

EACME Newsletter

European Association of Centres of Medical Ethics

Executive Office: Angelique Heijnen
Maastricht University, Dept. Health, Ethics and Society
Faculty of Health Medicine and Life Sciences
P.O. Box 616
6200 MD MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS
Tel: +31 43 3882145
Fax: +31 43 3884171
A.Heijnen@maastrichtuniversity.nl
www.eacmeweb.com



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EDITORIAL

Continuity and Renewal – the new Bureau of EACME

Dear colleagues, the year 2010 is approaching its end and we are looking back at a successful year for our association. This year, we had our conference organised in Oslo in September. The topic of 'Empirical Ethics' was tackled in interesting and inspiring talks and discussions. Heather Ames, one of the local organisers in Norway, has written an impressive essay about her experience in organising this EACME conference – you will find this 'tongue in cheek' report inside this Newsletter.

Of course, that is not all that needs to be said about the Oslo conference. A new executive Bureau was selected. The new Bureau was selected by criteria of continuity and renewal: We now gladly announce Renzo Pegoraro (Padua) as the new President of EACME (Renzo was the Treasurer before). Chris Gastmans (Leuven) takes over the role of the Treasurer (having been the General Secretary before). And then we come to some news that affects and delights myself: I am now the new General Secretary of EACME. And last but not least, our valuable executive secretary Angelique Heijnen (Maastricht) stays in her position as an indispensable driving force of and for our Bureau. Besides the new Bureau a new member of the Board has been selected: the Institute of Bioethics, School of Medicine "A Gemelli", Catholic University of the Sacred Heart situated in Rome. In this Newsletter, Professor Antonio G. Spagnolo will briefly present his institute to us.

'Renewal' also implies that you need to let go of something else. But first, in our case we can be very happy about the strong continuity. Renzo and Chris have just changed roles in the Bureau of EACME. Still, we need to say good-bye to Guy Withershoven who was our president before. EACME owns a lot to Guy's visionary work, and I personally find it very hard to

properly thank him, as I owe a great deal to his advice, supervision and friendship. So instead of drifting into a too melodramatic essay of gratitude, let me just say: Guy, let's meet in Istanbul, and let us just get on with our work! There is still a lot of interesting work to be done in ethical debates and moral deliberation! No time for melodramatic essays (although I love melodramatic essays).

'Renewal' also implies that one should think about the aims and goals of our association. Is EACME still the same as 25 years ago? Probably not! But what has changed and what vision stays the same? EACME is and was a network of centres. That might sound banal at first sight, but it opens up interesting and important ways of promoting young researchers and collaborating on different hierarchical levels in institutionalised settings of medical ethics. The bureau and the board has reflected upon that, and we gladly present our "EACME mission statement 2010" in this newsletter. We consider the Mission statement as a draft – we ask you to comment upon it! Please feel free to send your feedbacks, ideas and comments to me or Angelique.

We also ask you to think about this EACME Newsletter. Now that I have become the general secretary of EACME we have a vacant position for the editor of this Newsletter. If any of you opts for this job, or has ideas about a person who could do this – again – feel free to contact us.

Finally, and on behalf of the editorial board, I would like to wish you all the best for the upcoming New Year 2011! Try to have an "intercultural" Christmas time: you can easily do that by checking out the wonderful conference website of Yesim Ulman and the Turkish Bioethics Association who hosts our yearly conference 2011 in Istanbul: www.eacme2011.org

Rouven Porz

On behalf of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, and the Swiss Society of Biomedical Ethics, Bern, Switzerland.

rouven.porz@insel.ch

LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues and friends

This letter is basically a greeting and a confirmation of our commitment to carry on together and realize as an Association, our exchange of ideas and projects looking at future goals.

I accepted the role of President with a spirit of service and gratitude for what I have received from and shared within EACME.

I want to sincerely thank Guy Widdershoven, former President, for the great work done, the climate of friendship and collaboration expressed, the commitment to the growth of EACME as representative body for all European countries, the presence of youth, and the vision for the future.

I pick up the baton on the wake of all former Presidents, thanking the new Bureau, Rouven Porz, General Secretary, Chris Gastmans (now Treasurer with whom I have long profitably collaborated), and the Executive Secretary, Angelique Heijnen, precious, competent, and a wise support for the Bureau and the whole Association. Thanks to the past Board of Directors and the new one, and to all of you dear Colleagues of the EACME.

