economic and regulatory gaps between nations, Pakistan seems to fulfill a number of prerequisites for developing into a player in this lucrative market that could also serve Pakistani citizens living abroad or clients from neighboring countries by providing otherwise unavailable sex selection services.

Ayesha Irshad, PhD candidate at Innsbruck Medical University, Austria, studies ethical and social implications related to the use of reproductive advancements in developing countries (Ayesha.Irshad@student.i-med.ac.at).

Croatia

After organizing the 18th World Congress on Medical Law, Croatian Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics has concentrated on the research, publishing and teaching, both setting the same goal: including as many legal experts and students as possible. Although research has covered various topics, the main focus has been put on two: the legal position of HIV/AIDS patients in comparative law and the rights of people with mental disabilities. Research resulted in two draft Laws. Both drafts follow UN and European rules and are in line with the highest level of protecting the autonomy and free consent. Unfortunately, draft Law on Compensation for HIV/AIDS infected Persons through Blood Transfusion still has not been introduced to the Croatian Parliament, whereas the new Law on Protection of People with Mental Disabilities was successfully passed early this year.

Taiwan

National Research Programs

The CBME ELSI team is in charge of a few national research programs including "The ELSI Group of the National Research Program for Bio-pharmaceuticals (NRPB)" which aims to promote mission-oriented ELSI research and development",
and "The Research program on ethical, legal and social issues in new vaccine development, clinical trial, and application." Both are commissioned by the Taiwan Ministry of Science and Technology and concerned with important humanistic perspectives of national strategy in science and technology development. The Taiwan Ministry of Education also commissioned the "Program for Enhancing medical professionalism education" to the research team of the CBME. We are now conducting its 6th year program, which has hugely enriched and transformed the humanities and social science education in medical education, especially in promoting the bioethics and law education.
The Taiwan Unit, the CBME, will continue to promote a range of interesting seminars and events and be responsive to the ELSI challenges domestically and internationally in a constructive and innovative way in the future.

Italy

Victims of Torture: Bioethical Assumptions and Medico-legal Expertise

Prof. Rosa Maria Gaudio, Coordinator of the Research project, University of Ferrara.

Bioethics told to Young People

Prof. Pasquale Giustiniani, Pontificial Theological Faculty of the Southern University "San Tommaso" Department and the Cultural Centre "Oltre il Chiostro" in Naples.
alesspent@hotmail.com



Xiuguluan River, Taiwan

Publications

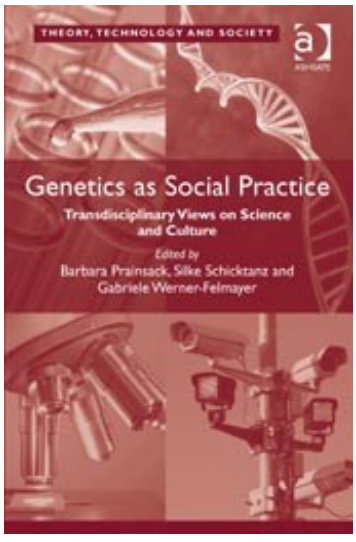
Argentina

- 2014: Benyakar, M.; Michel Fariña, J. (Ed.) *"Lo Disruptivo en el cine. Ensayos ético-psicoanalíticos" (Disruption in movies. Ethical psychoanalytic essays)*. Buenos Aires: Letra Viva.

- 2014: Benyakar, M.; Altman, A. "La 'Vivencia de Incertidumbre'. Un aporte clínico para el abordaje de eventos cardiovasculares en crisis sociales y económicas contemporáneas" ("The 'Experience of Uncertainty'. A clinical contribution to the treatment of cardiovascular events in contemporary social and economic crises"). Arch Cardiol Mex. 2014; 84(supl 2):53-61.

Austria

- "Genetics as Social Practice - Transdisciplinary Views on Science and Culture". Edited by Barbara Prainsack, King's College, London, UK, Silke Schicktanz, University Medical Center Göttingen, Germany, and Gabriele Werner-Felmayer, Medical University Innsbruck, Austria. Ashgate 2014, see: http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409455486



Croatia

The Unit is about to publish a Textbook on Croatian Medical Law which will be a collection of chapters from various publications in the field of medical law and bioethics. It certainly represents a crown for a long-term research in the field. Moreover, some of the Unit members wrote a chapter for the forthcoming "Compendium on European Health Law" that will be published in December 2014. (by Maklu publishers).

India

- **Informed consent in a dental outreach program: what patients want to know their dental treatment?** Pai M. Shenoy R., Rajesh G., Nayak V., Rao A. International Journal of Advanced Research 2014; 2(1):537-543

-"Genetisizing life and its manifold dimensions"

Recent advances in genetics and genomics draw a much more complex picture of how a phenotype is constituted than the hitherto popular but linear DNA-RNA-protein-organism axes. They show a dynamic circuitry of molecular networks and define organisms as self-organising entities with multiple ways of interacting with their environment. In this light, any predictions to be made from DNA sequences have to be understood as options that may occur with certain likelihoods rather than alluding to inescapable future scenarios, at least for the majority of DNA variations. Nevertheless, understanding life as the result of a genetic program that eventually leads to such complex issues as personal identity, health or disease still seems to dominate common sense understandings. In our recent book "Genetics as Social Practice – Transdisciplinary Views on Science and Culture" (eds. Barbara Prainsack, Silke Schicktanz and Gabriele Werner-Felmayer), Ashgate 2014, ISBN 978-1-4094-5548-6 (http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409455493), authors from various scientific fields and from arts explore the mutual relationships between genetics, markets, societies and identities and analyze how cultural meanings and practices of genetics shape the related scientific, ethical and legal debates. For a recent review by Yael Hashiloni-Dolev in *New Genetics and Society* see: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14636778.2014.905198#.U_JR3mNUA_Y

Gabriele WERNER-FELMAYER, Division of Biological Chemistry and Ethucation Bioethics Network, Austrian unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics' International Network (gabriele.werner-felmayer@i-med.ac.at)

Italy

"**Benefit & Harm**" of UNESCO publication translation by Ethics Committee of Naples Federico II University, Italy.

