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Bioethical Voices

Newsletter of the International Chair in Bioethics

dedicated to the

**16th World Conference on Bioethics,
Medical and Health Law**

Brasilia, 24th - 26th July 2024

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Editorial

From Brasilia to Ljubljana: the International Chair in Bioethics is relaunching on a global scale thanks to the World Medical Association (WMA)

Why did the International Chair in Bioethics want so intensely to expand and why, from its traditional European center of gravity, did it choose to hold its 16th World Congress in Brasilia?

I confess that I was literally overwhelmed by this question posed by many members on the eve of the conference. I tried to answer gradually.

I'd like to remind you that it isn't the first time that a global Conference is held outside the member states of the European Union; in fact, everyone can recall that in the last 15 years Jerusalem was twice home to the conference works of the Chair. Definitely, I think it was a right choice to bring together bioethicists, operators and experts from the various related disciplines to one place geographically far from Europe, in order to open the bioethical frontiers now explicitly called to act in a globalized world.

I would like to better highlight an announced process and a path that has been already taken: world conferences on bioethics have no longer been limited to a reflection on the issues concerning healthcare management: we have encountered other current dilemmas dealing, for example, with neuroscience, robotics and artificial intelligence. Always, have we underlined the importance of human dignity and we have put it above all, especially above progress.

Moreover, where was Europe more than fifty years ago when Bioethics was born as a new discipline, thanks to the article entitled "The science of survival" by the American oncologist Van Rensselaer Potter?

When the blind faith in the self-regulating capacity of technological progress has cracked, Bioethics vigorously raised its alarm in a time considered a true emergency for the purposes of human survival on the planet. Where was Europe all along?

She was largely involved in other matters; she watched from afar the rising science of survival, capable of addressing not only man, but the entire ecosystem.

I must say that many people had wondered why to go so far for a global conference: someone decided to participate in the 16th World Congress in Brasilia, while others connected remotely. Anyway, everyone thanks Prof. Rui Nunes, President of the International Chair in Bioethics, for choosing Brazil as the appropriate location devoted to insights and debates.

A new spirit and new opportunities are connected to bioethics: from being merely defensive in

an emergency context, bioethics is increasingly being proactive about various current issues and on a large scale.

We can say that representatives of the various bioethical lines, Anglo-American, European, Latin American, Asian and African, confronted each other in order to offer a global and universal vision of bioethics today not only to the academic world, but to public opinion as well. An appreciated result stemmed from the richness of diversity. Anyone who went to Brasilia highlights the role played by Latin American congressmen (not only Brazilians), whose perspectives and ideas enriched both the value and the meaning of bioethical reflection. Someone speaks about Latin American effervescence.

This 16th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law in Brasilia then significantly benefited from the synergy with the World Medical Association: once again the test turned out successful.

In the following pages of our newsletter you will find the reports and the links to watch the contributions to the Congress.

Now we are turning the page, but fortunately we can think about the next Congress.

If you haven't already done so, mark these dates: 24 – 26 November 2025.

The next World Chair Conference will take place in Ljubljana, the capital town of Slovenia. This event is not to be missed. Let's prepare in time.

Giacomo Sado, Editorial Board Director



The days of the global Conference

The 16th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law was held in Brasília in July 2024, from Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th.

Under the auspices of the World Medical Association, the International Chair in Bioethics and the Brazil Conselho Federal de Medicina were involved in a huge effort of organization that resulted in a shared success, thanks to the strong and effective collaboration on the behalf of Prof. Rui Nunes and Dr. José Hiran Gallo, who chaired the global conference.



During the Congress, the Federal Government of Brazil granted access to the headquarters of the Conselho Federal de Medicina. The venue reserved for the event is a very modern, bright and functional building, full of spaces suitable for hosting conferences, sessions dedicated to insights and debate, offices, large spaces for the exchange of ideas and a beautiful terrace. A lush garden surrounds the building, enriched by an outdoor exhibition space.



STARTING FROM A FLASHBACK

The global conference was preceded by two relevant presentations, on the behalf of Professor Rui Nunes, Head of the Chair and Head of the Department of Bioethics and Artificial Intelligence.

This premise is essential to understand the climate and attitude the professionals participated in the congress with.

In fact, every global conference is characterized by its own unforgettable physiognomy in the memory of those who experienced it, starting from the cultural context and the historical moment it took place in.

1)Public Presentation of the International Academic Center of Bioethics for Training and Psychosocial Intervention in Trauma, Disruption, Catastrophes and Wars

Public Presentation at the 16th World Conference of Bioethics of the International Academic Center for Training and Psychosocial Intervention in Trauma, Disruption, Catastrophes, and Wars

<https://www.bioethicsbrasil2024.com/>

The 16th World Conference
On Bioethics, Medical Ethics, and Health Law

Dear Associates,

Our world faces increasing threats from natural disasters and warlike situations. Due to the role of the ICB in bioethics to ensure human well-being about their selves, the environment, and others, we cannot remain as passive spectators, we need to shift from declarative bioethics to action-oriented eco-bioethics. In those situations, the most severely impacted are not just the physically injured but also those affected psychosocially. For every physically affected person, it is estimated that 10 to 40 individuals are psychosocially impacted. Communities and countries often cannot attend to the massive and immediate demands for help only with their existing professionals who address daily needs. Therefore, the ICB proposes the development of an International Academic Center for Training, Supervision, and Psychosocial Intervention in Disruptive Situations, Disasters, and Catastrophes. This center would offer specialized academic training and a professional intervention nucleus to supervise or directly assist affected children, families, and adults remotely. Given Argentina's large number of well-trained professionals in this field, it is proposed that the Argentinean University of Salvador Unit (USAL) as the operational center for these international activities.

Sincerely,

Rui Nunes

Head of the International Chair in Bioethics

2) THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The day before the congress, in the afternoon on Tuesday, July 24th, Prof. Nunes gathered the Heads of Departments and their representatives, in case of someone's absence. After welcoming them, he introduced the meeting by emphasizing that the congress would be held in a mixed format, both in person and online through a streaming service that had been planned for some focal parts. Then Prof. Nunes had the opportunity to speak to the representatives of the different departments: they provided an update on the issues and works the departments are facing and carrying out.

It was underlined the fact that the actions of the departments are independent of any political or religious conditioning and that freedom of thought and expression represents, together with continuous dialogue and respect for different cultures, a premise for research and sharing.

The proposal of an update of the UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights was preannounced and underlined as an important issue to address as well. In the dedicated session of the last global conference day, Professors Rui Nunes, Patrizia Borsellino and Monica Cortesia Will deeply debate this topic.

The attention was also drawn to approach to young people, global health and prevention in childhood, handicapped in sport and work.

Thanks to these premises, the day after we started the global conference.

JULY 24, 2024



At 8:30 started the Plenary Session, whose core subject was "Health and Global Public Goods".

Doctor Annabel Seebohm, lawyer and member of the International Organizing Committee, chaired and coordinated this session beginning from pointing out the fact that public health goods are those accessible to everyone without the possibility of exclusion. Although many essential health technologies are not universally available, there is a collective interest in introducing these essential goods and making them affordable and inclusion-related. Accountability, transparency, education, health literacy, financial support, collaboration and infrastructures are keywords to foster this right.

On the stage were invited Prof. Manuel Barroso, who spoke about vaccination as a global public good, and Prof. Rui Nunes who presented Artificial Intelligence as the 18th sustainable development goal. After each intervention, 25 minutes were devoted to public discussion in order to let the participants have insights about the topics discussed and share their studies conducted in the same field, thus enriching personal knowledge and raising a really interesting debate just from the beginning.

Changes of paradigm in healthcare, telemedicine, robotic surgery, civil responsibility, medical ethics, data protection, accountability and avoiding new shapes of discrimination are the future challenges to tackle on behalf both of the scientific community and the common citizens.



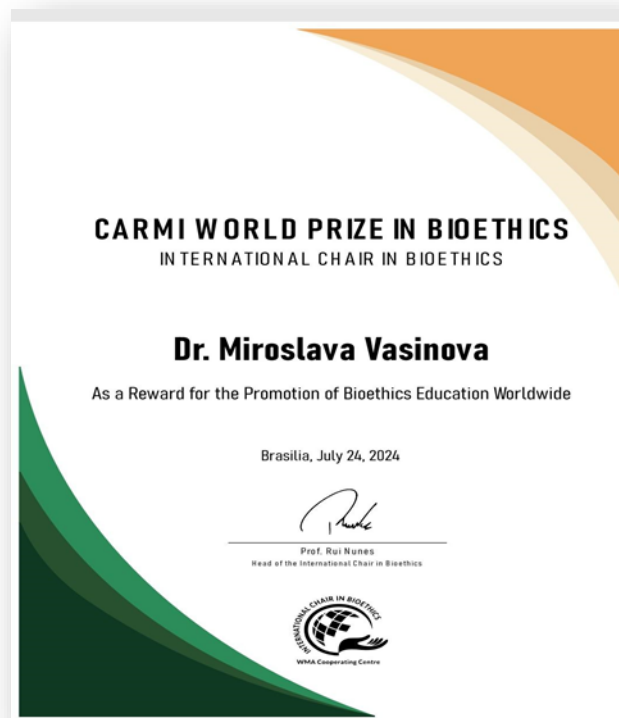
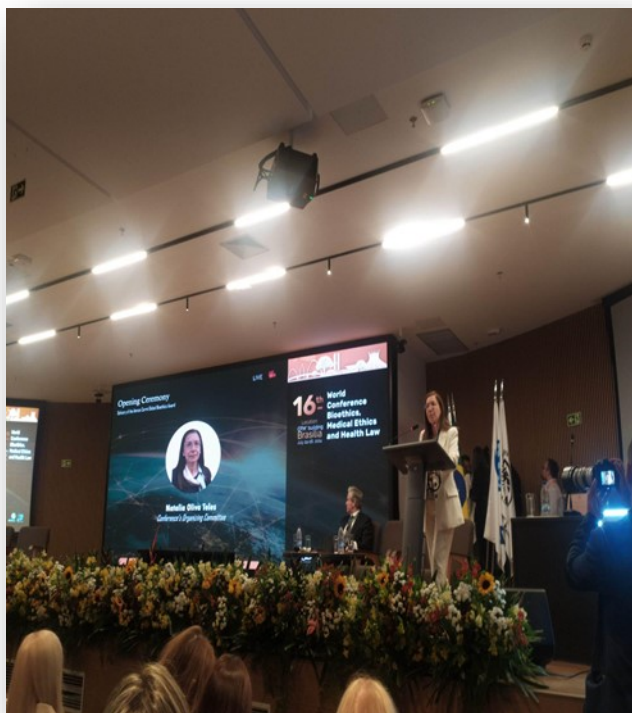
At 10:00 a.m. Session : Opening Ceremony

The participants had the pleasure to listen to the Brazilian National Hymn. Then Brazilian political authorities, as the Vice President of Brazil, Geraldo Alckmin, the governor of the Federal District and Brazilian and international medicine experts were invited on the stage or connected from remote. Prof. Rui Nunes welcomed everyone and expressed his gratitude to Prof. Hiran Gallo, President of the Federal Council of Medicine, the largest medical organization in the world, and Prof. Otmar Kloiber, Secretary General in the World Medical Association, for their strong commitment in the conference organization and their work in implementing an international view of modern Bioethics in teaching, daily practices and research.



Prof. Otmar Kloiber thanked the World Medical Association and showed his appreciation for Prof. Amnon Carmi, Founder and Honorary President of the International Chair in Bioethics. Prof. Kloiber expressed his compliments to Prof. Yoram Blachard, Head of Department of ICB World Medical Association. The global conference has become a big platform to discuss not only Bioethics, but also medical work, deontology and future trajectories. One health is to be prioritized over all in medical perspectives, as the revision of the Helsinki Declaration. All the political administrators present showed their pleasure in hosting the global conference in Brasilia, their full support for medical and bioethical progress and initiatives aimed at people's protection.

Prof. Natalia Oliva Teles, scientific coordinator of the Conference, after her greeting to the distinguished guests and to the audience, introduced the Amnon Carmi Global Bioethics honorary award that was delivered for the first time to Dr. Miroslava Vasinova, Head of the Department of Bioethics for Youth and Children, Coordinator of the Chair's journal. Prof. Teles read Dr. Vasinova professional curriculum.



When Dr. Vasinova was awarded this price, her long career as a physician and her work and continuous contributions in the Chair were thus reminded:

Miroslava Vasinova was born in the Czech Republic; she graduated and specialized in pediatrics, child neuropsychiatry and neonatology. In 1994, Dr. Vasinova was elected President of the European Centre of Bioethics and Quality of Life that supported, in their activities about research and congresses, Italian Universities and educational institutions, such as University Federico II and Unipegaso in Naples, Universities “La Statale” and “ Bicocca” in Milan, Universities in Bari, Ferrara, Pavia, Messina, Genoa and Aosta. All this was possible thanks to Aosta Valley government support.

Meanwhile , in the first '90s, Dr Vasinova was introduced to Professor Amnon Carmi by Antonio Piga Rivero, Director of Medical Law and Ethics, in name of the World Health Organization/EURO/ in Copenhagen, where Dr. Vasinova was working on the project of the first trivalent vaccination, called MRR.

After a long and productive cooperation, Professor Carmi recognized and honored this fruitful work with the prestigious creation of the Italian Unit of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Education in 2003, merged in the Italian Chair in Bioethics in 2022.

Miroslava Vasinova has been collaborating with Professor Carmi for a long time, especially about the most relevant issues in forensic medicine and Bioethics, in the role of director of the Italian Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics.

Thanks to the cooperation of both the international professionals and the colleagues of the Italian Unit, she participated in different national and international projects, mainly in youth ethical education. All the activities were developed in collaboration with various institutions, such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Organization, the Holy See, the World Tourism Organization and different forensic medical associations.

Furthermore, it is useful to underline the importance of some documents produced by the ICB Italian Unit, such as “ Saint Vincent Declaration about diabetes ” and “Saint Vincent Declaration versus child sexual exploitation in tourism”. This last document was especially appreciated by the Pope Giovanni Paolo II, who invited the members of the European Centre of Bioethics to a private audience.

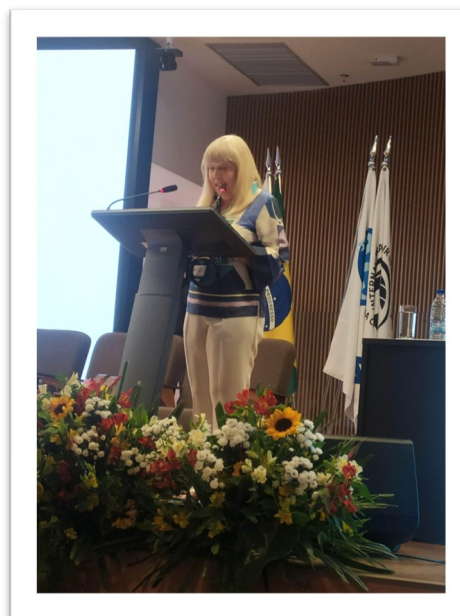
She had the opportunity to work in synergy with competent professionals and colleagues, to whom she is grateful. Dr. Vasinova has learned honesty, patience, monitoring and involving abilities from anybody and she is very glad to confirm this at the end of her career.