By now EACME has a solid background and a long enough history and it is important to look back at its journey as well as the current situation in order to think together at the future. The proposal of "EACME's mission statement" goes in this direction and everybody's contribution is of great value and well accepted.

The European growth process is built on success and hard work and I think that an Association like ours, gathering research ethical centres, focusing on the field of healthcare and biomedical ethics, promoting exchanges, cooperation, joint initiatives, occasions for dialogue, and putting together individuals with the goal to achieve a greater incidence of ethics within European bodies will be more and more relevant.

With this spirit, I thank again all of you for trusting me, I renew my greetings and wishes for the activities of your centres, and I wish you merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

Renzo Pegoraro
Fondazione Lanza, Padova
Italy

Renzo.pegoraro@fondazioneanza.it

2010 – EACME MISSION STATEMENT

The European Association of Centres of Medical Ethics (EACME, founded 1985) is an international network of academic and non-academic centres. It aims at promoting **research, education and consultation** in the field of healthcare and biomedical ethics by exchange of information, support of students, teachers and researchers, and organisation of annual conferences. **For the years to come**, we wish to state:

EACME promotes and reinforces debate on **moral values and ethical theory** in relation to health care practice, biomedical research and healthcare systems from an individual, social and legal point of view. This includes the development of methods and concepts to implement ethical deliberation into daily medical and health care practice.

EACME endorses the exchange with **other societies and associations** in the field of bioethics, philosophy of medicine and social medicine, both at a national and international level, particularly in regard of research, education and ethical deliberation and policy-making in the European Union.

EACME places particular emphasis on supporting and promoting gifted **junior researchers** in the field of healthcare and biomedical ethics, for example by organising special meetings of post graduate students at the annual conference and by providing small grants for international exchange.

EACME focuses on the development of the debate in institutional forms of healthcare and biomedical ethics especially **in Eastern and Southern Europe**. Thus it aims at enhancing the dialogue between North and West, South and (Central) Europe.

We consider the Mission statement above as a draft – we ask you to comment upon it! Please feel free to send your feedbacks, ideas and comments to Rouven or Angelique.

EACME OSLO CONFERENCE 2010

On September 16-18, 2010 the annual conference of EACME took place in Oslo.

The main topic during this conference was ' Empirical Ethics'. The program was inspiring, with contributions and discussions of high quality. We wish to thank the organizing team from the Section for Medical Ethics, especially Per Nortvedt, Reidun Førde, Jan Helge Solbakk and last but not least Heather Ames for their excellent organization and their hospitality.

Heather Ames has written an impressive essay below about her experience in organising this EACME conference.

I returned from my Masters fieldwork in Dhaka, Bangladesh, broke, as a student should be after spending five months in the field, tired and not quite ready to start writing my thesis. One morning I received an email from my supervisor Per Nortvedt

asking if I wanted a job. The timing was perfect. I had a meeting with Astrid, Reidun and Per and was told about the EACME conference, which would take place in September. I had never organized a conference before or for that matter even been to a conference the size of EACME but agreed to accept the challenge. I started work March 1st, 2010 in a 20% position.

Astrid handed me a To Do binder and I took over while she started her PhD in French Literature. The first hurdle was to organize all of the abstracts that were submitted for the conference. In order to keep track of them I had to create a filing system. This filing system faced challenges of its own as people submitted abstracts with no name, date or title and saved with the document name EACME. After re-titling and reformatting many of the abstracts to include author's name the over 100 abstracts were sent out to the selection committee.

The selection process was very difficult. Of course, We were limited to the number of abstracts we could accept After a three and a half hour meeting with much debate eighty abstracts were selected and four were put on a waiting list. I sent out the abstract acceptance and rejection letters and we thought that was the end of that but the abstracts just kept coming.

The next obstacle we faced was dividing the abstracts into parallel sessions that centred on a common theme. Some sessions were easy but others were very challenging. We decided the easiest way to divide up the abstracts was to write all of the titles out on post it notes and put them on the wall of my office. As parallel sessions were grouped the post its were removed from the wall and placed on a table together. My office looked like a post it tornado had struck.



Finally, we had the sessions grouped and organized and I thought all I needed to do was make the

schedule. Simple, Right? Not so... From March on I received numerous requests for presentation times. I think in the end about 60% of participants had requested a certain day or even time to present. I did my best to accommodate everyone's wishes and in the end I think it was possible. However, for those of you who were at the conference you know the schedule changed right up until Saturday afternoon. People pulled out due to illness, just didn't show up or requested to be moved to a vacant presentation time. Most of the parallel session remained organized by topic but a few turned into a mish-mash of topics. I was very happy to see people moving from room to room to listen to the presentations that interested them.