"**Bioethical Issues**" by CIRB (Inter-Universities Center for Bioethics Research), Editoriale Scientifica, Naples, Italy.

South Africa

RECOGNITION

Kevin Behrens' article picked as Routledge Philosophy 'Editors' Choice'. Routledge Philosophy is part of the Taylor and Francis Group, publishing 12 journals in the broad area of philosophy. These include the prestigious *Inquiry*, the *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* and the *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*. Each year the editors make a selection of significant articles published in their journals through the years in order to highlight their work. The editors of the *Journal of Global Ethics* have selected an article by Dr Kevin Behrens, Senior Lecturer at the Steve Biko Center for Bioethics, South African Unit of the UNESCO International Network in Bioethics, for their 'Editors' Choice' of 2014. The article is entitled: *Moral Obligations towards future generations in African thought* (Journal of Global Ethics 2012; *8* (2-3): 179-191). Talking about this paper, Dr Behrens explained that the production and profit characteristics of modernity have not made sustainability possible and Western philosophical thought has not been able to justify a responsibility toward the environment and future generations. "African philosophical thought prescribes a harmonious relationship with the environment that allows various communities dependent on the environment to share the resources across generations", he said.

Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape
UNESCO World Heritage Site—South Africa

Serbia

PUBLICATIONS IN JOURNALS FROM THE THOMSON-REUTERS LIST

- Rakić, V. (2014- Rakić, V. (2014). "**Voluntary Moral Bioenhancement Is a Solution to Sparrow's Concerns**". American Journal of Bioethics 14(4): 37-38).

- **"We Can Make Room for SSRIs**". American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience 5(3): 34-35

- Rakić, V. (2014). "**Voluntary moral enhancement and the survival-at-any-cost bias**". *Journal of Medical Ethics* 40(4): 246-250.

- Ćirković, M. (2014). "**Evolutionary contingency and SETI revisited**". *Biology and Philosophy* 29: 539-557

- Krajnović, D and Jocić, D. (2014). "**State anxiety, stress and burnout syndrome among community pharmacists: Relation with pharmacists' attitudes and beliefs**". *Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Education and Research* 48 (2):9-15.

- Mitrović, V. (2014). "**The Contingency of the Enhancement" Arguments: The Possible Transition from Ethical Debate to Social and Political Programs***". Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies* 13(37): 93-124.



USA

- **Recognizing Misleading Pharmaceutical Marketing Online**. De Freitas J, Falls BA, Haque OS, Bursztajn HJ. J Am Acad Psychiatry Law. 2014:42:219-225.

- **Direct-to-patient laboratory test reporting: Balancing access with effective clinical communication** Young MJ, Scheinberg E, Bursztajn HJ.. JAMA. June 16, 2014. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.5823.

- **Maintenance of recovery from severe psychotic depression following successful ECT in an elderly patient with natural support**. Ahmed M, Bursztajn HJ, Jalil B, Rahman R, Khan AN. J Clin Gerontol Geriatr. In Press.

- **The traumatized older individual and society**. Tanaka G, Soonsawat A, Haque OM, Bursztajn HJ. In Holzer JC, Kohn R, Ellison JM, Recupero PR, eds. The Oxford University Press Textbook of Geriatric Forensic Psychiatry. 1st ed. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press, in press.

- **Cure of Souls: Judaism.** Terry Bard, D.D., Chapter in PSYCHOTHERAPY AND THE CURE OF THE SOUL (2014), ed. Thomas O'Connor. Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Winnepeg, Canada

- **Disability and Equality at work**. Michael Ashley Stein (Oxford University Press 2014) (ed. with Jody Heymann & Gonzalo Moreno)

- **Disability and Equality Law** Publishing 2013) ed. with Elizabeth F. Emens

- **Critical Social and Economic Issues of Development and Human Rights: Disability**, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT (Michael Ashley Stein, Stephen P. Marks & Balakrishnan Rajagopal ed. 2014) (with Janet E. Lord)

- **Accessing Socio-Economic Rights: The Rights of Person with Disabilities**, in Equality and Socio-Economic Rights: International Context (Malcolm Langford & Eibe Reidel eds. 2014) with Janet E. Lord)

- **The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, in THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A CRITICAL APPRAISAL ___ (Michael Ashley Stein, Philip Alston & Frédéric Mégret eds. 2014) (with Janet E. Lord)

- **Extending Evolutionary Accounts of Religion Beyond the Mind: Religions as Adaptive Social Systems**. Purzycki, B.G., Haque, O.S. & Sosis, R. (2014). In F.Watts & L. Turner (Eds.), The Evolution of Religion: Critical and Constructive Essays. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.



Yellowstone National Park
UNESCO World Heritage Site, USA

Focus on units

What does it mean today to talk about bioethics in Albania?



First of all, it means bioethical education. Since the fall of the regime in 1990, Albania had to change the entire social structure, including its scale of values. The definition of the human being in the previous scale of values has generated a man deprived of his freedom to choose his life and death. In the years that have daredevilry followed, that lost freedom has often been violently misinterpreted by one of its opposite forms: a deep disregard of any form of social organization and a complete disdain of the other.

To talk today about bioethics in Albania, it simply means to share the basic principle of any form of civil society: respect for the other, for his life, his choices, his needs at all levels. In order to share this principle the involvement of the state, as the first partner of the dialogue is mandatory.

A key element of this dialogue is represented by the bioethics education and first of all the bioethics education of the health care professionals. This is the reason why it represents the main strategic goal of the Albanian Unit of Bioethics (UNESCO). A teaching book of bioethics for the students of all the faculties of the Medical University of Tirana, based upon the fundamental principles, globally shared, and enriched with local elements: this remains the main target of the Albanian Unit of Bioethics. The achievement of this goal will be based on the collaboration with the other Units of the Network.