Prof. Teles also invited Prof. José Hiran Da Silva Gallo for the Delivery of the Gold Medal of Appreciation to the Federal Council of Medicine in Brasilia. This award was a recognition of the dedication to the international bioethics conference organization, a dream that became true, in the awarded professor's words.

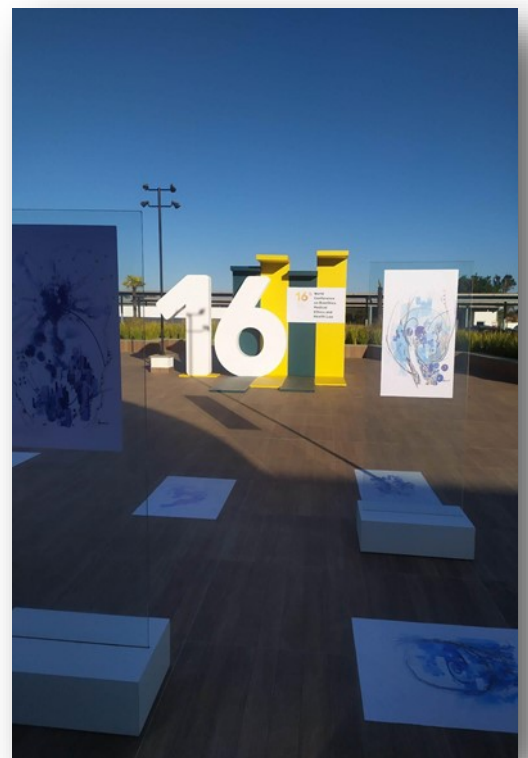
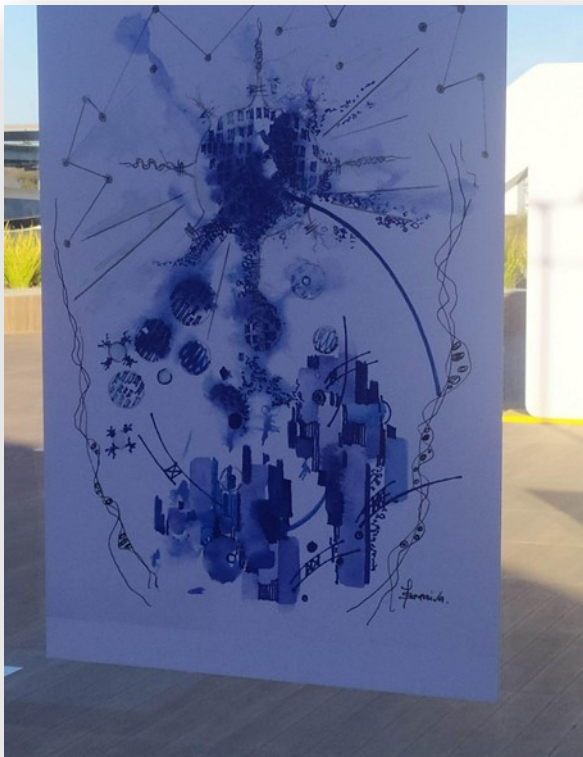


After the delivery of these prizes, an emotional video about Compassion Art was presented to



inspire the audience

Isabel Saraiva, expert in plastic art, was invited on the stage for a brief intervention about Compassion Art, which integrates and connects natural elements and human feelings. She invited the audience to visit her outdoor exhibition.



Then, a surprise was performed by artists of a typical and traditional Brazilian dance.



At 11:30 a.m. the third Plenary Session began.

The World Medical Association presented very interesting insights on the duties and the rights of Health Professionals during a pandemic.

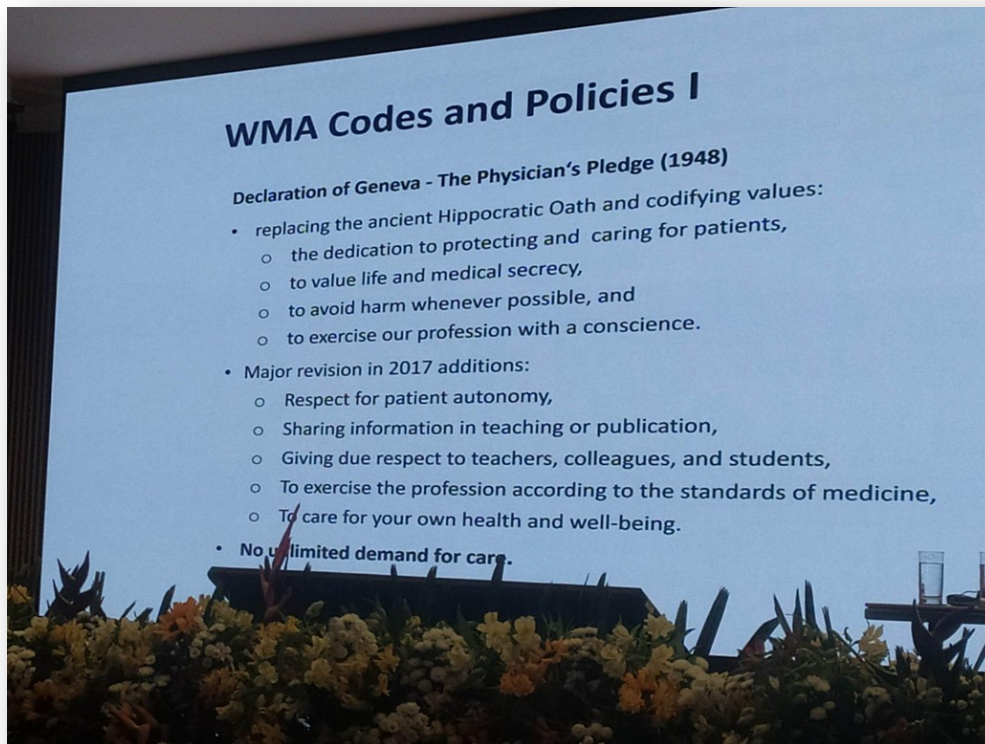
The session was chaired by Prof. Nunes, while Prof. Otmar Kloiber spoke about Hippocratic oath and modern medical deontology: interpretations and misunderstandings, and Dr. Annabel Seeböhm, CEO of the Standing Committee of European Doctors discussed the theme of Health, Professionals, the society and the state: expectations, obligations, promises and realities. Dr. Lujain Al-Qodmany, President of the Federal Council of Medicine, presented some considerations on Physicians and Medical Ethics.



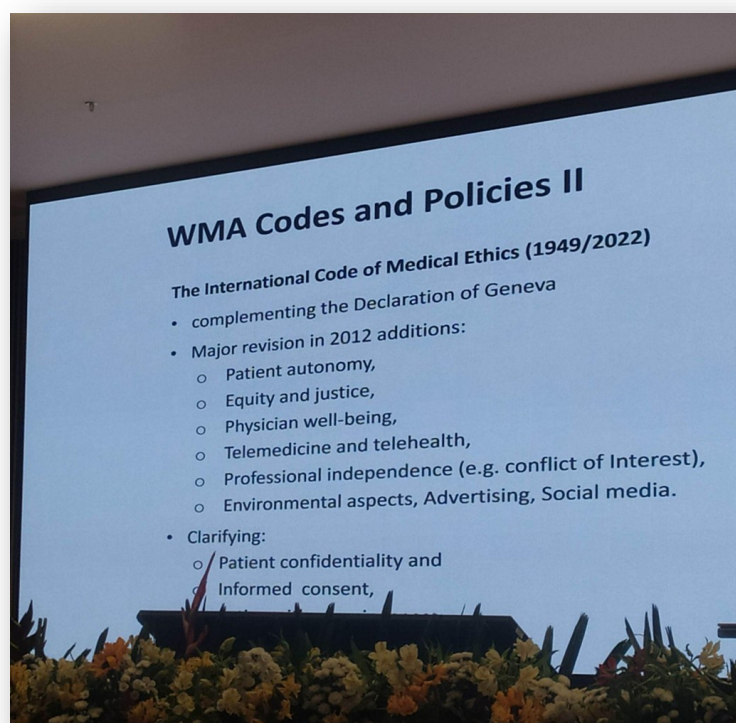
Dr. Kloiber praised the heroic physicians' and nurses' commitment during the last COVID pandemic, due to the dangerous and severe situations they had to face. He raised the questions at what conditions professionals have to serve and what are the obligations and rights of health professionals during pandemics: it is appropriate to reflect on Duties and Rights of Health Professionals during a pandemic, as it is written in a recent WMA publication concerning this subject. The challenge is to open the horizons, shifting from an eurocentric perspective of hippocratic and post hippocratic medicine to a global one. What patients expect from healthcare and from health relationships with professionals has to be taken into consideration, especially in confrontation with Hippocratic oath, medieval church support, instances of Roman law, human rights declarations' promises and politicians projections on health professionals obligations.

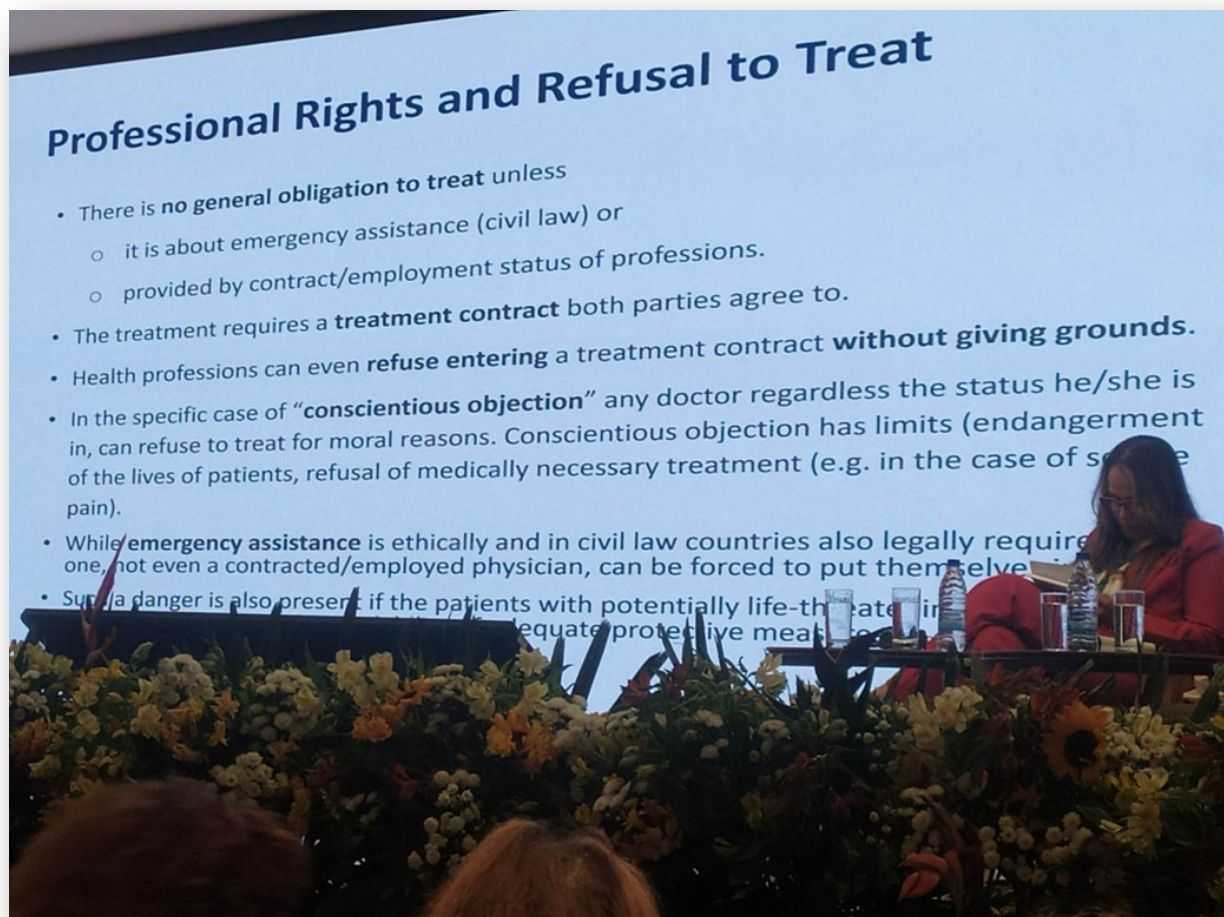
Dr. Annabel Seeböhm treated the same issue from a legal point of view, affirming that health professionals had neither a general obligation to treat patients nor to endanger themselves. Professional duties are not always and anywhere legal duties: the conditions vary according to the country of reference, although huge expectations about rescue and health professionals ethical duties are demanded from common people everywhere. Some countries performed constrictions, legally justified in case of global emergencies for a limited time, such as during the COVID pandemic. Ethical guidelines and codes, anyway, do not contain legal obligations. Unless in case of specific contracts and emergencies, professionals are not obliged to treat their patients, especially if the healthcare relationship entails a real death danger for them.

Dr. Seeböhm explained the perspective of the European Union.



Prof. Kloiber continued with the exposition of the WMA Codes and Policies. The Declaration of Geneva itself encourages taking care of personal health and points out the importance of patients' autonomy. It must be underlined that demands to the health professionals, in case of emergencies, are to be balanced by appropriate legal preparation and protection supply on the behalf of the government that asks professional duties become obligations. WMA asks states to be better prepared in case a pandemic occurs again, and not to prescribe obligations to only a group of society. The principle of equality requires that these obligations are shared by each social group.





Professional Rights and Refusal to Treat

- There is **no general obligation to treat** unless
 - it is about emergency assistance (civil law) or
 - provided by contract/employment status of professions.
- The treatment requires a **treatment contract** both parties agree to.
- Health professions can even **refuse entering** a treatment contract **without giving grounds**.
- In the specific case of “**conscientious objection**” any doctor regardless the status he/she is in, can refuse to treat for moral reasons. Conscientious objection has limits (endangerment of the lives of patients, refusal of medically necessary treatment (e.g. in the case of severe pain).
- While **emergency assistance** is ethically and in civil law countries also legally required, one, not even a contracted/employed physician, can be forced to put themselves in danger.
- Still a danger is also present if the patients with potentially life-threatening conditions are not given adequate protective measures.

During the final session of the morning, Prof. Moty Benyakar introduced the International University Center for Psychosocial Training and Intervention in Trauma, Disruption and Catastrophes. The establishment of this center in Argentina, under the protection of the International Chair in Bioethics, is aimed to face everyday challenges due to conflicts and natural disasters. This structure will be free from political, religious, moral and spiritual influences and it will operate according to the principles of the International Chair in Bioethics, related to human rights, equity and wellbeing. He made a short history of Bioethics development in the last decades.

Prof. Rui Nunes is proposing a Bioethics in action, that faces the crucial impacts resulting from nature and human interventions: wars, migrations, illness, tsunamis, droughts that cause deaths, disabilities, psychosocial trauma affecting millions of people all over the world. The physical wounds are treated and healed by the professionals, but the psychosocial ones overtake the others, last a lifetime and are not cured. An exponential number of civilians are injured by natural disasters and wars, most of them are not recognized and diagnosed in their suffering and pathologies. Many countries are not able to identify their needs and help them; so, it is important to settle an international structure providing those men, children and women with psychosocial assistance, in a logic of eco bioethics. It is essential to training professionals all over the world in dealing with these specific disruptions

A common platform will be available to help health professionals in assisting people involved in a calamity. There is the proposal to deliver an international diploma in psychology, psychiatry, medicine, journalism and other disciplines in order to create professional competency and skills in immediate intervention and help at Buenos Aires University.