We also wanted to keep the conference as "green" as possible. We contemplated not printing a book of abstracts and placing it online but decided in the end to compromise by printing a book of abstracts and sticking to a simple organic cotton conference bag that could be used for everyday activities such as grocery shopping. Between getting the book of abstracts to the publisher, reorganizing the schedule, organizing the conference bag and getting ready for the conference in general the last two weeks were quite hectic.



Finally, You might be surprised to hear a very Norwegian planning problem was discussed during the final weeks: how many drinks to serve at dinner? Norwegians have a different cultural outlook on alcohol and who pays for it at parties than the rest of Europe because it is so expensive. We wanted to make sure that people would have a good time. Three drinks at dinner were settled on and I think this worked well. The last two days before the conference were spent putting the conference bags together. Alphabetizing and organizing and making sure that each person received the proper items in their bag. This was a time consuming but enjoyable task. It was like putting the

icing on the cake in terms of the preparation for the conference.

The conference itself went smoothly. It was so nice to put faces to the names I had been corresponding with. In the end the conference was a challenging, exhausting, wonderful experience to organize. I really enjoyed meeting everyone and hope that you enjoyed the conference as much as I did. I hope to see everyone in Istanbul next year.

Heather Ames
University of Oslo, Norway.

h.m.r.ames@studmed.uio.no

EACME ANNUAL MEETING 2011 15 – 17 SEPTEMBER ISTANBUL - TURKEY



“BIOETHICS FROM A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE”

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT / CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Dear Colleagues,

The Turkish Bioethics Association and the Acibadem University School of Medicine (Medical Ethics Department) are very pleased and honored to host, for the first time in Turkey, the annual Conference of EACME in Istanbul.

The scientific programme will cover a wide range of topics related to bioethics from a cross-cultural perspective, including bioethics and humanities, universal values and cultural diversity, European bioethics, human rights and bioethics, and health care policy making.

Istanbul welcomes you as the imperial capital of three great Mediterranean civilizations, merging East and West by moulding the cultures and wisdom of centuries with historical depth and fibre in a modern, vibrant and energetic city.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Istanbul.
Kind regards, Yesim Isil Ulman

GENERAL TOPIC: BIOETHICS FROM A CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

MAIN TOPICS and SUB TOPICS

I. Bioethics and Humanities

- History of bioethics for understanding different ethical traditions
- Medical Humanities and Ethics Education
- Comparison between Western and Eastern Bioethics
- Reason, Emotion and Bioethics

II. The European Biomedicine Convention: a Platform of Dialogue

- Is there a European bioethics?
- Human Dignity and Bioethics
- Bioethics and Biolaw
- New Medical Technologies and Bioethics

III. Human Rights in Bioethics: Universalism and Particularism

- Ethical Values for bridging gaps and cross-cultural dialogue
- Common language for dialogue in Bioethics
- Human rights as a lingua franca for international bioethics?
- Bioethics in industrialized and in developing countries

IV. Bioethics in Conflicting Issues

- Ethics and Healthcare Policy Making
- Social Justice, Inequalities and Bioethics
- Population Policy and Bioethics
- Gender based ethics

AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE

The boundaries between bioethics, health law, and human rights are increasingly blurred. These three domains become conceptually and operationally inseparable parts of the same trend towards ensuring respect for the human person in the biomedical field. The major public health issues that we face today can be better addressed if all three disciplines work together. Bioethics can contribute to this interdisciplinarity by accepting its Nuremberg roots and by actively engaging in a health and human rights agenda.

The human rights language is a great advantage to the construction of a universal bioethics. The central concepts that human rights are universal, inalienable, and linked to human dignity have been well articulated, widely endorsed, and publicly embraced. Consequently, harnessing the moral and rhetorical force of human rights language commands

international attention to bioethics issues that impact human rights.

The aims of this Conference are to address the interaction between human rights issues and bioethics; to explore common ethical values to facilitate a cross-cultural dialogue, and to discuss to what extent human rights can play the role of a lingua franca for international bioethics.

In addition, medical humanities offer a powerful way to convey an understanding the values that shape the doctor-patient relationship. Also the European Biomedicine Convention is a very helpful document to explore these values with its special emphasis on human dignity and human rights. Lastly bioethics in conflicting issues in healthcare policy-making, in social justice and inequalities, population policy and gender policies claim to put forth novel and fruitful topics of discussion, all by keynote lectures and presentations. (Courtesy for Dr. Roberto Andorno).

SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

The program of the conference includes plenary sessions as well as parallel sessions. Persons wishing to present oral and poster papers at the conference are invited to submit an abstract addressing the ethical dimensions of the conference topics (500 words maximum) before March 1, 2011. Papers will be selected from the abstracts by the Conference Scientific Committee.

HOST OF THE CONFERENCE

In 2011 the Turkish Bioethics Association and the European Association of Centres of Medical Ethics (EACME) will organise the EACME annual conference. The Turkish Bioethics Association and Acibadem University School of Medicine, will be the co-ordinator and the host of the event.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The Congress venue is Dedeman Hotel, Gayrettepe/Istanbul, where EACME participants may enjoy both the metropolis and a wide spectrum of accommodation facilities.

CONFERENCE CHAIR

Please send abstracts to:
Yesim Isil Ulman, Assoc. Professor
The Turkish Bioethics Association
Acibadem University School of Medicine
Dept. of Medical History and Ethics
Istanbul, TURKEY

E-mail: info@eacme2011.org

Website: <http://www.eacme2011.org/>

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Panaroma Turizm
Ms. Tuba CELIKER
Tel: +90 212 293 31 51
Fax: +90 212 293 31 40
E-Mail: tuba@panaromaturizm.net

**GRÈVE DE LA FAIM –
DES PRINCIPES QUI S'OPPOSENT**

La Suisse a été secouée durant le second semestre 2010 par la situation d'un homme ayant contrevenu à la loi fédérale sur les stupéfiants et condamné à plusieurs années de prison. Il a entrepris une grève de la faim, sur plusieurs périodes. Pendant un certain temps, on l'a laissé rentrer à domicile sous surveillance, puis il a été réincarcéré et, devant l'aggravation de son état, transféré dans un hôpital universitaire. Le Tribunal fédéral suisse a publié un arrêt indiquant que les médecins ont l'obligation de l'alimenter de force pour éviter qu'il ne meure. A noter qu'un élément ici est qu'il s'agit d'une personne condamnée pénalement (et que l'Etat a le devoir de veiller à la santé des personnes détenues); il n'est pas certain que la décision du Tribunal serait la même pour quelqu'un qui - sans qu'il s'agisse d'un cas pénal -, ferait une telle grève, par exemple, en faveur de la paix dans le monde ou pour manifester contre des injustices.

La très grande majorité des médecins et des instances médicales du pays se sont exprimés contre l'alimentation forcée dans la mesure où ce détenu, capable de discernement, a formulé des directives anticipées claires.

Les dilemmes dans la grève de la faim sont liés au conflit entre plusieurs principes forts. D'abord, il est vrai que l'Etat a le devoir de faire en sorte que ceux qu'il prive de liberté n'encourent pas des risques graves pour leur santé. Mais cette règle n'est pas forcément déterminante : c'est le gréviste qui décide de mettre sa santé en danger, on serait heureux de lui donner à manger s'il l'accepte. Un deuxième principe est l'égalité de tous devant la loi. A cet égard, il y a un vrai problème quand une personne exerce ce qui est assimilable à un chantage pour ne pas purger une peine. Guère admissible, en tout cas dans un Etat de droit.

Pour les médecins, il est choquant cas échéant de voir mourir quelqu'un qui, hors de sa grève de la faim, n'a aucune raison de décéder. Mais un poids croissant et justifié est donné aujourd'hui à l'autonomie de l'individu. Ce principe devrait prévaloir sur les autres, vis-à-vis d'une personne adulte et capable de

discernement.

Dr Jean Martin, membre de la Commission nationale suisse d'éthique, CH-1026 Echandens, Suisse.

jean.martin@urbanet.ch

**CENTRO DI BIOETICA DELL'UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA DEL S. CUORE, ROME – ITALY**

Centre for Bioethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome - Italy

The Centro di Bioetica dell'Università Cattolica del S. Cuore was created in 1985 at the School of Medicine "Agostino Gemelli" of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Rome, with the aim of promoting and organising educational activities outside the University on subjects regarding bioethics, a discipline that was quite new in Italy in those years. Moreover the Centre aimed to establish and maintain contacts, cultural and training exchanges and collaboration with other centres and similar institutions in Italy and abroad.

In 1992 the Institute for Bioethics was added to specifically pursue academic activities, and it exists alongside the Centre which is now principally concerned with non academic activities and relations with the general public.