INTERVIEW TO DR. ALTIN STAFA, HEAD OF UNESCO CHAIR IN BIOETHICS ALBANIAN UNIT

A NOTE FROM PROF. GABRIELE WERNER-FELMAYER, AUSTRIAN UNIT HEAD

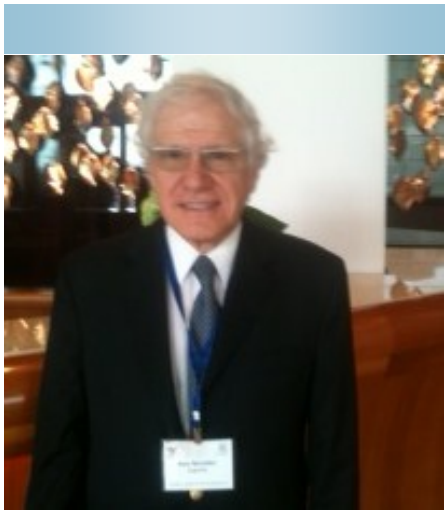
Ethucation, the Austrian unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics' International Network was established in 2007 at Medical University of Innsbruck. From the beginning, achieving interdisciplinarity was one of our major goals. Ever since, we therefore engage in building space and opportunity for networking, dialogue and exchange of colleagues from different backgrounds. We are meanwhile well known for scholarship and educational expertise in bioethics at Medical University of Innsbruck and several other universities and tertiary schools in Innsbruck and have taken a place in Austria's bioethics scene. We also cooperate with other institutions with regard to educating and informing the broader public about issues in bioethics and medical ethics, particularly with the association for "Science & Responsibility" (Wissenschaft und Verantwortlichkeit, WuV, at: http://www.uibk.ac.at/wuv/). On the international scale, we are currently strengthening cooperation with the network's units from Central and Eastern Europe (CAEE, headed by Vojin Rakic, Belgrade). Our members are experts in palliative care, in philosophical concepts of self, person and determinism/indeterminism in nature, in ideas of justice in economics, in management and law in the health system, as well as in ethics of biomedicine regarding concepts of identity, race, gender, illness, health. A current research focus lies in reproductive medicine from a human rights perspective, where we have formed a local research network as well as an international cooperation with colleagues from Israel (Carmel Shalev) and the network's units of Australia (Irina Pollard) and Argentina (Juan Jorge Michel Fariña).

For more information on our unit see: https://www.i-med.ac.at/ethucation/index.html.en

Gabriele WERNER-FELMAYER, Division of Biological Chemistry and Ethucation Bioethics Network, Austrian unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics' International Network (gabriele.werner-felmayer@i-med.ac.at)

Eco – Bioethics

INTERVIEW TO
PROF. MOTY BENYAKAR
HEAD OF UNESCO CHAIR IN
BIOETHICS ARGENTINE UNIT



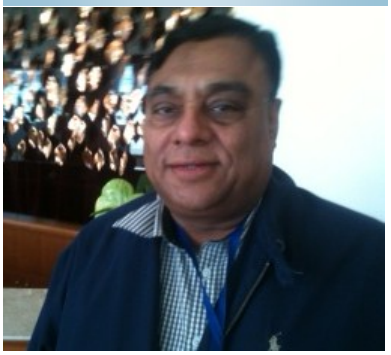
While Bioethics concept was proposed by Fritz Jahr in 1927 as a global ethic, it was transformed by Van Rensselaer Potter in 1970. From that moment, Bioethics concept was only used in Hospitals and Health services. In this area two professions were those who led the development of Bioethics. Recently, professionals have been talking about a comprehensive and broader Bioethics, but the truth is that it is an expression of will, because the teaching and training of it are in Medicine and Law Schools. This concept couldn't be introduced in Economics, Politics Science, Business Administration Psychology, Psychoanalysis and Sociology Schools. In the world today, these last Schools are the ones who decide the way in which attention and medical services are carried out, as well as the care needs of different areas.

Just as an example, AIDS or HIV in Africa was epidemic, and Bill Clinton, with a political decision, told the laboratories to distribute almost free vaccine there. This is one of the many examples of a true integration. To implement Interdisciplinary, it is necessary a paradigm shift and a concept that expresses that change. This is the reason why I proposed to the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, the 'Ecobioethics' concept. This concept is based on the guidelines of Complexity, proposed by Edgar Morin, and develops a real 'Transdiscipline', as a new attitude that comes to replace 'Interdisciplinary', which is the compartmentalization of knowledge. Ecobioethics is not referred to Environmental Ethics, but an Integrative Bioethics that has a few principles:

1) It is related to relations between men, in different aspects of health, in its broader term.
2) It is based on the principles of Complexity, postulated by Edgar Morin.
3) It develops 'Trandiscipline', unlike 'Interdiscipline'.
4) It must be taught and trained in different Schools, not only by theoretical concepts, but also promoting real actions to develop ethical attitudes between human beings, and also with the environment.
5) Programs should be developed, from Kindergarten to Ph.D. titles
6) It must be based on the general principles proposed by UNESCO.
7) It should include principles of different cultures, beliefs, traditions, etc.
8) It should include not only the individual attention, but also special situations of disasters and catastrophes.
9) For all these reasons, as a first step we are developing the 'Iberoamerican Ecobioethics Network for Education, Science and Technology. UNESCO Chair in Bioethics'.

Our vision and mission is to convey this type of approach to bioethics, based on the concepts of Ecobioethics.

Research on ethical issues in surrogacy in India



Interview to Prof. Russel D'SOUZA Head of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Asia Pacific Program

Professor Russell D'Souza Chair of Asia Pacific Bioethics Program of the UNESCO Program and Professor Mary Matthew Manipal University India and Asia Pacific UNESCO Program are working on a research project which involves a survey of ethical issues that are being examined in the process of surrogacy contracts being executed in India.

A study of ethical issues related to:

1. The Biological parents taking custody of their child from the surrogate mother
2. Ethical issues with surrogate mother in relation to post parting experiences
3. Ethical issues surrounding the information with the health consequences of the surrogate mother

This project of the Asia Pacific Bioethics program of the UNESCP Chair is of great importance given that surrogacy is a related to Globalisation and the use of biological mothers with health and cosmetic needs from Western Industrialised countries seeking the service of Surrogate Mothers on India and other developing countries.