More than 1200 persons participated in the global conference, both in presence and online. They came from over 16 countries in the five continents.

You can watch this part of global conference live streamed using the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ISoSZ2wrzSE?feature=share>

In the afternoon, from 2 to 3.30 pm., six parallel sessions, hosted in six different halls, were focused on Medical/Healthcare ethics, Informed Consent, Palliative Care Ethics, Public Health Ethics, ICB Department Meetings; after 4 p.m. the subjects debated became Autonomy, Ethical Aspects of Genethics, Reproduction Ethics, End of Life Ethics, Law and Ethics, ICB Department Meetings.

Lunch, coffee breaks and dinners were magnificently organized so that they turned out as an opportunity to continue debates begun before, exchange ideas, enjoy the time spent all together and consolidate new and ancient friendships in order to implement new collaborations.



Thursday, July 25

The morning started with a session transmitted live and titled “Technological Challenges for the 21st century”. Chaired by Prof. Moty Benyakar, it contained many interesting interventions: Whole genome sequencing as part of newborn screening (Dr. Angus Clarke); New trends in the ethics of research on human beings (Dr. Miguel Jorge); The regulation of Health in information and genetic data (Dr. Mark Taylor). The debate involved many doctors and the focus was about the connection between data protection and the trust: trust in the accountability of healthcare professionals and in the different states’ system of measures adopted in ensuring citizens and patients’ privacy through appropriate legislation.

The second part of the session in the morning was chaired by Prof. Russell D’Souza and it saw another sequence of professionals who presented and debated with the audience the following topics via Zoom: Ownership and reproduction with cells for IGV (Dr. Sonia Souter); Confidentiality, privacy and data protection in biomedicine international concepts and issues (Dr. Edward Dove); The code of ethics for healthcare educators (Dr. Shahid Shamin).

Dr. Souter showed how In Vitro Gametogenesis will be potentially applied to assist reproduction and help people to reproduce in case of physical infertility or social infertility; on the other hand, gene editing could enhance “perfect” reproduction, through a selection aimed to eliminate physical illness and create the most desirable embryo the parents wanted. Even though these technologies are not yet available for human beings, these practices will raise ethical issues in decision making, information availability, use of AI and algorithms. Human dignity concerns depend on the motivation of making this choice, on a novel genetic relationship and on the fact that there isn’t a genetic parent: many questions are connected to children raising and care, families’ support in order to grant equity and equality; furthermore, high risks result from two copies of recessive mutations (from heterozygous parents). Will a large number of parents minimize relational connections? Or will this situation result in a positive process (a child is raised by a village)? Which are the true intentions: those of creating an uber race or are they based on joint genuine commitment in building a family, shaped in a different way from traditional one? Contest, motivation, intentions are really important not to discriminate.



Prof. Dove, after having clearly disentangled the concepts of confidentiality, privacy and data protection, raised some questions concerning nowadays situations: unease about the path of development of health privacy law, especially in relation with the growth of data localization laws; the enhanced voice of patients, participants and public, that demands more engagement on the theme in political agendas and points out the importance of trust and reasonable expectations; a precarious balancing of values and interests, especially between 'data controllers' and 'data subjects', public health programmes and data space. Guidelines are needed after a deepened discussion among technicians, healthcare professionals and politicians in each country, and different countries should make a common effort to harmonize their privacy policies and systems of data protection.

Dr. Shahid Shamin presented an ethical code of conduct for healthcare educators: he said it was important to find a delicate balance between patients' best interest and learners' optimal training. Some guidelines were provided in order to avoid some complexities in Pakistan.

Starting from this reflection, the variety of scenarios in different countries and in different contexts in the same country must be taken into consideration. Dr Shamin said that a group of collaborators was working on the project of stating a code: Pakistan, Poland, Brazil, Portugal and Turkey were giving life to the International Collaborative Bioethics Education Research Group (ICEBERG). The values shared, debated and improved were the commitment to students (that focuses on the providing high quality education and training in order to let them become competent healthcare providers, on creating a supportive environment and on encouraging educators to be ethical models), the commitment to patients (by prioritizing patients' safety and wellbeing, by ensuring that educational activities do not cause them harm and by balancing patients' wellbeing and educational activities) and the commitment to the profession (by increasing people's trust in hospitals and doctors, by enhancing medical research and maintaining the integrity and credibility of healthcare professionals). The document concerning these themes is to be published in a short time.

After lunch, six sessions were established in the first part of the afternoon: Medical/ Healthcare Ethics, Research Ethics/ Ethics Committee, Healthcare dignified and not discriminatory,

After the coffee break, the following sessions were open to the audience:

Bioethics Education, Bioethics and Movies, Autonomy/Benefit and Harm, Medical Ethics: the Digital Era, Law and Ethics, ICB Department Meetings.

As usual, during the breaks, the hosts were allowed to read the posters and visit the outdoor exhibition by Mrs. Isabel Saraiva.

Another event took place from 5 to 6 p.m. in that afternoon, a bright and solemn celebration at the same time. It was the awarding of the doctoral degree in bioethics to more than thirty students at the University of Porto, in Portugal.

After a warm welcome, Prof. Rui Nunes, Head of the PhD in Global Bioethics, explained that an agreement had been made between the University of Porto and universities in Brazil, to allow Brazilian medicine students to obtain a doctorate in bioethics.



Prof. Hiran De Silva Gallo joined the ceremony, held a speech of congratulations to the PhD students and expressed his best auspicious wishes for the continuation of this precious collaboration.

The PhD modules, conducted in English, concerned various subjects: Global Bioethics and One Health, Philosophy and Bioethics, Professional Ethics, Ethics at the Beginning of Life, Ethics at the End of Life and in Palliative Care, Priorities in Healthcare and Global Health, Environment, Biodiversity and Biopolitics, Biolaw and International Conventions.

Scientific Advisory Committee was composed by the following Professors: Guilhermina Rego, Ivone Duarte, Mónica Correia, Moty Benyakar, Natália Oliva Teles, Russel D'Souza.

Students' thesis abstracts were collected in a publication available during the global conference. The presentation was very dynamic and effective: both the Professors and the medicine students spoke about their experiences and research, making the audience understand and share their human and professional path.



The ceremony concluded with a memorable collective photo.



This link connects to the second day live streaming of the global conference

<https://www.youtube.com/live/KmR-ffY5h6I?feature=shared>



Friday, July 26

<https://www.youtube.com/live/vFVUHrF7a60?feature=shared>

The morning session was dedicated to “Education in Healthcare Professionals “ and it was chaired by Prof. Russel D’Souza, Head of ICB Department of Education, who introduced the guest speakers: Doctor Christophe Ostgate with “The new age of palliative care”, Doctor Thalia Arawi with “Challenges for medical education in the 21st century”, Prof. Daniella Keidar with “Principles and practices of bioethical education “, Prof. Mary Mathew with “Bioethics education in India “, Doctor Paula Castelo with “Ethics committees and education for Bioethics “ and Doctor Jasna Karacic Zanetti with “Education for Bioethics as a global endeavor “.

The WMA session followed the coffee break and it was focused on the Declaration of Helsinki revision debated by Professors Otmar Kloiber, Ramin Parsa-Parsi, Jack Resneck, Florentino Cardoso, Lujail Al-Qodmany and Miguel Jorge.

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Prof. Rui Nunes introduced the draft proposal of a new version of that Universal Declaration proposed nineteen years ago by UNESCO. Fundamental values and principles remain, even though it is necessary to take into account deep historical transformations and scientific evolution.

Two Departments are involved in this updating revision: Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to Law, headed by Prof. Patrizia Borsellino, whose contribution has been inserted in the Newsletter session titled “ Heads of Departments’ Contributions”. The Department of Biolaw, headed by Prof. Monica Correia, spoke about Universal Code of Ethics for Medical Students.



On the other hand, Prof. Monica Correia made reference to ten principles and she proposed integrations and mergers to the original text, in order to build clear and effective ethical guidelines for medical students.

The first principle taken into account was Professionalism and Integrity: as the medical students are privileged to undertake one of the most dignified and prestigious professions, it is incumbent upon them to conduct themselves with dignity, professionalism and integrity in all circumstances and to proactively contribute to their own training.

The second one was “Doing good, avoiding harm and the patients ‘ vulnerability”. The primary objectives of the medical profession are to treat the sick, alleviate suffering and care for those who are in the situation of special vulnerability due to illness, disability or incapacity. These objectives are intrinsic to exemplary medical education, wherein the patients must be invariably the primary concern of physicians and students alike. Therefore, the primary students ‘ ethical obligation is doing good, avoiding harm and considering the patients’ vulnerability.

The third principle proposed was “Respect for autonomy and informed consent”. Respect for individual autonomy means respect for the person and informed consent is the main application of this principle in medicine. Medicine students must be aware of this concept and recognise that informed consent is obtained during the medical training. Informed consent may be extended to

other family members (family consent), especially with regard to children and other patients unable to consent. Informed consent may be written or oral, in special circumstances, such as surgery and human research. Although the medical student is not responsible for obtaining the initial consent, he/she must be aware of this procedure.



The 4th principle is titled “Non discrimination”.

Any form of negative discrimination and stigmatization based on characteristics of the patient, such as gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status etc., is ethically unacceptable. Medical students should always contribute to an inclusive and friendly clinical environment and should strive to understand and respect cultural differences and provide culturally sensitive care. This includes being aware of the cultural practices, beliefs and values that may impact on patient care and communication.

The fifth one examined was “Privacy, confidentiality and data protection “.

Medical students have the primary obligation to respect the confidentiality of all information in which they have access during their medical training: in fact, confidentiality is one of the pillars of medical ethics. Indeed, privacy is an area of personal life that is inaccessible to any intrusion and it is a fundamental value in medical practice and research. Under the tutors’ supervision, students may have access to personal data stored in medical records, especially digital ones, but this information should be protected and its disclosure should be prevented.

The sixth principle was titled “ Justice and equity”. All citizens should have access to healthcare of appropriate quality and benefit from new scientific developments in medicine. Medical students should always consider this perspective in their medical training and treat all patients in a fair and equitable manner.

The seventh one was about “Priority of the person ‘s interest over science”. In human research, the primacy of human beings and his dignity is the source of medical ethics. When participating in research, students should always consider the intrinsic value of the patient and avoid any form of instrumentalisation.

The eight principle presented was “Substantial responsibility” that was formulated in these terms: human beings are in a particular position to protect other human beings, animals and other manifestations of life, namely the environment and biodiversity. Medical students have the responsibility to protect all the commonwealth of life, in the perspective of One Health.

Ninth principle, “Responsible use of AI and other digital technologies”, concerned the digital transition in medicine and health, the implementation of robotics and the generation of data lake. All these technologies, especially Artificial Intelligence, pose unprecedented ethical challenges that require the implementation of effective control and oversight mechanisms. Telemedicine, mobile health applications, virtual care solutions, remote monitoring applications and generative artificial intelligence must be used in a trustworthy, accountable and responsible manner.

The tenth principle took into account “Interpersonal relations”: teamwork must be valued, as the practice of medicine is increasingly team based rather than individual. A medical student will have ongoing and systematic relationships with doctors, other health professionals and other medical students. In all these different settings, the medical student should behave with dignity, loyalty, integrity and a positive attitude towards colleagues, patients, families, health care professionals and all other members of society.

After a very interesting debate with the audience, Professors Nunes, Kloiber and Duarte awarded a prize to three professors, due to their engagement and work conducted in their Department.





The location of next year's global conference was announced. Greetings, thanks and congratulations to the guests concluded the final ceremony, ending with a collective photo taken on the stage.



Antonella Mauri
Press Board



Head of ICB Department's contributions

In this section of the Newsletter you will find some interesting answers to the questions I asked some Heads of Departments via email. I was very interested in a short presentation of their ICB Departments and in the most relevant bioethical projects they were involved in. The results stemming from the written interviews turned out to be really amazing.

Prof. Elizabeth Ormart

Department: Bioethical dilemmas at the beginning of human life

Objectives of the Department of Bioethical dilemmas at the beginning of human life:

1. Promote, in academic and professional contexts, technological, social or cultural progress within a society based on knowledge and respect for: a) fundamental rights and equal opportunities between men and women, b) the principles of equal opportunities and universal accessibility for people with disabilities and c) the values of a culture of peace and democratic values.
2. Know the bioethical and legal principles of research and its application in professional activities, in the field of assisted reproduction techniques.
3. Contribute through research and training proposals to expand the frontiers of knowledge in Psychology of Assisted Reproduction and Child Perinatal
4. Contribute to the substantial body of knowledge in the field of bioethics so that publications of impact can emerge at the national or international level.
5. Make visible the impact of assisted reproduction techniques on family diversity in order to collaborate in the prevention and promotion of family rights.

Proposed work plan

Meetings to propose postgraduate and postdoctoral theses linked to the topic of the Department.

Meetings at the International Congress of the research team to promote exchange strategies

Steering committee

Diana Altavilla

Alejandra Taborda

Romina Colacci

Silvina Martínez

Valentina Stagno

Paula Abelaira

Aims and vision.

The recent pandemic has made us (re)discover the intimate and delicate relationship between human beings and the planet and also our difficulty in understanding science and its complexity.

According to a modern epistemological approach in the field of medicine, the complexity of a biological system can never be understood and resolved through specific approaches based on disciplinary specialization and separation of knowledge.

Only recently has it been ascertained that there is an intrinsic relationship between animal health and human health and an even more inseparable interdependence between the health of the planet and human health.

Awareness of these links has prompted the definition of innovative concepts such as One-health and Planetary health that bring out how only an understanding of the interconnectedness of systems, allows one to grasp properties that do not belong to individuals but only to their interaction.

The ongoing transformations induced by scientific and technological innovation, which are accompanied by cultural ones, make inescapable the urgency of a reformulation of medical education, which while respecting the objectives of care and protection of the health of the person, is capable of in order to promote the development of a broad, investigative, critical reflexive thinking capable of noting that health care is at once human, animal and environmental.

Moreover, research, development and use of technology in surgery and Medicine are in a peculiar phase in which rapid development and huge increase in innovation are totally changing the panorama of modern surgery: bioethical aspects are therefore a paramount challenge.

The most critical aspects go from AI use (algorithms, robotics, digital therapeutics, etc.) to new devices and “the monkey business” driven by the market.

Moreover, another crucial aspect remains to go towards the figure of the “Expert patient” in order to develop a critical consciousness of patients and, on the other hand, to prepare in this field the next generation of surgeons.

A correct involvement of scientific and popular Media, based on open collaboration with Universities, stakeholders and institutional bodies, using dedicated tools like University courses, conferences, position papers on specialized journals and information articles on popular press and many other possible initiatives will represent the main road of our department.

Prof. Pierre Effa

Member of the Global Council of International Chair of Bioethics (ICBGC)

Director of the African Division of International Chair of Bioethics

Coordinator for Africa of the organization of the World Bioethics Day (WBD)

President of the Pan African Congress for Ethics and Bioethics (COPAB), the African Union’s network for ethics and bioethics.