The Centre draws inspiration from the principles and values of the philosophical tradition contained in an ontologically founded personalism - conceived in the light of Aristotelian and Thomistic perspectives - and thus essentially affirms the respect and protection of human life from its conception to its natural end.

The academic activities of the Centre, carried out by the Institute, can be summarized as belonging to three areas:

a) Research activities cover especially topics such as clinical ethics, the philosophy of medicine and medical humanities, health care organization and ethics of resource allocation, bio-law and bio-politics, ethical analysis of Health Technology Assessment and nanotechnologies. The results of our research are published in relevant journals and books.

b) Teaching activities on medical ethics and bioethics both to undergraduates and in postgraduate courses at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, School of Nursing and for other healthcare professions (midwifery, physical therapists, etc.). Moreover every year the Centre offers doctoral studies scholarships and at least one of them is reserved for a person

coming from abroad (South America, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe (at present we have students from South Korea and Slovakia about to complete their doctoral degrees). A visiting period at other universities is strongly recommended in the course of the doctoral studies and until now we have had exchanges with several European and American universities.

c) Clinical ethics consultations at our University Hospital that includes an increasing number of consultations on particular cases (especially in neonatology, obstetrics, neurology), drafting of institutional policies and guidelines (the most recent ones include the assistance to preterm newborns and withholding or withdraw dialysis treatment), and ethical analysis of health technology. In the field of case analysis the centre has elaborated a theoretical-practical framework. The method we use consists of a casuistic (case-based) approach, supported by a person-centred ethical theory. It doesn't require a new kind of ethics, with completely new principles or foundations. Rather, it requires to set in a more clear and systematic way all the relevant ethical principles and implications proceeding from the ethical theories already existing.

Moreover some members of the Centre are serving on various Hospital Ethics Committees and Research Ethics Committees at different locations in Rome and in other Italian cities.

The Staff of the Centre is constituted at present by a full professor who is the Director of the Institute, an Associate professor, five researchers and three post-doctoral fellows.

The official journal of the Centre and the Institute is "Medicina e Morale", a bimonthly international journal of bioethics. The contents of the articles contribute in a significant and original way at both the national and international levels to the bioethics debate. The Spanish edition of the journal has been published since 1992 and is still being published regularly in Mexico as "Medicina y Etica".

In addition to the journal, the Centre has also published several volumes, some of which are included in the "Scienza Medicina Etica" series. The aim of these volumes is to contribute to the reflection regarding the possible applications of medical and scientific advances, by means of a serious theological, philosophical and scientific foundation. Some of the titles include topics on human genetics and biotechnologies, reproductive technologies, women's health issues, natural family planning, experimentation on human subjects, active aging, organ transplantation, death and dying, etc.

We hope that our work and experience will make a significant contribution to the board of the EACME, where we could embody a "Mediterranean" voice on medical ethics and bioethics.

Antonio G. Spagnolo, M.D.
Centre's Delegate and Director of the Institute of Bioethics, Rome, Italy.

agspagnolo@rm.unicatt.it

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 'REFLECTION AND PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH CARE: SHARED PATHWAYS AND NEW HORIZONS'

On September 9th, an international symposium on 'Reflection and Participation in Health Care' was organized at the VU University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The symposium introduced two inaugural addresses, one by Tineke Abma to accept her special professorship on client participation in elderly care (made possible by the Mosae Care Group, Maastricht) and one by Guy Widdershoven to accept his professorship in Philosophy and Medical Ethics. Both professors work at the Department of Medical Humanities and the EMGO+ Institute for Health and Care Research of the VU University Medical Centre in Amsterdam. The conference, in which their lines of research (client participation and ethics) were brought together, was accompanied by the launch of a book (Abma et al, 2010). Four international guests specialized in medical ethics and interactive research methodologies were invited to give master classes in the morning, and to present paper in the afternoon.

Hans Brug, director of the EMGO+ institute, welcomed the guests and referred to a 'landmark' for both the department and the research institute. He referred to the relevance of ethics for the identity of the university medical center, and for clinical practice, and to the importance of qualitative approaches for the methodology of health and care research. According to Brug, the international character of the conference was in line with the aspirations of the research institute to closely collaborate with top institutes and researchers abroad.

Rosamond Rhodes, professor in Philosophy and Medical Education and Director of Bioethics Education at the university hospital Mount Sinai in New York, devoted her master class and lecture to the relevance of ethics in the curriculum of medical students. She argued that physicians lack the competencies to handle everyday ethical issues and dilemmas if they are not educated in medical ethics. Medical students should be trained in bioethics, with an emphasis on

moral virtues. Rhodes sketched the aims and the design of ethics education in the Mount Sinai hospital. Students are taught to deal with moral dilemmas with the use of casuistry, training them to become trustworthy physicians.