Bioethics as a moral revolution: the ideals of citizens not subjects



Interview to Prof. Vugar MAMMADOV Head of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Azerbaijani Unit

In Azerbaijan teaching bioethics involves medical students and recently even law students. Our main effort is basically raising awareness and widespreading of moral values, fighting against their underestimation or, even worse, their removal.

Health care system is becoming privatized, requiring paying really attention and a controlled supervision: bioethics can and should do it. From informed consent to the need of privacy, we do strongly emphasize the not alienable value of individual freedom as well as the defense of human dignity.

This way, we constantly measure our effort promoting enhancing of values in our society through mass media especially shows on television. In fact bioethics has to recall and create sensitiveness through a fundamental education. Saving rights of the future generations, we have to promote the environmental conservation talking about its sustainable development. We strongly have to underline ethical dilemmas that would otherwise be unspoken and neglected. In the delicate field of GMOs we stress the need for caution and defense of current biodiversity, even to protect local agricultural production. We always keep in mind that a nation is made by active and free people and we care about health and dignity of our citizens.

China, first steps on Bioethics

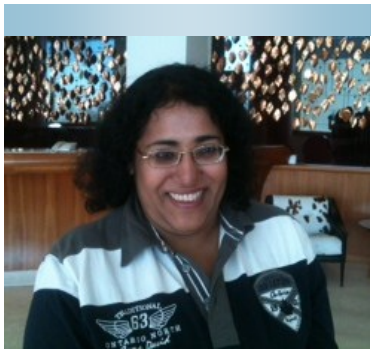
Recently, the first research team specifically for bioethics was established while another one already belongs to medicine. Today the ethical issue of organs transplantation represents the main focus but we have to underline that ethical reflection has a millennial old tradition in China. In fact, since more than one thousand years the moral consequences of medical sciences have been studied in this country. Today, bioethics learning is an optional subject at university; its spreading depends basically on the interest of both teachers and students, and its education and teaching is constantly increasing. Currently bioethics is taught only at theoretical level in medicine faculties and now also in philosophy ones. Organ transplants, the main area of intervention of bioethics in China, are available procedures only in a few specialized hospitals. Organ transplantation dilemma in children is still an open problem: at the moment parents decide for it. Quality of life will be for sure the main topic to predict and measure the development of possible exchanges and collaboration with the Western world.



INTERVIEW TO
PROF. CHONGQI WU
PAST PRESIDENT OF
CHINA HEALTH LAW SOCIETY

Bioethics in India
supporting moral values
during economic development

Dr Palatty is the Head of Southern India Unit UNESCO Chair in Bioethics. Physician, specialized in pharmacology, she came very soon in contact with the economic reality of pharmaceutical companies and their deep influence in administering very expensive drugs. Dr Palatty has always nurtured an innate interest in bioethics that has led her in 2011 to the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Conference in Singapore when, through a training course, she was able to focus on their goals and learn how to achieve them. In fact, in her own and only faculty of Medicine of southern India in Mangalo, together with her staff members, she succeeded to implement training courses in bioethics for students, constantly applying the principles of UNESCO as part of the administration of new drugs to the patients, without any economic interference. India is a country where medical ethics has a very ancient tradition which, after a long period of silence, can and should sprout again, considering the widespread and growing interest in bioethical dilemmas.



INTERVIEW TO
PROF. PRINCY LOUIS PALATTY
HEAD OF UNESCO CHAIR IN
BIOETHICS SOUTH INDIA UNIT



Interview to
Prof. Daniella Keidar
International Centre for Health,
Ethics and Law, Israel

Human Communication in Education – Brain, Feelings and Behaviour

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the correct and effective use of thoughts and emotions that leads to a behaviour which advances relations systems and brings one to an optimal state with oneself and with one's environment.

By recruiting one's emotions and correctly connecting them to the rational thinking process one can create a harmony between one's thoughts, feelings and behaviour and direct one's responses through conscious choices.

Those who deal with education have received the greatest privilege, possibility and opportunity to influence and shape future generations and thus shape society. The existential and moral future of a state and its society lies in its people who pour into it human elements. Teachers, lecturers, educators, educational consultants and managers – the very important human resource and the core of the educational system – can, by an intelligent use of Emotional Intelligence, bring the educational system to its full and complete potential and destination.

The education system is the melting pot through which it is possible to equip children and students with tools and skills which will help and assist them to create for themselves and for their surroundings more meaningful, valuable, ethical and happy lives. The implementing of Emotional Intelligence in education will better enable those who deal with education to nurture and nourish human competencies that will help opening doors to a human and enlightened communication. By thus one can bring education's destiny and meaning to its pick. The beginning lies in Albert Einstein's saying: "Example isn't another way to teach, it is the only way to teach".



Interview to
Prof. Ahmed Al-Badawy, Oman

Oman, Bioethics developing for the future - UNESCO as a light house

Oman can be considered a very young country in the field of scientific research. Even if only recently it has been overlooking the world of Bioethics with its principles and its values, since the past two years this country has fully shared bioethical contents. Particularly in medicine, in the context of abortion, vegetative state and life ending issues, there is an established practice that blends harmoniously into the specific social texture, in accordance with the Islamic culture. Oman, working on the health guidelines of its own country, inspired by the principles of UNESCO, follows a "preventive" line, looking to the international horizons where years of experience have enabled the occurrence of big mistakes that Oman does not want to repeat.

Bioethics in Serbia



Ethical reflections on new biotechnologies are gaining momentum in Serbia. During the previous years Serbian bioethics has flourished.

The Center for the Study of Bioethics (CSB) has been founded at the University of Belgrade. The Serbian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics has been founded in 2011. It is closely affiliated with CSB and the University of Belgrade. The Central and Eastern European Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics has been established in Belgrade in 2013. Part of CSB is also the Cambridge Working Group for Bioethics Education in Serbia. CSB members are both Serbian members and associate members. They are the world's most reputed bioethicists (see www.csb.eu.com).