“It is a history and geography of bioethics» Jean Bernard.” Message to participants in J.I.B Yaounde, 1996.

everything else.

The institutionalization of the African Initiative for Peace was confirmed by the Bioethics Summit of the 32nd Summit of the Ordinary Conference of African Heads of State, in July 1996 in Yaounde. Currently, from an operational point of view, COPAB has joined forces with the International Chair of Bioethics to constitute the Global Task Force in Support of the African Initiative for Peace. Other world-leading bioethics institutions have joined this partnership.

The Global Task Force thus brings together world-leading institutions in ethics and bioethics that COPAB associates with the conceptual and operational engineering of securing life, with a view to the emergence of the World Ethics Community, for the construction of Peace for all of Humanity.

COPAB refers to the narrative based on Africa, Cradle of Humanity and Matrix of Civilization, and on the history of humanity that makes the African man the first of the Humans, its historical course having passed through all sorts of calamities and survived all kinds of violence in history, the confidence regained with the beginning of the return of its demography passed on the edge of extermination, the scientific certainties of genetics which establish a single common origin of our entire humanity, the atavism of attachment to the culture of life in the African world and finally to the mission of survival and preservation of the human species and civilization.

That is why Africa proposes to base the program of the Global Task Force for Peace on a Road Map establishing the agenda of a CIVILIZATIONAL TREVE to lead to Peace for All through Education in respect for the sacredness of human life and the inversion of the Anthropocene through respect for nature and biodiversity.

The World Conference on Ethics for Peace is proposed to the Programme of the Global Task Force for Peace under the auspices of the United Nations, whose global scientific secretariat would be located at the International Chair of Bioethics in Porto, Portugal, as a privileged tool for promoting the CIVILIZATIONAL TREVE FOR PEACE.

With regard to bioethics and the development of Africa, COPAB and the International Chair of Bioethics are involved in a partnership leading to the establishment of a Doctoral School covering a dozen specialized university centres distributed in the five regions of the African Union and the African diaspora. The partners will organize advocacy to make bioethics a fully-fledged academic discipline codified like other core disciplines.

The following summary presents the operational tools proposed by COPAB to the Global Task Force in Support of the African Initiative for Peace.

- Forum of ethics and bioethics, for dialogue and consultation, in order to build the living together in peace and progress. Mastering anthropological and demographic transitions; crisis management and prevention of chrysogenic situations; popularization of the construction of the rule of Law to live together in peace, through the awareness of respect for nature and the sacredness of human life.
- Imhotep Polytechnic College with its Doctoral School and its dozen of specialized University Centres (CUBE), with a network in the Technopoles of their environment, for the structuring of the personality of African man in respect of ethical and bioethical conscience of the preservation of life and biological diversity and in the attachment to The Sacredness of human life.

The contemporary novelty of bioethics and the universal nature of the principles of this scientific discipline at the same time integrates the singularity of its expressions in relation to geography, the history and culture of the peoples of the world.

The above quote from Jean Bernard, the first president of a national ethics committee in the world, in contact with the scientific production of the African Movement for Ethics and Bioethics, the above mentioned formula is well noted, at the first international symposium on bioethics in Africa, the J.I.B. (International African Bioethics Days) of Yaounde, 1995.

The relationship established by Professor Amnon Carmi, to develop the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the University of Haifa through Chair Units in Africa as well as on other continents, is very well received. African actors seek this relationship as a place for exchange for international intercultural dialogue of the African vision of bioethics with thought and cultural practices of the other geographical and human areas of the world, thanks to the establishment of units on all five continents, with respect for cultural diversity.

It is the place to present a special Motion of satisfaction and recognition for the work of continuity of Professor Rui Nunes for his decisive impulse conferred on the partnership with Africa "ex Africa semper aliquid novi adferre" (from Africa we always have something new), said Pliny the Younger, quoting a Greek proverb about the perpetual novelty coming from Africa.

The programme of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics in Haifa yesterday and the International Chair of Bioethics in Porto today offers the opportunity to the Units of the African Division of the said Chair of to integrate into the African Movement of Ethics and Bioethics, with an international dimension, under the direction of the Pan African Congress for Ethics and Bioethics (COPAB). The COPAB, flagship of the African Movement for Ethics and Bioethics, is the organization that develops structures, texts and instruments, Ethics and bioethics programmes, skills and capacities on the African continent, as mandated by the Conference of African Heads of State.

This means that Africa has the particularity of being in the forefront of the Conference of Heads of State of the continent, in matters of bioethics. The activities of COPAB thus take on an official and public service dimension.

Thus the celebration by the African Division of ICB and its Units, the World Bioethics Day, participation in the World Conference on Bioethics, etc, are being organized to associate the African Division of International Chair of Bioethics (ICB) with COPAB.

From the pedagogical and epistemological point of view, the Syllabary promoted by International Chair of Bioethics for Youth Education in Bioethics is being adapted to African anthropology, with a special emphasis on the expression of the sense of community so dear to African nations. The high hierarchy instructed experts to propose a program of education of young people in bioethics from the cradle and not only from five (5) to nineteen (19) years.

From a socio-political point of view, bioethical reflection must integrate the concerns of African development, because the requirement of the ethics of life, bio-ethics, imposes the construction of living together. But life is lived in Peace and Peace is built through Justice. Ethical and bioethical awareness is therefore the awareness of living together in peace, bioethics and development, an African Initiative for Peace.

As from an axiological point of view, life is the first reference value, bioethics is above

Preparation of the foundations of Africa at the crossroads of the development of thought on Life, for the perpetuation of the human species, in search of intellectual, moral and spiritual prowess up to and in response to contemporary technological Performances

- Edition Eñiñ Afrika (African Life), multifaceted, scientific, media, communication tool, care for dissipation of the stigmata of the regression of African communities due to the violence of history. The publishing house Eñiñ Afrika (African Life) unambiguously devotes itself to the evolution of African Consciousness in any situation on the continent and outside of Africa through all necessary and timely communication means. In the name of our departed ancestors.

- African Bioethics Survey (ABS), Portal for Certification in Ethical Assessment of any activity entering or leaving the African continent. The end of Africa garbage. The end of Africa, a dumping ground for chemical and ideological toxic waste, the Africa of guinea pigs. Establishment of the African Cohort for health research. Coordination of organizations of major health bodies for a continental response to epidemics and pandemics. Return of Africa world centre for exploration of scientific research and technological innovation on life, including for the preservation of biological diversity.

- African Green Village, calling on the sources of African cultures and civilizations to master the anthropological and demographic transitions of African basic communities, for their empowerment and resilience. African architecture and territorial planning and village-city integration. Guarantee of food self-sufficiency and health security. Stabilization of the African youth and communities. African Green Village is par excellence a strategic tool to address the great ethical dilemma of the difference in living conditions between the populations of the North and those of the South, noted in Resolution N°AHG/Res.254(XXXII) on Bioethics and the Development of Africa adopted by the Bioethics Summit which gave birth to the African Initiative for Peace at the 32nd OUA/UA Summit in July 1996 in Yaounde.

- COPAB African Union Foundations Network, a privileged tool for the management and ethical financing of the activities of the Global Task Force for Peace. It should be noted that the International Chair of Bioethics / Professor Amnon Carmi Foundation is a prominent figure in the network of Foundations promoted by the Global Task Force for Peace. These Foundations are solicited through the Rome- based Global Task Force for Peace Partners Conference. The financial institutions invited in the Conference of Partners of the Global Task Force for Peace Programme are among the largest funding institutions in the world. In summary, the intelligentsia of the African Renaissance, in the wake of the conference of heads of State of Africa, aims to promote COPAB as a Civilization Good, in the service of the advent of a new civilization of Human, respectful of the prohibition of the destruction of human life and animated by the ethical and bioethical conscience of the preservation of life, respect for nature and biodiversity. The reference to the attachment to the culture of life in the African world gives optimism for the ambition to promote a peaceful humanity, where humans are able to live together without making war with each other, without killing each other.

We address the Global Task Force for Peace, in spiritual company with the Senegalese Cheikh Anta Diop:

“Indeed: an atavistic, yet cautious African enthusiasm leads us to admonish all nations to join hands in the edification of the world civilization instead of falling prey to the charms of barbarism.”

Cheikh Anta Diop, *Civilisation ou Barbarie* (Civilization or Barbarism), Paris: Présence Africaine, 1981, 16.

In these times of war, uncertainty, confusion and dehumanization, faced with the trivialization of attempts on life and the proven risks of genocide and extinction of the human species, COPAB

proposes to the Global Task Force to join the African optimism, for the Hope of Life for All Humanity.

The World Community of Ethics will thus be able to unite all Humanity in the Hope of Life, the Respect for the Sacredness of Human Life and living together in Peace for All.

Done at Addis Ababa, 26 July 2024.

Prof. Ivone Duarte

"The 16th World Conference in Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law held in Brazil last month was a huge success. First of all, due to the large number of participants, more than 700, from all continents. But also, because of the high scientific level of the World Conference, that approached issues such as the genetic selection of human beings, artificial intelligence, euthanasia, palliative care or medical ethics education.

It was also an excellent opportunity for the PhD in Bioethics graduates, from all over the world, to present their research projects before the international community. Indeed, this is one of the most important goals of the International Chair in Bioethics that is the promotion of high-level research in Bioethics and Biolaw, and the PhD in Bioethics Department of the ICB is progressively supporting research projects in very different areas.

I just hope that the 17th World Conference in Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law that will be held in November next year in Ljubljana will also be a major international success. "

Prof. Daniella Keidar

ICB – International Chair in Bioethics
Department of Behavioral Bioethics

The department is engaged in creating an academic, research and practical infrastructure in the various behavioral sciences that assists in understanding, assimilating and implementing the moral, ethical and social implications resulting from diverse scientific and technical developments and their impact on therapist/patient relationships, in order to offer practical and applied models for a better and proper human conduct.

The department offers research, teaching and advice in the fields of behavioral sciences aimed at assimilating bioethical conduct in every interpersonal interaction. The emphasis is placed on the complex and delicate relationships between caregiver and patient and the connection of body and mind, with a holistic view of the person and the emotional, cognitive and behavioral complexities.

Bioethics is related to policy making in all areas of life and is a central and integral part of our lives. The Department envisions turning bioethical principles into an immanent, practical and ap-

plied "language" in daily human conduct. A society based on ethics and bioethics is a better society that encourages personal, interpersonal and professional conduct for Well Being.

The department reaches out its open hand to cooperation with various institutions and entities around the globe and offers its assistance and knowledge within the framework of ICB rules, to those who contact it.

The following distinguished researchers and lecturers recently joined the Department, contributing their special professional skills:

Dr. Amihai Levkovitz, Specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine, Head of the Neurological Rehabilitation Unit at Bnai Zion Medical Center, Haifa, Israel.

Gilad Goldenberg, LL.M, Adv. Pharma and High-Tech Senior Counsel.

Dr. Arie Shefer, Senior Invasive Cardiologist.

Dr. (PhD) Alonit Berenson, Lecturer and Researcher in Political Sciences and Media Studies, Social Sciences and Humanity Department, Academic College, Zefat, Israel.

Dr. (PhD) Galit Keidar, Adv, mediator, specializes in Therapeutic Law, lecturer in Ethics and Bioethics.

Prof. Patrizia Borsellino

Department of Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to Law:

Aims and Commitments

In the conference held in Porto in October 2023, when presenting the Department of Bioethics and Philosophical approach to law, set up within the ICB on the initiative of prof. Carmi, I pointed out how it had in the background the increasingly widespread and shared awareness of the implications not only moral, but also legal of the biomedical interventions on humans and all living beings made possible by the extraordinary progress of science.

Today, therefore, one cannot conceive of a bioethics that is not enriched by consideration of the solutions that have already been provided by law or that can be envisaged in future legal regulation in relation to many sensitive issues. In other words, only a bioethics enhanced by the contributions of the bio-law can seek and find answers, widely perceived as urgent and inescapable, to a wide range of questions having a decisive impact on the lives of all individuals and on the complex configuration of society.

It cannot, however, be ignored that the legal regulation of bioethical issues has raised, and still raises, difficulties, which can only be addressed and resolved if, firstly, one has an apparatus of legal notions appropriate to the new scenarios that have emerged under the impetus of technological and scientific progress, and if, secondly, one is able to critically assess the regulatory interventions of law, highlighting their assumptions on the level of values, as well as their effects on the level of facts.

In this perspective, the "Department of Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to Law" intends to contribute to reflection and debate on the various thematic areas at the heart of bioethics, assessing whether traditional legal categories can be considered adequate with respect to the new scenarios shaped by scientific and technological progress, and eventually supporting with good reasons the proposal for their remodulation.

In particular, the critical-philosophical approach to law is characterized by the challenging task of

considering the various possible ways of legally regulating bioethical issues with regard to the alternative between jurisprudential and legislative law, and to the different conceptions of the relationship between law and morality, but also, and above all, of bringing out the strong reasons for adopting and implementing the regulation model focused on the recognition of a solid set of rights, in line with the most important supranational documents, and among these, the 2005 Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

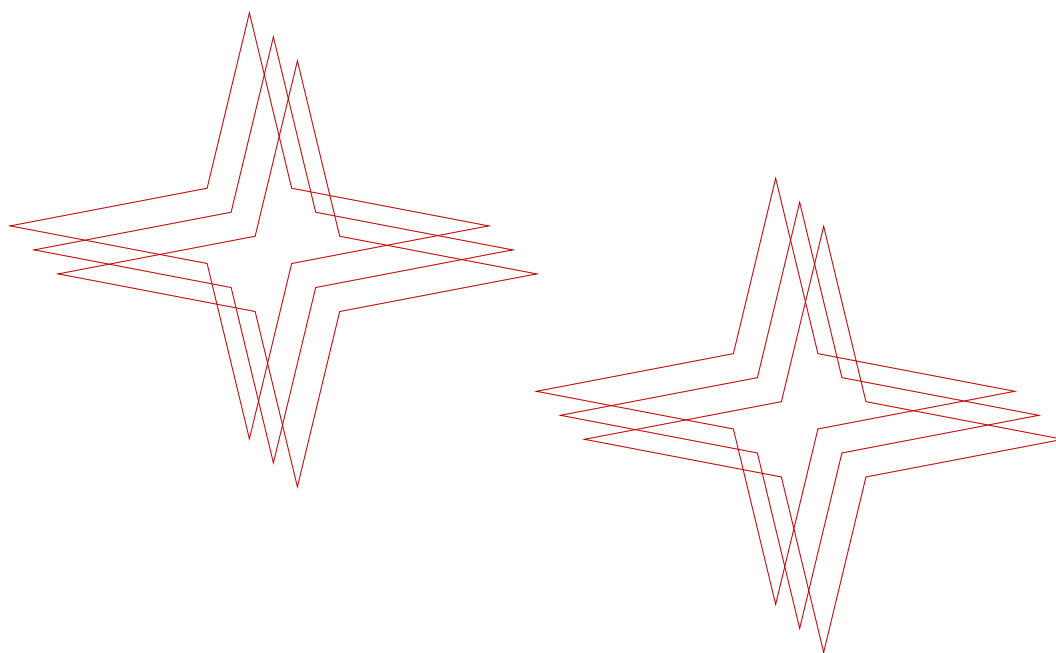
In the outlook of a critical reflection, aimed at posing questions, bringing out the problematic aspects and emphasizing the value commitments and the strong responsibilities and choices (often concealed) that the legal regulation of bioethical issues always entails, the Department of Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to law undertook the work of revision of the Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, formulating proposals, most of which have already been included in the first revision draft presented at the Conference of Brasilia.