Tony Hope, professor in medical ethics at Oxford University and affiliated with The Ethox Centre, gave an interactive master class on empirical ethics in general and presented a lecture on empirical ethics in psychiatry. The central question he addressed was whether normative research requires empirical data. Are we able to answer normative questions (ethics) based on empirical facts? In the master class this subject was discussed in relation to research on free will regarding people with Gilles de la Tourette syndrom and capacity-issues in patients with an obsessive-compulsive disorder. In his lecture Hope showed that the perspective of patients provides is valuable for complex normative issues by focusing on the qualitative research on the use of coercion at patients with anorexia nervosa. While professionals tend to abstain from the use of coercion because of respect for autonomy, patients do acknowledge they are not always able to make good judgements.

Jennifer Greene, professor in developmental psychology at the University of Illinois, chose the what, why and how of mixed methods as topic of her master class. She made the participants think about their own background, ideas, values and norms and reflect on the influence of these contextual factors on the formulation of a research question and a research design. She also addressed the differences between mixed methods and multiple methods and the ways in which to mix different traditions and methods of research. In her lecture, Greene raised the question whether evaluation research could and should be neutral. She argued that in order to pursue democratic values in research, one should not focus on the interests of policy makers, but also involve other stakeholders.

In her master class about collaborative research, Tina Cook, senior researcher at the Northumbria University in Newcastle, made participants experience advantages and disadvantages of different ways of acquiring knowledge. In small groups participants interviewed each other about the Olympic Games. Next, they were asked to work in groups using flip charts to map knowledge and beliefs about the Olympic Games. The latter approach proved to be much more rewarding. Collaboration produces a lot of energy, new insights and food for thought. In her lecture, Cook presented action research on informed consent experienced by male patients in a forensic clinic. The participants learned from and with each other what scientific research means, and what it

entails to be asked to participate in research. They formulated a list of recommendations expanding existing guidelines for providing information. Her message was loud and clear: to develop new insights, one should collaborate closely with research participants.

The highlights of the day were the two inaugural lectures of Tineke Abma and Guy Widdershoven.



The chair of Tineke Abma aims to help strengthening the position of the (older) clients in care and research, and to improve quality of life and moral climate in elderly institutions. When older people move into a nursing home, a process of depersonalization tends to develop. Often, they have to give up much of their personal belongings. They enter a regime of getting up, washing, eating and sleeping. Suddenly they come to live within a group of people that they did not choose themselves. In that context it is difficult to keep control and maintain participation. Abma experienced this process herself when her great-uncle, called 'Omke Teake' had to go to a nursing home. Omke liked to conduct good conversations, but considered his fellow residents as superficial. "They are not smart enough", he would say. He did not approve of the care at the nursing home. He was appealed that caregivers did not knock on his door before entering his room. Omke Teake did not give in and protested about the violation of his privacy. He made banners with slogans like 'Kindness starts with knocking". But not all elderly people express their discontent in this way. Many suffer in silence, as they find it difficult to express complaints. They think it would not be beneficial, they do not want to offend anybody, or consider complaining as inappropriate.

Abma has developed a dialogical model to give voice to the elderly. According to this model, the first step is to start a conversation on a low profile level to hear what goes on among the residents, for example during

coffee moments. By doing so, it may become apparent that more residents have the same complaints. By connecting them, trust into their own judgments will be fostered. They will experience confidence and more credibility towards caregivers. They will feel empowered by and with each other. Whereas participation in a client may be burdensome, residents often are willing to participate in a coffee conversation. The next step would be to formulate the complaint to the nursing home, and to search for possible solutions. This can be a long process, which is not settled within a week. It requires guidance and support. For example, during a pilot project in which residents did not like the meals, it took about nine months to formulate the complaint and develop a structural solution. To deconstruct stereotypes and illustrate the empowerment of the elderly, Abma ended her passionate and richly illustrated lecture with a video of The Zimmers, a British rock band consisting of only seniors. The song My Generation made everyone smile, especially at the moment some ladies start smashing their guitars against the floor. They do not want to give up or be given up. Their message: DON'T WRITE ME OFF COS I AM 90!