In May 2013 CSB organized an international bioethics conference on enhancement, together with the Oxford Centre for Neuroethics and the Belgrade based Center for the Development of Liberalism. The conference centered around the debate between John Harris and Julian Savulescu on enhancement. The discussant was Peter Singer. The event sparked widespread publicity, including mass media. In addition to this, the number of bioethics courses for students of philosophy, medicine and pharmacology is increasing in Serbia.

Nonetheless, many challenges remain. The broader public is relatively unacquainted with bioethics. Bioethical topics are however very important, attractive and thought-provoking, which is why Serbian bioethicists have a good basis to popularize this discipline with the broader public as well. It is important to acquaint all generations and a variety of professionals with bioethical issues.

The events of the previous years give ample reason for optimism when the future of bioethics in Serbia is concerned.

Interview to Prof. Vojin RAKIC
UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Serbia Unit
and
to Mrs Olivera Mijuskovic
MPhil, Bioethics, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad

VIPs & Institutions

Compliments by Asia Pacific Bioethics Program Head

Dear Unit heads, members and colleagues,

I take this opportunity to congratulate Prof Mary Mathew Prof of Pathology &Head Manipal unit Karnataka State and Prof Nandini Kumar (formally of ICMR) within the leadership of the Indian Bioethics program of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics in establishing and initiating the Bioethics certificate program of Manipal University.

Prof Thangaraju Pro Vice Chancellor SRM University, Head and Prof Balakrishnan Prof of ENT & Dean, Chair of the Indian Nodal Bioethics centre, who are hosting on 20th September a conclave of unit heads of our program to review and consolidate the Vertically Integrated Bioethics Curriculum for medical training that we have developed and is being piloted currently at Fr. Muller Medical College Mangalore by Prof Princy Palatty Prof of Pharmacology Head South India Unit.. This will be reviewed by the UNESCO Chair for consideration and to be reviewed by MCI. I congratulate their leadership in this important initiative of our program.

I am honoured as a visiting faculty member at these units to be associated with these and other initiatives that are in place, contributing significantly to the identified need to quality of training of doctors and health care professionals. I will be attending the formal inauguration on 23rd September 2014. You are welcome to collaborate with this initiative. The Indian Bioethics program has from all of India presently 8 Medical Colleges and universities participating with a further 12 Medical Schools and universities, going through the due process for establishing Bioethics Units as part of the UNESCO chair's program. This program is part of the Asia Pacific program that reaches out with 9 national units in Medical Universities in countries in South East, South, Far East Asia and the Pacific.

The scholarly publication of the UNESCO chair Global Bioethics Enquiry is being inaugurated with Prof Haris Chandra Gambheera Head Srilanka Unit and editor along with an outstanding editorial board leading this initiative. Best Wishes

Prof. Russell D'Souza MD

Head of the Asia Pacific Bioethics Program
UNESCO Chair in Bioethics

UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 9th World Conference

On November 19-21, 2013 in Naples, Italy, under the auspices of UNESCO, took place the 9th UNESCO Chair in Bioethics World Conference: "BIOETHICS, MEDICAL ETHICS & HEALTH LAW": 800 speakers selected by the International scientific committee, among 1300 participants, representing more than 40 target groups with 200 scientific sessions from 66 Countries belonging to all the 5 Continents.

An exceptional event and a wonderful opportunity in exchanging information and knowledge and debating about very important topics: informed consent, doctor-patient relationship, euthanasia, organ donation, stem cells, abortion and in vitro fertilization, genetic engineering, patient rights, violence and tortures in immigration, disability, bioethics education for schools and health professionals are only some of the topics discussed. This was a great opportunity for researchers , academics and other interested people who were new to the field to interact with very famous professors.

The Conference provided an extraordinary frame for a special meeting and allowing the sometimes difficult exchange of point of views arising from different worlds and cultures that are often poles apart. It was a great opportunity to come to together and all work together.

Forensic doctors, vascular surgeons, psychiatrists, neurologists, child psychiatrists, dentists, biologists, geneticists, lawyers, psychologists, philosophers, teachers as well as educators, nurses, speech therapists, physiotherapists, and experts in different fields participated and shared their own experience.

The World Conference was organized by UNESCO Chair in Bioethics in collaboration with the Ethics Committee "Carlo Romano" of Naples University Federico II and with the European Centre for Bioethics and Quality of Life – UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Italian Unit, strongly supported by Dr Miroslava Vasinova, President of the European Centre for Bioethics and Quality of Life and Head of the Italian Unit.

Presidents of the World Conference were Prof. Amnon Carmi - the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Holder and Prof. Claudio Buccelli – Director of Naples University Federico II Ethics Committee and Head of the International Office for Bioethics Research of the European Centre for Bioethics and Quality of Life– UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Italian Unit.

9th UNESCO Chair in Bioethics World Conference "BIOETHICS, MEDICAL ETHICS & HEALTH LAW" November 19-21, 2013 was held at Royal Continental Congress Centre - Naples, Italy. Bioethical Education and Life Long Learning sessions took place at Orientale's Du Mesnil Palace, Naples.

"It was the greatest World Conference ever organized by UNESCO about Bioethics" said Professor Amnon Carmi. "The Naples Conference was a great meeting of energies, knowledge and enthusiasm: it will function and serve as the bioethical lighthouse for the next generation. Each person will go back to his own country with new ideas, proposals and projects for the future. Now it's time for an important, complex and difficult step, to spread the bioethical message to the society, planting into the soul of people the ethical values. The experts attending this Conference with their knowledge, wisdom and courage, are expected to undertake this mission and to motivate this process."