There are many subject areas in respect to which the problem of critically evaluating the interventions of the law arises. Among these, the area of the end of life continues to remain highly topical, with particular attention to the question of the legal regulation of assisted suicide and euthanasia, a theme that, in this period, has been revitalized in Italy by important pronouncements of the Constitutional Court.

I learned with great interest that this will be one of the topics at the center of the forthcoming conference in Ljubljana.

I would consider it is very important that in the run-up to the conference we could map the orientations and situations in different countries, in the conviction that on this basis a frank discussion on the subject can be realized.

The Department of Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to Law intends to contribute to this mapping, trusting in the possibility of a broad involvement of the other Departments and Units in the realization of a fruitful shared project.



Insights

Prof. Patrizia Borsellino

Head of the Department of Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to Law

The draft revision of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

The contribution of the Department of Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to Law

If we consider bioethics today, several decades after its birth, we must recognize that it represents a well established discipline, both on the cultural and the institutional level, in various areas of the world, and not only in western countries, when initially it developed.

Furthermore, it is a discipline today enriched by legal perspective and, therefore, by consideration of the solutions that have already been provided by the law, or that can be envisaged in future legal regulation of many important sensitive issues.

Bioethics has also experienced a broadening of its thematic fields, with the emergence of frontier issues, such as those linked to development of artificial intelligence and its applications in the medical field, without forgetting the problems raised by knowledge in the field of genetics and of neurosciences.

However, we must not lose sight of the background against which the bioethics should be considered throughout its developments has been and is a background of profound transformations of life scenarios. Indeed, thanks to increased possibilities of intervention, life, from beginning to end, has become ever more controllable.

In other words, life, human and non-human, has become the subject of choices and consequent responsibilities, in relation to which it is necessary to have ethical and legal criteria of reference. And it is precisely the identification of such criteria that has been and still is the main task of bioethics.

Now, there is no doubt that, among the instruments that have collected valuable criteria emerging from bioethical reflection, a prominent position must be accorded to the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, approved by UNESCO in 2005.

Hence, the relevance of a project, such as the one promoted by the International Chair in Bioethics, of a revision of this fundamental document, aimed at making it entirely adequate to the changes that have taken place, in the twenty years since its enhancement, both on a scientific and socio-political level.

Together with the Department of Biolaw, the Department of Bioethics and the Philosophical Approach to Law, promoted the project to revise the Universal Declaration with conviction and, I might add, enthusiasm, believing that it is intrinsically relevant and that it may represent an important opportunity to confirm the ICB's role as a reference body in the development of bioethical reflection on medical ethics and legal regulation in the field of health, at an international level.

With the other members of the Department, of which I am head, I shared the opinion that the opportunity should not be missed to update the Declaration, without, nevertheless, questioning its fundamental guiding principles, but, on the contrary, strengthening them, and making them increasingly applicable to today's scenarios.

Our aim is to propose and realize a version of the Declaration that can be widely shared and can, obviously, receive approval by UNESCO.

With this in mind, and with the awareness that the path to be realized, in order to arrive, as is desirable, at the revision, is still a long one, within the Department of Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to Law we have initiated a discussion and finalized a series of proposals, some of which concern the general formulations contained in the Preamble of the Declaration, while others refer to the General Provisions and Principles contained in the first part of the Declaration. Several of our proposals have already been included in the first revision draft of the Declaration, while others, in our opinion, will have to be taken into account in a subsequent reformulation of the document.

I will limit myself here to a few brief remarks, highlighting some passages of the Declaration that deserve special attention, starting with those concerning the preamble, in which we find the framework, consisting of value assumptions, reference norms and psycho-anthropological and epistemological theses, within which the subsequent articles of the Declaration are placed.

Even in its current wording, the preamble provides a solid framework, which does not need to be radically revised. Instead, some updates to the list of regulatory international and regional instruments in the field of bioethics were necessary and have already been included in the first draft.

In addition, some integrations appeared to be appropriate to help understand even better the ethical implications of scientific and technological developments affecting the world of life, and the importance of providing criteria (such as those emerging from the Declaration) to find, at a global level, answers to urgent open issues. In this direction, it seemed useful to emphasize the fact that “the increased possibilities of intervention linked to scientific and technological developments, especially since the mid-twentieth century, have made human and non-human life and the environment increasingly dependent on human choices and actions and consequent responsibilities. For this very reason, ethical issues have risen, given that an ethical problem arises when there are several feasible paths and, therefore, problems of choice.

And it also appeared to be appropriate to emphasize (recital number 12) the possible problems, and hence the risks, as well as the benefits, that may arise from scientific and technological development.

Among the other additions that it seemed important to propose, there are those entrusted to four further recitals to be inserted in the preamble under numbers 25, 28, 29 and 30, respectively.

The recital, now inserted in the preamble under number 25, provides the previously missing characterisation of bioethics, remarking on its dimension as an analytical discipline, but also aimed at guiding practices and, therefore, having a normative dimension.

The recital under number 28 refers to the focus to be given to the duties of each individual towards the other members of the community and humanity as a whole.

This also includes the duty to cooperate in safeguarding public health and equitable access to and internationally.

And now, let us move on to the articles contained in the healthcare, by taking a self-responsible and

appropriate use of medical information and resources. Indeed, in the field of health, there are close links between the dimension of rights and that of duties, which also emerged clearly on the occasion of the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

Their consideration would, without doubt, be an enrichment, placing the Declaration in the line of other international documents (and, *inter alia*, of the Italian Constitution).

The recital under number 29 mentions the ethical implications of applications to medicine of artificial intelligence and of the most advanced knowledge in the field of neuroscience, already in the preamble, while, last but not least, the addition, introduced in recital number 30, introduces the acknowledgement that the culture of peace has a particular impact on bioethical issues, locally the Declaration and, in particular, in the first part.

We considered it is important to reiterate the reference to the culture of peace also in the General Provisions and, in particular, in article 2, dedicated to the purposes of the Declaration.

Moreover, we have formulated revision proposals that address values and notions at the heart of key articles of the Declaration. Not surprisingly, these articles have been the reference for the World Bioethics Days, organized by the ICB from 2016 onwards.

Firstly, the notion of human dignity, of which article 3 requires full respect, together with respect for human rights. It is important to emphasize that human dignity is a fundamental reference value, when the application of scientific knowledge and choices on medical treatments are at stake. Nevertheless, the notion of human dignity is rarely defined in terms of its boundaries and meaning. It risks becoming a rhetorical device, used to give strength to positions that are also very distant from each other or even conflicting. Hence the proposal to include a definition. In line with the values expressed by the Declaration, the definition of human dignity must provide for maximum respect for the individual, to be preserved from all forms of exploitation and humiliation, as well as for full consideration of their basic needs.

Similarly to human dignity, autonomy represents the additional value that the Declaration, already in its current formulation, intends to promote, requiring respect for it, whenever, in the context of research or clinical practice, actions are involved, likely to affect people's bodily integrity.

Article 6 of the first revision draft of the Declaration, as well as the corresponding article 5 of the Declaration in its current wording, emphasizes the close connection between the exercise of autonomy and the assumption of responsibility that it entails.

On the other hand, it affirms the need to protect the rights and interests of persons unable to exercise autonomy. In our opinion, it was important to provide additions that give greater power to these demands. With this aim we proposed to insert in the draft an article 7 (Informed Consent) enriched by the clarification of the importance of an information suitable to the subject's condition, to increase the possibility of truly informed choices.

Further, a provision has been added that any dissent on the implementation or continuation of treatment must not jeopardize the right to receive further care and treatment.

On the other hand, with regard to persons without the capacity to consent, the reference to the protection of their interests didn't appear to be sufficient. Article 8 of the Declaration appeared to be the appropriate place for an explicit mention of the instrument that makes it possible to enhance the subject's will, even in cases where they are no longer capable of giving consent. The reference is to the instrument of advance directives, which has not only received increasing at-

tention in bioethical reflection, but has also become the subject of specific legal regulations in an increasing number of countries.

Let me conclude by mentioning two other fundamental principles in the Declaration that can be further strengthened by introducing additions to the articles that currently enshrine them.

The first is the principle of respect for human vulnerability and personal integrity, enshrined in Article 8 of the current version of the Declaration. In the new draft, in the Article 11 (Respect for human vulnerability) a reference to the increased difficulties that respect for that principle risks encountering, due to the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in medical practice, has been appropriately introduced. Instead, in our opinion, the need should also be emphasized, not only to enhance the protection of the psycho-physical integrity of the person, but also to safeguard the main measure of protection represented by the maintenance of the human (communicative) relationship between the patient and the medical team.

The second principle is that of respect for cultural diversity and pluralism enshrined, in the current version of the Declaration, in article 12, to be read in conjunction with article 11, which prohibits discrimination and stigmatization against individuals and groups. In the revision of the first draft, we find now the article 10 (Non-discrimination and pluralism), which collects previous articles 11 and 12, while we no longer find, in the title, the reference to cultural diversity. Instead, in our opinion, that reference deserves to be reintroduced. Indeed, there can be no doubt that the principle of respect for cultural diversity and pluralism must continue to be one of the fundamental pillars of a document such as the Universal Declaration, which is intended to guide decisions and courses of action in matters of bioethical relevance worldwide. And, at the same time, it is appropriate to introduce an addition to distance ourselves from a possible, dangerous misunderstanding. Namely, that treatments and practices, usually imposed and not chosen by individuals, are justified in the name of belonging to a culture and the defense of cultural identity. These practices are likely to harm their physical and psychological integrity, in violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Declaration. Female genital mutilation represents one, but not the only example.

Last but not least, with regard to the prohibition of discrimination also, and above all, with respect to the enjoyment of the state of health permitted by developments in science and biomedical practice (an issue that returns in article “Social Responsibility and Health”, present in the draft with the new title ‘One health’), it appears appropriate to eliminate the reference to race and replace it with that to ethnic origin. Indeed, the concept of race is today devoid of any scientific basis.

It also could be considered appropriate to include sex and gender and personal status among the criteria, since their mention reinforces the objective of promoting health and social development, which Article 14 indicates as central to all governments and institutions and to be achieved throughout society.

Although the Department of Bioethics and Philosophical Approach to Law worked on the first parts of the Declaration, some proposals for the second part are also submitted.

In particular, in the articles devoted to the role of states in adopting appropriate measures (legislative, administrative or otherwise) to give effect to the principles laid down in the Declaration, in addition to actions in the spheres of education and training, especially in the medical, clinical and research spheres, and in the sphere of public information, we felt it was important to state that for the concrete promotion of the Declaration, governments should work for peaceful

societies, where the best rights and care are extended to all human beings.

In this perspective, we considered important and fully sharable the proposal of Health Diplomacy Unit, to introduce formal mechanism for periodically reviewing and updating the Declaration to ensure its relevance in response to new scientific and technological developments, as well as enforcement mechanisms that could include international agreements, national legislation or institutional policies to ensure compliance with the principles of the declaration, and dispute resolution mechanism for conflicts arising from the interpretation and application of bioethical principles at the international level.

There is still a lot of work to be done in order to produce a text that is as clear, transparent and effective as possible.

But we already have a lot of material to think about, and with joint efforts I think we can achieve a worthwhile result.

Prof. Domenico Palombo

Head of the Department of One Health, Bioethics, and Technological Research

Dear Members of the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board of the ICB Department of One Health, Bioethics, and Technological Research, it's with great pleasure that I would like to share with you the initiative to organize, as prominent part of the Department, some Statements (Position Papers) to be published on the website as contributions to the debate on One Health issues.

Exactly one-year after the end of the pandemic emergency, now more than ever we need to engage in reflecting on the many current situations, such as the ever-persistent poverty, inexorable climate change, the increasingly rapid energy and technological transition, etc. which influence Health and drive us towards the concept of One Health.

Therefore, in order to converge and bring out all these aspects inherent to One Health, it is of paramount importance to make expert voices heard and stimulate new minds by directing them to One Health issues through a multidisciplinary approach.

Below are some ideas of the topics that could be covered in the statement entitled "Towards complex thinking: the One Health approach in medicine, veterinary, nutrition, agriculture, and industrial systems".

We ask you to let us know which of these you would like to contribute to and a potential title of your contribution by May 22, 2024.

1. How the One Health concept is perceived from the physicians' point of view.
2. The microbiome as 'fil rouge' in One Health.
3. What are the changes in the approach to One Health by geography?
4. The pandemic is an example of a negative connection between the animal world (zootechnical) and the human world: how can future pandemics be prevented without changing the balance sought in the concept of One Health?
5. How will climate change affect the connections on which the One Health concept is based (e.g.

biodiversity loss)?

6. Will artificial intelligence become an integral part of One Health?

7. Are there prejudices against Bioethics? How do they impact the implementation of the underlying principles?

8. How is generative artificial intelligence (i.e., chatGPT) evaluated from a Bioethical point of view?

9. The potential of multidisciplinary collaborations in One Health.

10. Strategies to diffuse One Health vision.

11. Migration Health and Equity.

12. Health and Environment: Fme for solutions.

13. Bioethical considerations of drug use in livestock and implications for One Health.

The contributions should be a maximum of 3 pages, and you can also suggest other Statements.

This initiative will also be open to outside contributions, but I think it sets a good example for those with a prominent role within the Department to contribute first.

Interviews

During the days of the Global Conference in Brasilia, the Heads of the Department kindly granted us some interviews.

It was a great pleasure to talk with them and delve into the crucial issues of their constant and intense commitment.

Patrizia Borsellino

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J0h9AW1rfjNw6zQDYo2d_16J9JXSuAnz/view?usp=drive_link

Jasna Karacic

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dvo8l69cVfbkDztUo4YxffDURv8c2sRk/view?usp=drive_link

Maria Tormo Dominguez 1 e 2

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a6kVdgB56RWNl7Q3NjpyvatL1d0iifn5/view?usp=drive_link

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Natalia Oliva Teles

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JJIZBsVOB0FFZb33-c3nMcDoDULFA7xv/view?usp=drive_link

Russel D'Souza

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J8Nz_WFedNPGdYlBMG7M_e2ueB2vmmFQ/view?usp=drive_link

Ester Alfie

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KWRF0rA-X7AP09NI95w7AWN2JE-eh-D8/view?usp=drive_link

Michel Fariña

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ka-4poIBBi91DMI-gl8VBdVsZT3dGyCA/view?usp=drive_link

Otmar Kloiber

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KaTWqkP2IfYJLDHMGVsxBR68poDFxXsu/view?usp=drive_link

Moty Benyakar

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L2McC35uf_4WdBvMHajwc48UrsYlXqhf/view?usp=drive_link

Monica Correia

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Lpcgswah40zziEG3NjA-qcSHdA169lN7/view?usp=drive_link

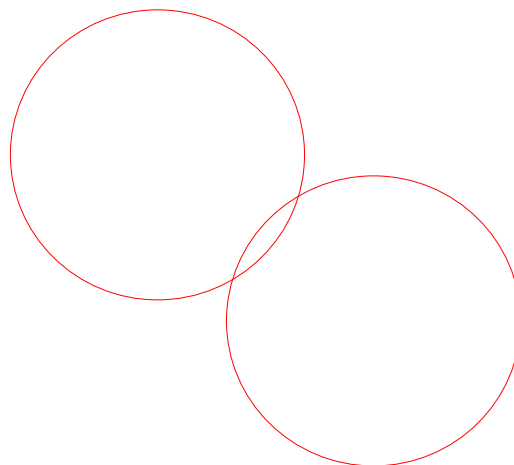
Jon Borowicz

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LsKorqD5r2wff5k7ecz110T0HNSHmo5z/view?usp=drive_link

Conclusions on behalf of the President of the International Chair in Bioethics

Rui Nunes

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ICB Units Heads' contributions

In this section I report the information kindly provided by the Heads of different Units belonging to the International Chair in Bioethics all over the world.