Guy Widdershoven addressed the topic reflection as intervention. Referring to the philosophy of Marcus Aurelius, a Roman emperor of the second century AD, he argued that reflection on fundamental values is crucial in life, if based on and oriented towards practical situations and contexts. Using a case deliberation at the Department of Haematology, he showed that moral deliberation helps professionals to clarify what motivates them in their actions and how they jointly can find ways to realise the values that are fundamental to their actions, in concrete situations. In discussing the case with stakeholders from the department it appeared that in radical treatments such as stem cell transplantation, not only patient health and respect for autonomy are important values, but that active involvement and responsibility of the patient are crucial too.

Widdershoven also discussed the importance of empirical research into the effects of interventions, such as moral deliberation. He argued that philosophers should not be afraid to cooperate with empirical researchers experienced in studying effects of interventions. A cooperation could be twofold: first, empirical researchers could help to evaluate effects of reflective interventions; second, reflection can help answering the question which effects are desired and what possible explanations could be given for desired or undesired outcomes. Effect research and reflection are not mutually exclusive, but can be connected in a fruitful way.



Finally, he addressed the role of the philosopher as facilitator of moral deliberations. He argued that the philosopher is not an expert on moral issues, as stakeholders in practice know best what values are important in their activities. But the philosopher does have expertise regarding methods of conversation. Theoretical knowledge is relevant, not to formulate solutions, but to ask questions that stimulate reflection.

The two presentations were clearly different in tone and argumentation. They both underlined the relevance of using stories from practice and stressed the importance of practical knowledge and collective learning. The conclusion of the day was that participation and reflection supplement each other and together offer new perspectives on improvement of care.

Abma, T.A., M. Visse, B. Molewijk & G.A.M. Widdershoven (2010) Reflectie en participatie in zorg. Den Haag: Boom/Lemma.

Meet the Zimmers:
<http://www.nhs.uk/video/pages/medialibrary.aspx?Id=ff13808a3-8f94-4805-8bbe-f361953e0194}&Uri=video/2007/sept/Pages/MeettheZimmers.aspx>

Elleke Landeweer
Department of Medical Humanities, VUmc
Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

e.landeweer@vumc.nl



BOOK REVIEW

Véronique Fournier : Le bazar bioéthique – Quand les histoires de vie bouleversent la morale publique.
Paris : Robert Laffont, 2010, 213 p.

Dans le domaine en évolution rapide de la bioéthique, la place et l'importance du pouvoir normatif de l'Etat, fixant par la loi des interdictions, des droits de regard, sont souvent débattues, et parfois contestées. Comme est discutée la mesure dans laquelle il existe - ou pas - des principes absolus, de nature ontologique notamment, représentant des impératifs dont la société occidentale de tradition judéo-chrétienne ne saurait s'éloigner.

Véronique Fournier est cardiologue et médecin de santé publique ; elle a été chargée dans le cabinet de Bernard Kouchner de la préparation de la loi sur les droits de la personne malade de 2002, et a créé le Centre d'éthique clinique de l'hôpital Cochin. Ce livre est le fruit des enseignements rassemblés au cours des entretiens, évaluations et recherches réalisés dans ce Centre ; ses chapitres traitent successivement des problématiques des donneurs vivants d'organes (foie surtout), de la recherche de l'enfant parfait, y compris au moyen du diagnostic pré-implantatoire, de transsexualisme et des opérations de changement de sexe/genre, des situations-limites en matière d'assistance médicale à la procréation (AMP).

Dès les premières pages, on découvre une pensée indépendante, originale, différenciée, basée sur une pratique propre – à la différence d'« experts de salon » parfois éloignés de ce que vivent, dans la communauté et son système de santé, patient(e)s et professionnels.

Sur la base de l'expérience de son centre (une grande partie du livre est la description de situations vécues), Fournier apporte entre autres des éclairages substantiels sur les dimensions collectives des enjeux bioéthiques, et sur la légitimité - aujourd'hui et dans l'avenir – de l'intervention de l'Etat, et dans quelle mesure. Elle discute notamment du lien, actuellement indiscuté, entre le devoir des pouvoirs publics de mettre à disposition des soins de qualité, tenant compte de l'évolution des techniques, et le devoir de financer lesdits soins. Sans que l'espace permette ici d'en parler en détail, elle pose la question de savoir si on ne sera pas amené, dans l'un ou l'autre des domaines traités, à séparer les deux choses : à savoir envisager que des prestations puissent être rendues disponibles mais sans que l'Etat en assume la charge financière (avec, dans un tel modèle, les interrogations que suscite la survenue d'inégalité sociales dans l'accès à certaines possibilités).