"The world goes round quickly, history develops fast, new biological realities and social relationships related to environment, health, people overlook with problems unimaginable in the past, while old questions are waiting for new solutions. Bioethics can and should give appropriate answers to all this. Not playing politics or interfering. That's the challenge that comes from Naples since 40 years ago the birth of that brilliant idea suggesting that thinking over Bioethics was the science of surviving and a "bridge to the future", said Professor Claudio Buccelli. "New comparisons have to be realized on that hypothetical bridge that connects biological knowledge and human values. It must be established how to go on aware of an essential balance between science and society. Bioethics as a universal language of listening, tolerance, meeting of crucial life choices, not only in medical field. "

Dr. Alessandra PENTONE,
UNESCO Chair in Bioethics World Conference Press Office bioethicalvoices@gmail.com

For complete information about the Congress, see Attachments: 1) ***brochure Napoli 2013****; 2)* ***press releases****; 3)* ***report of the conference*** *and 4)* ***communicating bioethics****.*

Interview to Prof. Amnon Carmi, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Holder & World Conference President



Prof. Amnon CARMI &
Prof. Claudio BUCCELLI
UNESCO Chair in Bioethics
Conference in Naples co-Presidents

"**Is it true that after Naples Conference Bioethics will have a new life starting right now?**" *"Yes, it is."* **"This new life will be against the old one?"** *"No, because the new era very naturally is based upon the old".*

"**How is it possible to talk about Bioethics to different worlds and cultures? Which are the most important difficulties and positive aspects?"** *"It is very difficult and the only chance to overcome these difficulties is if you have both readiness and ability to overcome it. The only chance is if you are ready to offer something in order to get something, and what we are doing in UNESCO Chair in Bioethics is to offer our knowledge and good will in order to achieve the human culture and moral collaboration".*

"One of the aims of this Conference was to bring face to face people from different generations and backgrounds, young Bioethics followers and old experts, pure theorists and people that are daily in staff with practical problems: was this aim successfully gained?" *We have experienced in this Conference how important it was for young scholars not only to listen to the older ones but also having the opportunity to meet them and talk with them during the intervals of the lunches and the coffee breaks. All the same with regard to the older ones who are not ready sometimes to read papers of the younger colleagues. However in this Conference while attending the sessions they had the opportunity to enjoy the imagination of the young generation."*

"**You have been in countries where a different attention to human rights is: how much could be difficult to underline mostly ethical values in these places?"** *"Right, it is difficult. Formally it can be done because all countries have agreed upon the basic ethical principles. It is a fact that many of the existing principles are formed by the Western culture even though the other cultures and continents have accepted in principle the Western approach. It is needed to show understanding and respect to the other cultures, but in order to reach the acceptance of ethical principles it is necessary to accept the consent of the other party. Consent requires the existence of the will to consent. We are dealing with a process of human and moral dialogue which requires also lot of patience and the readiness to leave aside matters that are not important in order to agree about the real relevant and critical methods."*

Dr Giacomo SADO, Press Office Director
UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 9th World Conference
bioethicalvoices@gmail.com

UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 10th World Conference

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics is pleased to invite you to become an active participant at the 10th World on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law which will take place from 6th January to the 8th January 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jerusalem, Israel.

The Conference is designed to offer a platform for the exchange of information and knowledge and to hold discussions, lectures, workshops and exhibition of programs and databases.

The conference will cover areas like Bioethics & Law, Eco-Bioethics, Dental Ethics & Law, Environmental Ethics & Law, Ethics & Religions, Bioethics & Medical Ethics in Sub-Saharan Africa and in the developing world, ethics of transplantation, ethical implications in era of limited resources, Reproductive tourism, Cross-border human embryo and stem cell transfers, Transnational egg cell and sperm donations, Global surrogacy practices, Commodification of human bodies and tissues for medically assisted reproduction (MAR) Gender, globalisation and repro-genetic technologies, MAR global market failures and successes, Human dignity of women, Rights of children, Accessibility and availability of treatment for infertility, Vulnerabilities to exploitation, Ethics of care and responsibility, Professional accountability, Human rights governance, Bioethics & Speech therapy, Bioethics & Nursing etc.

The conference is organized by the ISAS International Seminars in collaboration with:

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Medical Association (WMA)
- World Psychiatric Association (WPA)
- World Association of Medical Law (WAML)
- European Medical Students' Association (EMSA)
- Israel Medical Association (IMA)
- Israel Nursing Association (INA)
- Zefat Academic College, Israel
- The International Center for Health, Law and Ethics, University of Haifa
- Israel National Bioethics Council
- Israel National - Commission for UNESCO
- Clalit Health Services
- Maccabi Healthcare Services
- Leumit Health Services

If you wish to take part in the scientific program, submit your abstract together with a short CV to: seminars@isas.co.il Deadline for abstract submission: September 30, 2014
For more information, please refer to: http://www.isas.co.il/bioethics2015/

Information

Highlighting the ethics of inter-country medically assisted reproduction at the 2015 conference in Jerusalem

A special meeting on ERIMAR, an international project on ethics and regulation of inter-country medically assisted reproduction, will be held during the UNESCO chairs' bioethics conference in Jerusalem in January 2015.

About the next UNESCO World Congress, see http://www.isas.co.il/bioethics2015/ *and the attachment "**brochure 2015**"*

Past Events

MARCH 2014

TAIWAN

On March 30th —"**International Conference on Innovation and Reflection on Medical Humanities and Bioethics Education ~ East Asian Perspectives**" was jointly held by CBME and the "Health and Humanities Research Platform (HHRP) of Institute for Advanced Studies in Society and Science, NTU. Leading bioethics and medical humanity scholars from Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan eagerly shared and exchanged their experiences and reflections on the theories and practice of bioethics and medical humanity education. The participants also engaged in heated discussion and gave very positive feedback for the conference.



THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN TAIWAN

APRIL 2014

ARGENTINA

XXIX **Argentinean Congress of Psychiatry. International Symposium.** Benyakar, M.; Cohen Bello, L.; Stein, E.; Taffet, G.; Thome, J. "Human Factors in Disasters". Mar del Plata, April 2014.