The Heads were asked to write which are the most relevant bioethical issues debated in their country and why. In the following part, you will read their responses.

FROM BRASIL

Nowadays, the most debated issue in bioethics in Brazil is the question of abortion.

For your knowledge, legal abortion can only be done only in 3 conditions:

- 1- Pregnancy in case of rape;
- 2- When the pregnancy would threaten the pregnant life for health issues;
- 3- A fetus with microcephaly.

Questions to be concerned:

- 1- Some Congressmen tried to limit 22 weeks of gestation as the final boundary to abortion, above the limit, a physician who practices legal abortion would be considered a murderer.
- 2- Methods like assisted fetal assistole in legal abortion above the limit of 22 weeks are being questioned as a cruel method, this questioning is being supported by some prominent physicians

Best regards,

Chin An Lin

Head of the ICB Unit at

The University of Sao Paulo Medical School affiliated



Chin An Lin, MD, PhD, FACP I Coordenador dos Ambulatórios; Vice supervisor Residência Médica em Clínica Médica
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Hospital das Clínicas



The topics raised by Prof. Lin are highly pertinent. I would like to add that Brazil has recently faced a humanitarian crisis due to the floods that occurred in Rio Grande do Sul in the past few months. We had volunteer doctors from our unit who experienced the reality of providing healthcare assistance to the affected population and encountered significant ethical and moral issues. I believe these experiences could be valuable contributions to the newsletter, should you find them of interest.

If this aligns with your needs, please inform me of the preferred format for the text, the deadline, and the submission process.

Prof. Dr. Gerson Yoshinari
Head of the Unit, Faculty of Medicine of Itajubá, Brazil

No Brasil temos refletido sobre questões relacionadas ao abortamento legal, que tem sido colocado na imprensa de uma maneira geral.

Temos refletido sobre as questões relacionadas à cobertura vacinal que sofreu diminuição de forma geral nos últimos anos e, felizmente, em recuperação. O negacionismo, o receio de efeitos adversos de vacinas e a hesitação vacinal foram tônicas dessa importante temática.

Temos refletido sobre a formação profissional do médico em nosso país, em face da abertura indiscriminada de escolas de Medicina, várias de forma precária e com poucos critérios científicos e sociais para seu funcionamento.

Temos debatido a necessidade de legislação relacionada à Avaliação dos Egressos dos cursos de Medicina, com apoio das entidades médicas e com projetos de lei no Congresso Nacional.

Temos debatido sobre a importância da Atenção primária em Saúde - APS - com políticas públicas essenciais para os cidadãos brasileiros, sejam adultos, crianças ou adolescentes.

.....Entre outros temas....."

Clóvis Francisco Constantino

Presidente da Sociedade Brasileira de Pediatria

Professor de Ética Médica e Bioética - Medicina - UNISA.

Professor de Ética Médica e Bioética da Pós-graduação do Mestrado em Direito Médico do Curso de Direito da Universidade Santo Amaro – UNISA.

Gerente/Assessor Técnico/Ética Médica-Bioética-Pediatria - OSS/SPDM-Associação Paulista para o Desenvolvimento da Medicina - Microrregião RASTS-VMVG

Membro do Centro Pluridisciplinar de Bioética da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto

PhD in Bioethics Division da International Chair in Bioethics

Membro da International Forum of Teachers - IFT - I C Bioethics

Coordenador (Head) da Unidade de São Paulo da International Chair in Bioethics (World Medical Association Cooperation Center) do Departamento dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (Portuguese Language Countries Division Chair in Bioethics) - sendo hospedeira (host) a Universidade Santo Amaro - UNISA.

In Brazil we are concerned about questions relating to legal abortion, which we fear have been placed in a general business.

We reflect on these issues related to vaccination coverage that have suffered a decline in general fitness in our last years and, happily, in recovery. Denialism, the reception of adverse effects of

vaccines, and vaccine failure are an important issue.

We reflect on the professional medical training in our country, in the face of indiscriminate opening of medical schools, varying in precarious form and with few scientific and social criteria for its functioning.

We discussed the need for legislation relating to the implementation of the courses of medicine, including medical entities and its projects in the National Congress.

We discussed the importance of primary care in health - APS - with public policies essential to Brazilian citizens, adults, children or adolescents.

.....Among other themes...

Clóvis Francisco Constantino

President of the Brazilian Society of Paediatrics Professor of Medical Ethics and Bioethics - Medicine - UNISA.

Professor of Medical Ethics and Bioethics of the Graduate School of Medicine Medical Doctor from Universidade Santo Amaro – UNISA.

Manager/Technical

Assessor/Médicale-Bioética-Pediatria - OSS/SPDM-Associação Paulista para o Desenvolvimento da Medicina - Microrregião RASTS-VMVG

Member of Centro Pluridisciplinar de Bioética da Faculty of Medicine from Universidade do Porto PhD in Bioethics Division from International Chair in Bioethics

Member of the International Forum of Teachers - IFT -

I C Bioethics Coordenador (Head) da Unidade de São Paulo da International Chair in Bioethics (World Medical Association Cooperation Center) do Departamento dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (Portuguese Language Countries Division Chair in Bioethics) - sendo hospedeira (host) at Universidade Santo Amaro - UNISA.

FROM ARGENTINA

From the perspective of my area of expertise (intensive care and transplantation), two of the most interesting and debated questions in Argentina today are the bioethical aspects of the non heart beating donors donation and the interruption of ECMO support in patients with irreversible brain damage.

I send you my best regards,
Francisco Klein

Prof Dr Francisco R Klein
Dean
Faculty of Medical Sciences
Favaloro University

FROM CANADA

Canadian ICB Units- Quebec and Ontario

Pierre Pariseau-Legault, Ph.D., LL.M., RN
Professor
Director of graduate nursing studies
Nursing science department
Université du Québec en Outaouais, Québec, Canada

Kristen Jones-Bonofiglio, PhD, RN
Director & Associate Professor, School of Nursing
Director, Centre for Health Care Ethics
Website: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/centre/chce>
Lakehead University, Thunder Bay Ontario, Canada

Twenty years ago, Breslin et al. (2005) identified disagreement between patients, families, and health care professionals, waiting lists management, and access to care for vulnerable or chronically ill populations as the three most important issues in Canadian medical ethics. These issues remain. However, since then, Canadian society has also been confronted with rapid changes. Environmental, public health, and economic crises have led to an amplification of inequalities and a fragmentation of the moral standards governing our collective relationship with health, well-being, and sickness (Belisle-Pipon & Favron-Godbout, 2024). In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada's health care providers have been left feeling the ongoing repercussions of moral distress, moral injury, compassion fatigue, and burnout experiences (Jones-Bonofiglio, 2020).

Today, contemporary bioethical issues in Canada, such as medical assistance in dying (Christie & Li, 2024) and resource allocation (Emanuel & Persad, 2023), must be understood and studied at the intersection of macro-phenomena such as climate change (Byskov et al., 2023), natural or man-made disasters (Cuthbertson et al., 2023), and colonial violence (Lanzarotta, 2020; Whyte, 2020).

We must acknowledge that we live in a world of multi-layered complexities. The challenge, then, is not only to identify bioethical issues at the individual level, but also to implement levers for action at organizational, structural, and systems levels with the foundations of our decision making firmly rooted in human rights-based practices. Perhaps the time for renewed commitments to the ethics of our practice with and for the human beings in our care has never been more important.

Bélisle-Pipon, J. C., & Favron-Godbout, C. (2024). Envisioning the future of bioethics—Dialogue and reflections. *Canadian Journal of Bioethics*, 7(1), 1-7.

Breslin, J. M., MacRae, S. K., Bell, J., Singer, P. A., & University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics Clinical Ethics Group. (2005). Top 10 health care ethics challenges facing the public: views of Toronto bioethicists. *BMC Medical Ethics*, 6, 1-8.

Byskov, M. F., Hyams, K., Satyal, P., Anguelovski, I., Benjamin, L., Blackburn, S., ... & Venn, A. (2021). An agenda for ethics and justice in adaptation to climate change. *Climate and Development*, 13(1), 1-9.

Christie, T., & Li, M. (2024). Medically assisted dying in Canada and unjust social conditions:

a response to Wiebe and Mullin. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 50(6), 423-424.

Cuthbertson, J., & Penney, G. (2023). Ethical decision making in disaster and emergency management: A systematic review of the literature. *Prehospital and disaster medicine*, 1-6.

Emanuel, E. J., & Persad, G. (2023). The shared ethical framework to allocate scarce medical resources: a lesson from COVID-19. *The Lancet*, 401(10391), 1892-1902.

Jones-Bonofiglio, K. (2020). *Health care ethics through the lens of moral distress*. Springer.

Lanzarotta, T. (2020). Ethics in retrospect: Biomedical research, colonial violence, and Iñupiat sovereignty in the Alaskan Arctic. *Social Studies of Science*, 50(5), 778-801.

Pariseau-Legault, P., Vallée-Ouimet, S., Jacob, J. D., & Goulet, M. H. (2020). Intégration des droits humains dans la pratique du personnel infirmier faisant usage de coercition en santé mentale: recension systématique des écrits et méta-ethnographie. *Recherche en soins infirmiers*, (3), 53-76.

Pelosse, D., & Pariseau-Legault, P. (2022). Le développement de pratiques de soutien à l'exercice des droits en soins psychiatriques à partir de l'expérience qu'en font les personnes vivant avec une problématique de santé mentale en contexte d'hospitalisation ou de traitement involontaire: protocole de recherche d'une analyse phénoménologique interprétative. *Science of Nursing and Health Practices*, 5(1), 103-113.

Whyte, K. (2020). Too late for indigenous climate justice: Ecological and relational tipping points. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 11(1), e603.

FROM GEORGIA

Thank you very much for your email and question. I am glad to share insights on the most relevant bioethical/ethical issues currently of concern in Georgia. While you didn't specify the style for the contribution, I have provided a brief overview of key themes below.

Privacy and Data Security: Protecting patient data in the age of digital health records and big data is a significant issue. Bioethical considerations include safeguarding data privacy, implementing robust security measures, and addressing the ethical/privacy implications of sharing medical data for research purposes.

Vaccination: The issue of vaccination includes whether vaccinations should be mandatory and how to balance individual rights with public health needs. This topic is particularly relevant in light of recent global health challenges.

Surrogacy: This is a significant concern with a focus on respecting the rights and welfare of surrogate mothers, intended parents, and children. Ensuring that the process is fair, transparent, and responsible is crucial, with special attention given to the ethical implications of international surrogacy arrangements.

Furthermore, may be not directly related, attention should also be given to:

AI in Higher Education: Implementing a comprehensive strategy that prioritizes fairness, trans-

parency, privacy, informed consent, inclusivity, and a commitment to ethical principles is crucial. These aspects should be targeted by institutions to ensure AI enhances the educational experience while safeguarding the rights and interests of all stakeholders.

Academic Integrity: Honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage are the cornerstone values of academic integrity. These aspects should not be neglected, as they foster a culture of ethical behavior and excellence within universities, ensuring that academic achievements are genuine and knowledge is advanced responsibly. Academic integrity is closely related to research integrity, as both uphold standards that underpin the trustworthiness and advancement of scientific knowledge.

Research Integrity: The most discussed aspects of research integrity include honesty, accountability, transparency, objectivity, respect for intellectual property, and confidentiality. All units of the research ecosystem, as well as individual researchers, should be aware of and adhere to these standards to maintain the trustworthiness and advancement of scientific knowledge.

These are some of the general bioethical/ethics topics of concern. However, there are also more specific and narrow issues being addressed, such as the ethical aspects of oncology care, mental health and psychological services, and bullying. Each of them presents unique bioethical challenges that require careful consideration and tailored approaches.

I hope these insights are helpful.

პატივისცემით,
Regards,

ეკატერინე კლდიაშვილი, ბ.დ.
Ekaterina Kldiashvili, PhD

პროფესორი, ვიცე-რექტორი კვლევის მიმართულებით
Professor, Vice Rector in Research

პეტრე შოთაძის სახელობის თბილისის სამედიცინო აკადემია

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FROM CHINA

As for the issue you mentioned, China is currently most concerned about governance over ethics in science and technology. The Chinese government has issued a series of normative documents on ethical governance of science and technology, the main contents of which are as follows:

Purpose:

To further improve the ethical system of science and technology, enhance the governance capacity of science and technology ethics, effectively prevent and control ethical risks in science and technology, and continuously promote science and technology towards goodness and benefit humanity.

Principles of governance over ethics in science and technology:

(1) Enhance human well-being. Technological activities should adhere to the people-centered development philosophy, which is conducive to promoting economic development, social progress, improvement of people's livelihoods, and ecological environment protection, continuously enhancing people's sense of gain, happiness, and security, and promoting peaceful and sustainable development of human society.

(2) Respect the right to life. Technological activities should minimize harm or potential threats to human life safety, physical health, mental and psychological well-being, respect personal dignity and privacy, and safeguard the right to information and choice of participants in technological activities. The use of experimental animals should comply with requirements such as "Reduction, Replacement, Refinement".

(3) Adhere to fairness and justice. Technological activities should respect differences in religious beliefs, cultural traditions, and other aspects, treat different social groups fairly, justly, and inclusively, and prevent discrimination and prejudice.

(4) Reasonably control risks. Technological activities should objectively evaluate and prudently deal with uncertainties and risks of technological applications, striving to avoid and prevent potential risks, prevent misuse and abuse of technological achievements, and avoid endangering social security, public safety, biosafety, and ecological security.

(5) Maintain openness and transparency. Technological activities should encourage stakeholders and the general public to participate reasonably, and establish disclosure mechanisms for technological activities involving significant and sensitive ethical issues. When disclosing information related to scientific and technological activities, transparency should be increased to achieve objectivity and truthfulness.

Strengthening the institutional guarantee of governance over ethics in science and technology:

(1) Develop and improve ethical norms and standards for technology. Develop ethical standards and guidelines for key fields such as life sciences, medicine, and artificial intelligence, improve relevant standards for ethical science and technology, clarify ethical requirements for science and technology, and guide science and technology institutions and personnel to carry out scientific and technological activities in compliance.