UAE

2nd International Conference and Exhibition on Dental and Oral Health at Dubai from 21—24th April 2014. Dr Ramya Shenoy from India presented a paper titled "*Perceptions of pregnant women with low educational attainment about informed consent while registering into randomized controlled trial in India – A qualitative study.*"

LATVIA

European Health Law Conference on "Access to Health Care" Conference in Riga, hosted of Latvia University - 28-29 April, 2014. European Health Law Conference on "Access to Health Care" in Riga, hosted of Latvia University. Health Lawyers from more than 40 countries, including South Africa and the US, addressed current ethical and legal challenges relating to the right to access to health care, including access to health care in disaster scenarios, as well as priorities, funding and rationing in health care. Several outstanding keynote speakers raised important issues in this context. One of them, Tapani Piha, Head of Unit at the European Commission DG Health and consumers, reported about the current "EU m-health strategy" and its legal challenges. Ineta Ziemele, Judge of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), presented mile stone decisions of the ECHR in the field of health law and its influence on Member States' laws. A full conference report as well as conference presentations can be downloaded at the homepage of the European Association of Health Law at www.eahl.eu/.Verena Stühlinger, Senior Scientist at the Department of Public Health and Health Technology Assessment, UMIT, Austria (www.umit.at). Verena Stühlinger is a member of the advisory board of the European Association of Health Law and National Contact Person (Austria) for the association (verena.stuehlinger@umit.at).



BRINGING BIOETHICS TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

USA: Panel: Institutional Culture: A Steadying Influence in a Sea of Turbulent Changes in Health care— Andre Churchwell, M.D., GDI/GSA/ OSR National AAMC Meeting. April 2014. San Diego, CA.

ITALY: Youth Bioethics Education workshop – European Centre for Bioethics and Quality of Life – UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Unit, 4-6/4/2014 - Naples, Italy.

MAY 2014

USA

"Forensic Psychiatric Contributions to Understanding Financial Crime." Institutional Corruption and the Capital Markets: Financial Benchmark and Currency Manipulation, Enforcement Strategies and Regulatory Re-design, Harold J. Bursztajn, M.D., Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, May 23, 2014.

JUNE 2014

SERBIA

SEMINAR "BIOETHICS OF LIFE AND DEATH" On 24 June 2014, the Center for the Study of Bioethics, in partnership with the Serbian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and the Center for the Promotion of Science, has organized a seminar entitled "Bioethics of Life and Death", at the Science Club of the Center for Promotion of Science. Guests from the EU, as well as associates of the Center for the Study of Bioethics and the Serbian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics took part in the seminar. Several issues in relation to the bioethics of life and death were addressed: radical life extension, its possible social and psychological consequences, the question of cell life extension, as well as related issues. The speakers at the seminar were:

• Rosa Rantanen, M.Soc.Sc., Doctoral Candidate, University of Turku, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Philosophy: "Bioethical aspects of radical life extension"

• Marina Stamenković-Radak, Full Professor at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology, Principal Research Fellow at the Institute for Biological Research, Center for the Study of Bioethics: "Cell life extension: costs and benefits?"

• Goran S. Milovanović, PhD, Center for the Study of Bioethics: "The psychology of Methuselah: On possible socio-psychological consequences of radical life extension"

ITALY

BIOETHICS DILEMMAS IN SURGERY DISCIPLINES on the 13-14.6 in Naples organized by Naples Federico II University, Italy sponsored by UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Italian Unit.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. M. ROMANO, DR. M. VASINOVA, PROF. A. CARMI.

JULY 2014

TAIWAN

On 9th July 2014, Professor Dominique Sprumont, Directeur adjoint, Institut de droit de la santé, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland, gave a speech on **'The ethics and regulation on research biobank and leftover biomaterials: the European perspectives'** which was participated by the ELSI scholars, clinical and basic science researchers, and IRB members from the Research Ethics Committee of the NTUH. The use of leftover human tissues and biomaterials for research has caused serious ethical, legal and regulatory concerns. The discussion focused on similarities and difference between our local regulations with the European policies. Professor Sprumont later gave a talk on "The End of life care ethics and the Swiss experience on physician assisted suicide" at the Clinical Ethics Committee of the National Taiwan University Hospital. Although Taiwan has more relaxed legal regulation on withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment (LST) for end of life patients since 2 years ago, the Swiss experiences and practice of "physician assisted suicide" still drew heated discussion and debates from the ethics committee members.



PROF. D. SPRUMONT GIVING THE SPEECH IN TAIWAN

Next Events

UNITED KINGDOM

20 September 2014

I**naugural Institute of Medical Ethics Research Conference** will take place in London on Saturday 20th September and that they can now book online: http://www.instituteofmedicalethics.org/website/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=386:-the-inaugural-ime-research-conference-saturday-20-september-2014&catid=48:ime-conferences&Itemid=36

BELGIUM

22 October 2014

EGE's public ***Round Table on the Ethics of Citizen Involvement and Health*** *taking place on 22nd October 2014 in Brussels, Belgium,* 11h30 – 18h00, in the Berlaymont Building of the European Commission in Brussels. For a detailed map of the location, please see the attached document. Should you be unable to attend in person, the Round Table will be web-streamed on the EGE website (http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/european-group-ethics/index_en.htm.) The Round Table recording will also be available online after the event has taken place. You can also participate by providing a written contribution on the topic of the ethics of Citizen Involvement and Health, which should be sent via e-mail to BEPA-ETHICS-GROUP@ec.europa.eu by 10 October 2014. Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the EGE Secretariat at BEPA-ETHICS-GROUP@ec.europa.eu

USA

13-14 November 2014

International Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting: Advancing the development and responsible application of neuroscience, Washington, DC. For more information: http://www.neuroethicssociety.org/

JAPAN

23-24 November 2014

International Conference of the Japanese Association for Philosophical and Ethical Research in Medicine. Main Theme: **Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine in Multicultural Society,** Tokyo University, Japan

AUSTRALIA

3-5 December 2014

Australasian Ethics Network Conference, University of Sydney, Australia.