(2) Establish a system for ethical review and supervision of technology. Clarify the responsibilities of technology ethics review and supervision, and improve the rules and procedures for tech-

nology ethics review, risk disposal, and violation handling. Establish and improve the standards, operating mechanisms, registration systems, and regulatory systems for the establishment of technology ethics (review) committees, and explore the certification mechanism for technology ethics (review) committees.

(3) Improve the level of rule of law in ethical governance of science and technology. Promote clear regulations on governance work such as technology ethics supervision and violation investigation in the fundamental legislation of technological innovation, and implement technology ethics requirements in other relevant legislation.

(4) Strengthen the theoretical research on technological ethics. Support relevant institutions, think tanks, social organizations, scientific and technological personnel to explore the theory of scientific and technological ethics, strengthen forward-looking research on ethical issues in scientific and technological innovation, actively promote and participate in major international discussions and rule making on scientific and technological ethics.

Prof. SU Yuju

FROM BULGARIA

The most relevant Bioethical questions debated in Bulgaria concerning healthcare are the ethical aspects of transplantations, in vitro procedures, long term treatment of patients, the quality of care for patients with chronic diseases and involvement of social services and NGOs.

Concerning education: we are actively working to modernize education in the various specialties, specific researches are being conducted to study the opinion and satisfaction of students, and the results are discussed between us and at different conferences.

*Проф. А. Воденичарова, дм
Декан на Факултет по Обществено здраве, Медицински университет- София
Ръководител катедра Биоетика*

*Prof. A. Vodenicharova, PhD
Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Sofia
Head of department of Bioethics*

FROM CUBA

In my opinion, among others, as was referred to some years ago by Acosta Sariego...

Medical Research Ethics:

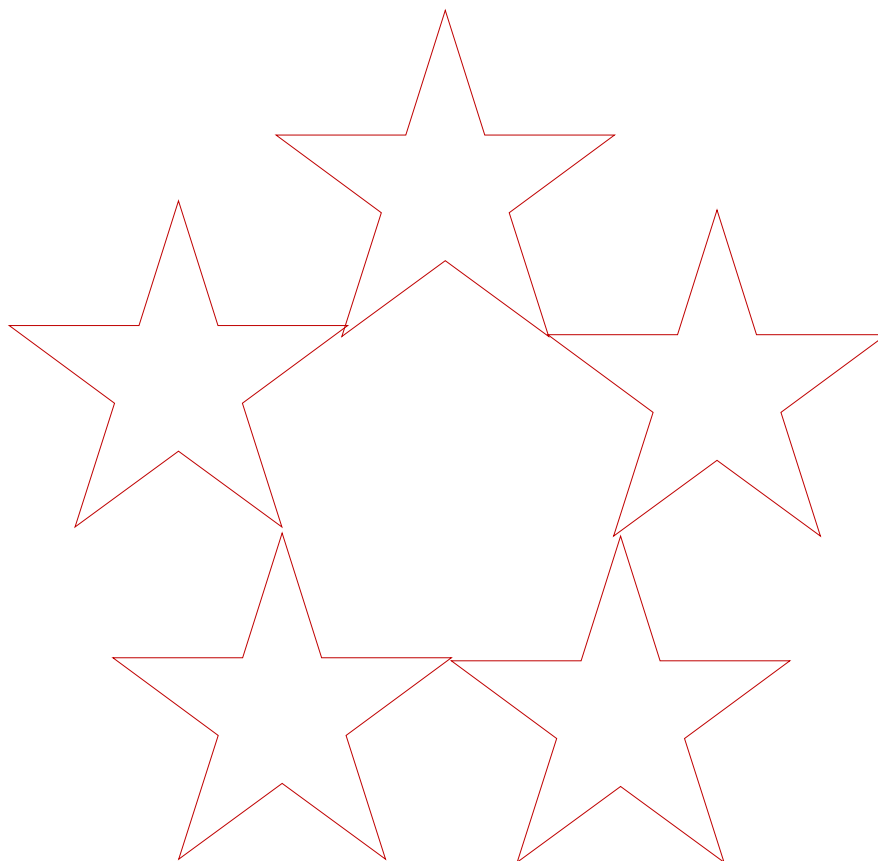
With Cuba's advancements in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, ethical considerations around clinical trials, especially regarding informed consent and the use of human subjects, are prominent.

Public Health Policies:

The balance between individual rights and public health measures, such as vaccination mandates and quarantine protocols, is a critical area of bioethical debate, especially in the context of infectious disease control.

These topics are still under discussion.

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Message of ICB Chair's Holder



I have the privilege to inform you that the 16th *World Conference in Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law* that was held in Brasilia last month was a huge success. The Vice-President of Brazil, Geraldo Alckmin, was present in the Opening Ceremony.

With more than 600 participants in person, and many hundreds assisting online it was generally considered by most participants as a high-level scientific event, with first class keynote speakers, and high-quality panels in different bioethical and legal issues.

Moreover, we had the enormous pleasure of delivering to Prof Miroslava Vasinova the *Carmi World Prize in Bioethics*.

Also, I would like to remind you that the 17th *World Conference in Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law* will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, between 24-26 November 2025.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING AT THE NEXT YEAR'S GLOBAL CONFERENCE

17th World Conference in Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law



Start Date: November 24, 2025

End Date: November 26, 2025

Location: Ljubljana, Slovenia

The International Chair in Bioethics is hosting this conference which will cover bioethics, medical ethics and health law. The World Medical Association is a cooperating partner to the conference.

World Bioethics Day 2024 announcement



World Bioethics Day-2024 International Chair in Bioethics, WMA Cooperating Centre, Porto



01-06-2024

Honorable Members of the International Chair in Bioethics,

World Bioethics Day Department of International Chair in Bioethics, WMA Cooperating Centre, is excited to announce the celebration of **NINTH WORLD BIOETHICS DAY** globally on **Saturday, 19th October 2024**. All the Units of the Chair across the world (263 as of today) are invited to celebrate the '**Common Program**' as part of their commitment to proliferate the awareness and practice of Bioethical principles documented in the UNESCO *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights 2005*.

The theme for this year's celebration shall be '**Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization**'. This theme is inspired by **Article 11** of UNESCO *UDBHR*. Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization are significant aspects of human interaction and relationships. In the current era of globalization, when people are moving across the globe and interacting with people like never before and this being further facilitated by advanced communication technologies, respect for various religions, cultures, ethnicities, social status becomes part of almost daily life for many of us. In this scenario, it becomes increasingly imperative that people should not be discriminated against and stigmatized based on these geographical, cultural, and ethnic or any such other grounds. These principles are underlined by the most basic bioethical principle of respect for human dignity and human rights, which is desired in all human interactions.

The Common Program and Timeline of the events for **World Bioethics Day 2024** shall be as follows:

International Program: (To be coordinated by Unit Heads)

1. Name of Event: World Bioethics Day 2024.

- a. **Official WBD logo** (on the top left and sent along with this email): It should be used for all the documents, programs, banners/flyers related to WBD 2024.
- b. **Official logo of International Chair in Bioethics, Porto** (on the top right of this page and sent along with this email): It should also appear on all the documents, programs, banners/flyers related to WBD.
- c. **Official WBD Banner** is prepared by WBD Department and circulated to all Units along with the email containing this program.
- d. **Official WBD Banner of Units**: Every Unit should prepare its own official WBD banner as soon as possible. The same should bear the official logos, as mentioned above under point no. 1(a) and (b).

2. **First announcement**: Units of the Chair should announce the celebration of World Bioethics Day 2024 within the **first week of June 2024** through their Universities/Institutions and institutional website(s) and/or other methods to all stakeholders (teaching faculty/students/nurses/private practitioners/public etc.) by **publishing the official WBD 2024 banner** released by the WBD



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Department. The International collaborators of Chair, e.g., WMA, IFMSA etc. shall also announce the program through their website(s) or by any other means as deemed fit and decided by them.

3. **Submission of Draft/Tentative Program by the Units:** The Unit Heads/Secretaries should submit the MS word file of their tentative program at <https://forms.gle/1aUZu47DfT3agE4T7> latest by **10th July 2024**. This is only a tentative program to express the commitment of the Unit to celebrate WBD 2024. Units can make changes in the same later but before submission of “Final Program”.
4. **Promotion of Program by Units:** It is advised that Units should try to expand the program **beyond the limits of their Institutions to city, regional and national levels** and ensure involvement of other stakeholders. It may be either in the form of celebration beyond the physical boundaries of Institution and/or actively involving various relevant professional organizations of the city in which unit operates, such as doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, lawyers, judges, hospitals (municipal/ corporate), philosophers, speech therapists, psychologists, social workers, journalists etc. Different groups of citizens should be invited to take active part in various programs organized by the Units, such as seminars, posters, debates, panel discussions, films etc. Units may collaborate with such professional organizations for the celebration of World Bioethics Day.
5. **Submission of entries for various International Competitions:** From the date of first announcement (that is **1st June 2024**) till **Saturday, 10th of August 2024**.

All the international competitions will be on the theme of the year i.e. ‘**Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization.**’ This year the categories of International Competitions for students shall be:

- i. **Artistic Poster Competition**
- ii. **Poetry Competition (English only)**
- iii. **Photography Competition**
- iv. **Short films/ videos Competition**
- v. **Scientific Poster Competition**
- vi. **Scientific Research Paper Competition**

ONLY ONE ENTRY per unit/student association per competitive category shall be allowed. Each entry shall be awarded a certificate with the name of student(s) and Unit. **ONLY STUDENTS** are allowed to participate in these International Competitions. **NO FACULTY/ STAFF entries will be entertained.** All entries should be sent along with the participants’ details as prescribed in the ‘**Online Competition Registration Form**’ at [WBD 2024 - International Competition Registration Form](#).

All the units/student associations should participate in the International Competitions. If a Unit has multiple sub-units, such sub-units are NOT permitted to send separate entries. All such sub-units may send their entries to their Unit, which in turn shall select **ONLY ONE** entry per competitive event and submit the same as Unit’s entry in that event category. The winners will be awarded.



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Note:

- 1. Entries for the International Competitions should be submitted by online form through Unit Heads' email ID ONLY.**
- 2. Entries submitted by any other means shall not be entertained.**

It is suggested that Units should hold such competitions at their local level before **Wednesday, 31st July 2024** and the First Winning entry should be sent for International Competitions before **Saturday, 10th August 2024**. All such entries of local competitive events along with winning entries may be displayed for the audience during the WBD celebrations on 19th October 2024.

6. Progress Information and Video conferencing:

- a. Unit Heads should keep their **Regional Coordinators** (as per the Steering Committee details mentioned below) informed about the developments and any hindrances/difficulties faced by them.
- b. **Regional Coordinators** shall share the information about developments in their region and any issues faced by them/raised by Units with Head of WBD Department, so that necessary and timely measures can be taken to resolve the same. This may be facilitated by video conference meetings of Unit Heads with Heads of Regions and/or the WBD department.

7. Submission of Final Program by the Units: On or before Saturday, 31st August 2024 to WBD Department by uploading the file on [World Bioethics Day 2024 \(Final Program Submission Form\)](#).

8. The Report of WBD 2024 celebration: Units should submit a report on **World Bioethics Day 2024** as celebrated by their Units on or before **10th November 2024** to WBD Department worldbioethicsday.icb@gmail.com and to 'Bioethical Voices' Newsletter Editorial Board at bioethicalvoicesnews@gmail.com in the MS Word file format including pictures in the same file.

9. Special WBD issues of the Bioethical Voices Newsletter: Bioethical Voices will publish Final Programs of Units; and December 2024 issue will contain WBD 2024 reports of Units.

Suggested Common Program for Units (to be celebrated on 19th October 2024):

Session I: (Morning Session)

Part 1.

- a. Opening speech by Head of the Unit or Head of the Institution.
- b. Speech (es) by Head(s)/ representative(s) of collaborating Professional Organization(s).
- c. The greetings of International or local representatives of International Chair in Bioethics, WMA Cooperating Centre.
- d. The presentation of an award to an active member of the Unit.

Part 2. Guest lecture/Panel Discussion/Webinar/Symposium on 'Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization', by experts in Bioethics/Senior Faculty and involving student representative(s). Targeted



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audience should be junior staff, PG residents, UG students and Paramedics (Nursing and other supporting staff) and other stakeholders as decided by the Unit.

Session II (Afternoon Session): To encourage and enhance students' participation in the program, this session should include student activities and may include the following:

Part 3. Scientific Paper/Poster Presentation/Student Debate on 'Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization'.

Part 4. Drawing/ Rangoli/ Poetry/ Singing/ Dance Competitions: (On 'WBD Theme of the Year')

Part 5. Display of entries of Scientific/Artistic Poster Competition, Short film/video Competition and Photography Competition.

Part 6. Valedictory Function.

In addition to the above, all Units should prepare flyer or poster for **World Bioethics Day** event. It is further suggested that these flyers/posters may be prepared by the students of various Institutions/Units and should be based on the '**World Bioethics Day Theme of the year**'.

(PS: Units are permitted to make appropriate changes in the common program to suit their requirements. Units are entitled to plan their celebration on a different date in the month of **October ONLY** subject to local conditions.)

In addition to International Competitive Events and Local Events, other Unit level events suggested are:

- I. Essay writing competition.
- II. Skit/Play/Drama/Theatre/Music/Dance
- III. Symposia.
- IV. **Bioethics fair/ exhibition/ museum walk.** Students may put up stalls and have street plays to create awareness among their colleagues, practicing doctors and laymen. A walk to the bioethics museum for the students and visitors can be organized.
- V. Media appearances (Television/Radio).
- VI. Newspaper articles.

Units can choose any of the above or plan any other additional activities, depending on the feasibility.

Program for Students' Wings of the Units:

Students' Wings of the Units should be actively involved in the celebration of the event. Unit Heads, Steering committees of the Units and of Students' Wings should ensure maximum participation of the students in the event. Students should proactively participate and play an important role in conduction of most of the ceremonies.

Students can also be involved in some social activities, depending on the feasibility of individual Unit and Institution. These can be:



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- a. Awareness programs at community level in the form of talks, role plays, skits etc. based on the theme of the World Bioethics Day 2024.
- b. Service/support programs for underprivileged/ war affected individuals/families.
- c. Any other.

Common Program for Students' Associations:

IFMSA along with its associate medical associations worldwide will actively participate in the celebration of World Bioethics Day 2024. IFMSA should prepare the WBD plan and release the same for their member associations. IFMSA should release the tentative/confirmed dates for various planning milestones for their member associations, as deemed fit to them.

Important Notes (For all):

1. It is suggested to include as many stakeholders as possible in the celebration of the program.
2. Organizers will have the liberty for minor modifications/additions/deletions to the program.
3. All Units/student associations should celebrate WBD and participate in International Competitions.
4. All correspondence related to World Bioethics Day 2024 should be done ONLY on: worldbioethicsday.icb@gmail.com
5. **Having weeklong celebrations:** Units, if want, may hold weeklong program as per their feasibility (though it is not suggested as common program for all the Units), but this celebration should not change the Common Program as suggested for the **World Bioethics Day 2024**.
6. Please like, follow, and share the World Bioethics Day Facebook page of International Chair in Bioethics (<https://www.facebook.com/internationalchairbioethics/>) for regular updates.



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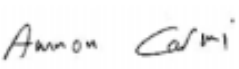
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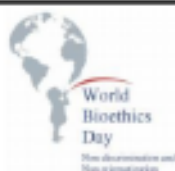
International Chair in Bioethics, WMA Cooperating Center World Bioethics Day Department Steering Committee – 2024

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Prof. Rui Nunes	Head, ICB	ruinunes@med.up.pt
Prof. Praveen Arora	Head of Department	dr.praveen2811@gmail.com
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Prof. Pierre EFA	Head, African Division	effapierre@yahoo.fr
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IFMSA representative	Students Associations Coordinator	lme@ifmsa.org
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RULES FOR ENTRIES TO BE SUBMITTED FOR WORLD BIOETHICS DAY 2024

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

General Rules:

1. ONLY STUDENTS of Units/Sub-Units/Institutions/Organizations of and schools/associations collaborating with International Chair in Bioethics can participate in the International Competitions (herein after referred as 'Competitions'/ 'Competition') announced and organized by the World Bioethics Day Department, ICB WMA Cooperating Centre and its steering committee (herein after referred as 'WBD Department'/ 'Department'/ 'Committee') on occasion of World Bioethics Day 2024.
2. The theme for competitions in all categories shall be the 'Theme of World Bioethics Day 2024' i.e., '**Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization**'.
3. This year the entries are invited in the following six categories: 1. Artistic Posters, 2. Scientific Posters, 3. Scientific Articles, 4. Photographs, 5. Poems, and 6. Short Films.
4. All the entries should be submitted in digital format only, as per the specifications and guidelines mentioned under that competitive category.
5. ONLY ONE ENTRY PER COMPETITIVE CATEGORY PER UNIT can be submitted. In case more than one entry is submitted by a Unit, ONLY ONE of the submitted entries shall be considered for the competition. The decision of the Committee in this regard shall be final and binding. No request to change the entry shall be entertained.
6. Please carefully select the category under which the entry is being submitted. In case of wrong selection of category by the person filling in the online form and any dispute arising thereof, the decision of the Committee, regarding including or excluding the entry from the competition, shall be final and binding.
7. Students may participate as individuals or in teams. If there will be more than one participant for one entry, only ONE prize shall be awarded, but an individual certificate of participation as a team shall be given to each participant.
8. There is NO provision of any kind of (cash or otherwise) prize to the winning individual/ team.
9. All the submitted work artistic/ scientific posters, photographs, poems, scientific research papers, short films/videos should be the original work of the participant(s).
10. The submitted entry/entries should **NOT** have been presented at **any other competition previously or concurrently or made available at any public domain (including electronic and non-electronic media) or used for commercial purposes**, except at the Unit/Institute/Organization member of International Network of International Chair in Bioethics during WBD 2024 celebrations.
11. All the entries must be created/ prepared/ shot **after 1st June 2024**.
12. Each entry should be submitted with a document mentioning participant's name, complete postal address, telephone/mobile number, e-mail ID (if any), date of preparation/shooting of poster/ photograph/ film, name of Unit Head and the Unit to which participant belongs and should be signed by participant and Head of Unit.



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13. **EACH ENTRY** should accompany an undertaking (given in the online form) confirming that the participant is the rightful owner of the submitted work and that (s)he has obtained any necessary third-party releases/approvals and mentioning the date of preparation of the entry. Participant shall also agree that the organizers will not be responsible for any claims/suit challenging the authorship, or infringement on the privacy of any person recognizable in the submitted entry.
14. **Important: Artificial intelligence (AI) generated work will not be eligible for the competition.** The decision of the World Bioethics Day Committee in this regard will be final and binding to the participants.
15. Participant shall grant to the International Chair in Bioethics and WBD Department, without need for attribution, prior permission or additional pay or consideration: the right to use the submitted entry royalty-free, world-wide and in perpetuity; the non- exclusive license to copy, display, distribute, reproduce, and create derivative works of the submitted work, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or subsequently developed for all International Chair in Bioethics, WBD Department, and their authorized subsidiary bodies' non-profit public information and benefit purposes.
16. The entries submitted for competition shall become the property of the International Chair in Bioethics, though the copyright shall remain with the participant.
17. Any entry, during or after the competition, even if awarded the prize, but later found to be against the rules set for this competition, will be disqualified for the contest and the prize shall be cancelled and forfeited.
18. **Last Date:** Entries in all categories should be submitted latest by **Saturday, 10th August 2024**. Late entries shall not be entertained.
19. The entries should be submitted **ONLY** through the email id of Head of the Unit at [WBD 2024 - International Competition Registration Form](#).



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ARTISTIC / SCIENTIFIC POSTER COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETITION RULES

Poster Rules & Criteria:

Poster Specifications

1. Artistic posters can be handmade or digitally created.
2. Scientific posters should be created in digital format only.
3. All the posters (scientific/ artistic) should be submitted in electronic format (jpeg/jpg) only.
4. Handmade artistic posters should be photographed in adequate and proper light and be submitted in jpeg/jpg format only.
5. Presentation
 - a. Portrait or landscape.
 - b. Border or non-bordered.
 - c. Written legends, slogans, or phrases may or may not be used. Color or Black and White.
 - d. Any number of colors can be used on the poster.
 - e. All mediums can be used (markers, crayons, pastels, paint, print etc.).
 - f. Original photography, magazine clippings, stencils, buttons; glue-ons may be utilized on the poster.
 - g. Poster Text: The text should be in English ONLY. There are no specifications for text/font size. Text should be of sufficient size for easy reading at a distance.

Judging Criteria:

- a. **Coverage of Topic-** Details on the poster captures the important information about the current WBD theme.
- b. **Organization/ Logical Sequencing of Ideas-** Organization of information with clear titles and subheadings. All graphics are related to the topic and make it easier to understand.
- c. **Layout & Design-** All information on the poster is in focus and can be easily viewed and identified from a distance.
- d. **Mechanics-** No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.

Decisions by the judges and the WBD Department/ Committee shall be final and binding. Entrant agrees to comply with and be bound by the decisions of the secretariat and/or of the panel of judges on all matters associated with the contest and waives all rights to judicial recourse in case of disputes.



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PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETITION RULES

1. Each student may submit one good quality, digital image (jpeg/jpg format not less than 300 dpi).
2. By submitting the photograph for consideration, the photographer attests that:
 - a. Entry is an original photograph.
 - b. S/he created the image and owns full copyright to pictures submitted.
 - c. Entrant is prepared to certify this attestation on request.
 - d. The submitted image has not been published anywhere else or won prizes in any competitions or has been used for commercial purposes. Any such images are not eligible for the competition.
 - e. Submitted image has not been submitted in any other photo contest.
 - f. S/he has obtained all necessary third-party releases and approvals.
 - g. If deemed necessary, the student may also be requested to submit the original source files.

Technical Specifications

- a. HDR images and stitched panoramas are NOT eligible.
- b. Editing or otherwise digital manipulation that distorts the reality of the images will not be allowed. Only basic enhancements such as sharpening, contrast adjustment or simple cropping will be allowed.
- c. High resolution digital format is eligible
- d. **File size should not be more than 10 MB.**

Conditions of Contest

- a. The student should confirm that they have shot the photo, and are the rightful owner of the photo, and that have obtained any necessary third-party releases.
- b. WBD Committee reserves the right to disqualify photographers who: are unable to validate the information submitted; tamper with the process; or breach Contest Rules.

Judging Criteria

Photographs will be assessed for their:

- a. Creativity and originality
- b. Composition (Technical excellence and quality)
- c. Artistic merit (wow factor) and
- d. Content (Relevance)

Decisions by the judges and WBD Committee are final. The entrant agrees to comply with and be bound by the decisions of the judges on all matters associated with the contest and waives all rights to judicial recourse in case of disputes.



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SHORT FILM / VIDEO COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETITION RULES

This is a short film competition and hence **ONLY** Short Films should be submitted **NO DOCUMENTARIES** shall be eligible for the competition. The entries can be short digital animation films too on the topic.

Technical Specifications and Rules:

- a. The films shall **not be more than 300 seconds**, including the beginning and end credits. **Films exceeding this time limit are liable to be rejected.** The minimum length should be 30 seconds including credits.
- b. The short films should be in **ENGLISH** preferably, else **ENGLISH SUBTITLES** are must.

FORMAT:

The films may be shot in MPEG4 or AVI format. The recommended ratios are: 16:9 / 16:9 Full Height Anamorphic – in DV / HDV. **The file size should not exceed 100 MB.**

RIGHT TO SCREEN:

The ICB and World Bioethics Day Department will have the exclusive rights to screen (non – commercial) the film on the respective websites or other associated screenings.

COPYRIGHT:

The Film must not contain any copyrighted work(s) belonging to third parties unless (1) Participants have a license to use such works in the Film; or (2) the use participants' Film makes of such works, is a fair one under the copyright laws. Participants will retain any licenses and provide them to organizers upon request.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Short Films / Videos will be assessed for their:

- a. Creativity and originality
- b. Composition (technical excellence and quality)
- c. Artistic merit (wow factor) and
- d. Content (relevance)

Decisions by the judges and WBD Committee are final. Entrant agrees to comply with and be bound by the decisions of the Committee and/or of the panel of judges on all matters associated with the contest and waives all rights to judicial recourse in case of disputes.



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POEM COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETITION RULES

1. Each student may submit one Poem ONLY.
2. The entry should be in the ENGLISH language ONLY.
3. By submitting the poem for consideration, the student attests that:
 - a. Poem is an original creation of the said student.
 - b. S/he created the poem and owns full copyright to submitted poem.
 - c. Entrant is prepared to certify this attestation on request.
 - d. The submitted poem has not been published anywhere else or won prizes in any competitions or has been used for commercial purposes. Any such poem is not eligible for the competition.
 - e. Submitted poem has not been submitted in any other contest.
 - f. If deemed necessary, the student may also be requested to submit the original source documents.
 - g. The entry should be submitted in MS Word file ONLY.

Conditions of Contest

- a. Students should confirm that they have created the poem and are the rightful owner of the poem.
- b. WBD Committee reserves the right to disqualify students who are unable to validate the information submitted; tamper with the process; or breach Contest Rules.

Judging Criteria

Entries will be assessed for their:

- a. Creativity and originality
- b. Composition
- c. Creativity merit (the wow factor) and
- d. Relevance of content to current WBD theme

Decisions by the judges and WBD Committee are final. The entrant agrees to comply with and be bound by the decisions of the judges on all matters associated with the contest and waives all rights to judicial recourse in case of disputes.



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SCIENTIFIC PAPER COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETITION RULES

1. Each student may submit **ONLY** one scientific paper under **ONE** guide and in MS word file format.
2. One guide can be associated with **ONE** Paper Only and there can be a maximum of 6 authors including guide.
3. The scientific paper may be original research, a review (excluding systematic reviews), a case report, or a case series.
4. The scientific work should have been done **after 1st June 2024**.
5. Any submitted work should not have been published/ accepted for publication already or have been sent for publication to any agency. The scientific work should be in accordance with the theme of WBD 2024.
6. The scientific work, which is being submitted as a scientific paper, should not have been submitted in any competition (other than WBD 2024 competitions at respective institutes) in any form (scientific poster, oral presentation, conference proceedings, conference souvenir, etc.).
7. The authors should receive necessary regulatory body approvals and clearances for their work e.g., institutional ethics committee/ institutional review board etc.
8. The work should be authors' own genuine scientific work.
9. The maximum word limit for original research and review is 2500 words and for case reports/ case series 1000 words excluding title, abstract, key words, and references. The paper should be in English **ONLY**.
10. The title must be a maximum of 20 words and abstracts must be a maximum of 250 words.
11. There should be 5-8 key words.
12. Original research should be formatted as: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgment (grants and research report), and References.
13. Reviews should be formatted as: Abstract, Key Words, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgment (grants and research report), and References.
14. Case reports/ series should be formatted as: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Case Report, Discussion, Conclusion, and References.
15. No more than a total of 5 figures and tables are permitted.
16. Authors must declare the conflict of interest, if any, at the end of the article.
17. Authorship of the scientific papers should be as per ICMJE guidelines.
18. Names of authors should be mentioned under the title in the order of their authorship along with their affiliations.
19. Do not copy paste write up/ information/ results/ data from other sources (published or unpublished) without giving appropriate reference.



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20. Research misconduct, fraud, and plagiarism will not be accepted and if any such act is detected at any stage, the scientific paper will be rejected without any prior information to the authors.
21. If the research misconduct, fraud, or plagiarism is detected at a later stage after the declaration of result, the award, if any, will be revoked and certificate will be cancelled. The same will be published in official newsletter, website, and other public domains of the ICB and WBD Department.

Judging Criteria:

- a. **Scientific content-** The quality of scientific content of the paper.
- b. **Coverage of Topic-** The relevance of the paper to the current WBD theme.
- c. **Organization/ Logical Sequencing of Ideas-** Organization of information with clear titles and subheadings. Proper labelling of the tables, charts, and photographs.
- d. **Mechanics-** No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.

Dr. Praveen Arora
Head

World Bioethics Day Department

Prof. Amnon Carmi
Honorary Head

International Chair in Bioethics

Prof. Rui Nunes
Head

International Chair in Bioethics

Editorial Board Communications

NEWSLETTER'S CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIREMENTS

The contributions for the next Bioethical Voices newsletter must be forwarded to the Editorial Board before **30 November 2024**. They should be written in good English and in Word Format, with some photos (where possible) and their contents should be of international interests. Each author is personally responsible for the contents and the language of his/her own contribution. Contributions must be signed.

INDEX

Chair Holder's Message, Editorial, Bioethics in the World, Bioethics VIPs and Institutions, About Legislation and Judgments, Bioethics and Disability, Education, Youth Bioethics Education, Research, Publications, About Units, Focus on Units, World Bioethics Day, Events, Past and Future Chair's Conference, Editorial Board Announcements. The structure of the 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).

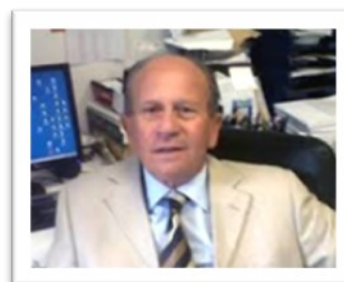
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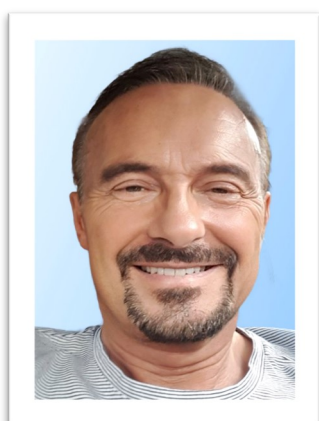
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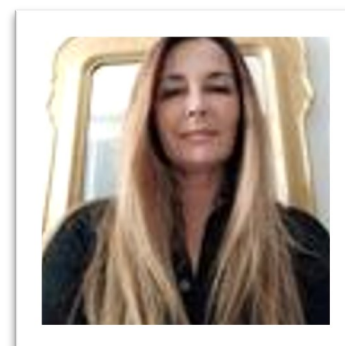
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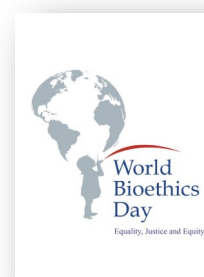


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