For details please visit https://aenconference.com

USA

5 – 7 December 2014

Advancing Ethical Research Conference, Baltimore MD, USA.

For details please visit: http://www.primr.org/aer14/

ISRAEL

6-8 January 2015

UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 10th World Conference:

Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law –Jerusalem, Israel

For details please visit: http://www.unesco -chairbioethics. org/

UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Holder's Message

I am pleased to address you and to announce the launching of the first issue of the Chair's new Newsletter.

For a number of years the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics wanted to publish its own Newsletter. There have been attempts at publishing but, for whatever reason, the Newsletter has not materialized. During the 9th World Conference on Bioethics that was held in 2013 in Napoli, I was approached by Dr. M. Vasinova who was ready to undertake this mission. Dr. Vasinova has established in Italy many years ago the first Unit of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics. In light of her contribution to the successful development of the Italian Unit in particular and of the Chair in general, she was awarded the first Honorary Member of the UNESCO Chair. Dr. Vasinova collected an enthusiastic team of volunteers who are ready to edit our Newsletter. It is needless to emphasize the importance of this communication apparatus that will join the old one of our website. It will enable our members to exchange information, data, plans, ideas and suggestions and to encourage the professional and friendly relations among them.

I would like to urge all of you to adopt your new Newsletter, to enrich it with your contributions and to distribute it among your wide circles.

It gives me pleasure to express the Chair's thanks and appreciation to the members of the editorial board: Dr. Giacomo SADO (Director), Dr. Alessandra PENTONE (International Advisor), Dr. Stefano CRÉTIER (Scientific Advisor), Prof. Claudio TODESCO (Tecnical Advisor) Prof. Carlo PASETTI (Bioethics Expert) and to the diligent initiator Dr. Miroslava VASINOVA.

Prof. Amnon CARMI, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Holder

Announcements

NEWSLETTER BIOETHICAL VOICES' LOGO

As suggested by professor Carmi, the present Newsletter will be published without a Logo and we are pleased to invite all Units of the Chair to propose one until 20 October 2014 to the Bioethics Voices Editorial Board.

NEWSLETTER'S CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIREMENTS

The contributions for the next Bioethical Voices newsletter must be forwarded to the Editorial Board before 31 October 2014. They should to be written in good English and in Word Format, with some photos (where possible) and their contents should be of international interest.
Each author is personally responsible for the contents and the language of his/her own contribution. Contributions must be signed.

INDEX
Editorial, Bioethics in the world, About legislation and judgments, Education, Research, Publications, Focus on Units, Bioethics VIPs and Institutions, Past UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Conference, Next UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Conference, International events, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Holder's Message.
The structure of Newsletter is still in progress.
AIM OF SECTIONS:

- Bioethics in the world (300 words max.): description of a concept /idea and its interpretation / application in the different geographical contexts or a news.
- About legislation and judgments (300 words max.): news from Law associations, Court decisions, developments in national or international legislations
- Education (max 300 words): announcements of creation of working group or networks, list and a short description of courses, seminars, workshops (including the target, the dates and organizers), trainings, university programs.
- Research: ongoing research projects: title, authors and short description.
- Publications: title, authors, year of publication.
- International events (no national events); title, date, place and short description.

The structure is to be decided, based on the contributions we receive (evolving).

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Giacomo SADO – Director; Alessandra PENTONE – International Adviser; Carlo PASETTI – Bioethics Expert; Stefano CRÉTIER – Scientific Adviser; Claudio TODESCO – Technical Adviser; Miroslava VASINOVA – Coordinator.
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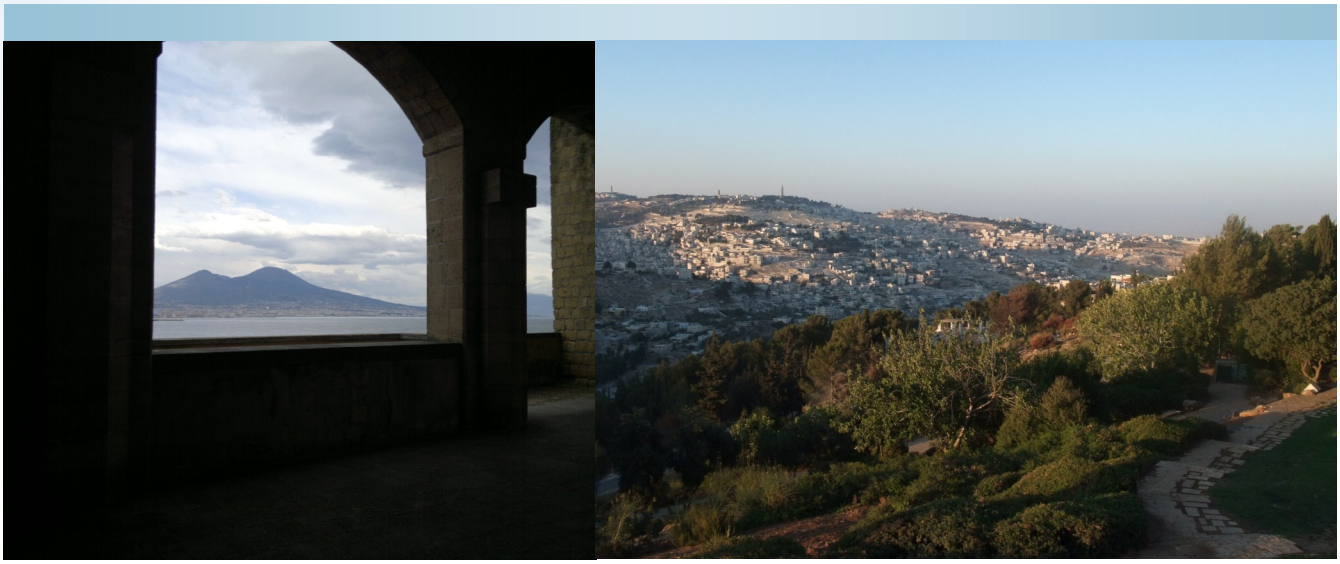
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