Il n'est pas bon que l'Etat se mêle de tout, en particulier de situations personnelles/familiales intimes. Dans le chapitre consacré au transsexualisme, Véronique Fournier discute/soupèse les poids respectifs que doivent avoir les souffrances et demandes des personnes concernées, d'une part, et des limites que poserait l'Etat d'autre part. En arrivant à une conclusion qui peut surprendre : « Du reste, peut-être vaut-il mieux que le transsexualisme ne soit pas reconnu comme une question de bioéthique puisque la sanction législative en serait alors probablement restrictive, comme c'est le cas pour tout ce qui relève de la loi de bioéthique jusqu'à présent, tendant à privilégier l'intérêt de la société sur celui de l'individu ».

La question de fond

Dans une société en évolution rapide, qu'est-ce qui doit rester immuable et qu'est-ce qui peut/doit évoluer ? Il faut, dit Fournier, « discuter la question de fond : le corpus éthique d'une société doit-il être celui qui traduit la façon dont les gens vivent et font leurs choix au quotidien ou doit-il rester un corpus idéal, pensé par des sages choisis pour savoir nous guider afin que nous ne perdions pas notre âme ? ».

«Dissolution progressive du consensus social (...) Les limites de la maladie sont devenues, comme celles de la morale, trop sujettes à caution pour servir de référence ». Well... fort de café, mais n'est-ce pas largement la situation dans laquelle nous sommes ?

Pistes pour l'avenir

Un des constats de l'auteur quinze ans après la promulgation en 1994 des lois de bioéthique et les débats autour d'elles : « on peut se demander si les dangers dont on nous menaçait ne tenaient pas davantage du fantasme que d'une quelconque réalité (...) Sur le terrain, c'est plutôt une conscience aiguë de leur responsabilité qu'expriment les couples en désir d'enfant, ils sont loin du consumérisme mâtiné de déliquescence morale dont on les soupçonne ».

De son expérience au Centre d'éthique clinique de l'hôpital Cochin, le premier enseignement que Fournier tire, « peut-être le plus important, consiste à faire le pari de l'autre en tant que personne ; se laisser conduire par ce que demandent les premiers concernés, qu'il s'agisse de personnes malades ou d'autres ; leur faire confiance plutôt que de s'en méfier (...) Je voudrais faire partager ma conviction que les gens sont tous des agents éthiques, des personnes dont le cœur, le noyau existentiel, est éthique ».

Dr Jean Martin

Membre du Comité international d'éthique de l'UNESCO
La Ruelle 6
CH-1026 Echandens – Suisse

jean.martin@urbanet.ch

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT CLINICAL ETHICS CONSULTATION

Theories and Methods, Implementation, Evaluation

Edited by **Jan Schildmann**, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, **John-Stewart Gordon**, Queen's University Kingston, Canada and **Jochen Vollmann**, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

This volume brings together a group of researchers from different European countries and disciplines who are involved in Clinical Ethics Consultation (CEC). The work provides a discussion on the theories and methods underlying CEC and on the issues of implementation and evaluation.

Contents: Introduction, Jan Schildmann, John-Stewart Gordon and Jochen Vollmann; Part I Theories and Methods: Ethics as a method, John-Stewart Gordon; Ethics – empiricism – consultation: defining a complex relationship, Uwe Fahr and Markus Rothaar; Philosophical foundations of clinical ethics; a hermeneutic perspective, Guy Widdershoven and Bert Molewijk; Discourse ethics and ethics consultation, Uwe Fahr; Implementation of clinical ethics consultation in conflict with professional conscience? Suggestions for reconciliation, László Kovács; Ethics consultation: facilitating reflection on professional norms in medicine, Christiane Stüber.

Part II Implementation: The implementation process of clinical ethics consultation: concepts, resistance, recommendations, Jochen Vollmann; What does the ethical expertise of a moral philosopher involve in clinical ethics consultancy?, Beate Herrmann; Moving towards clinical ethics consultation in Italy: practical experience, foundational and methodological considerations, Nunziata Comoretto; Demand and needs in clinical ethics consultation in Georgia, Nino Chikhladze and Nato Pitskhelauri; Clinical ethics consultation in Croatia, Ana Borovecki; Clinical ethics in the Netherlands: moral case deliberation in health care organizations, Margreet Stolper, Sandra van der Dam, Guy Widdershoven and Bert Molewijk; Clinical ethics consultation and bedside rationing, Daniel Strech. Part III Evaluation: Experience of Clinical Ethics Consultation: Experience in ethical decisionmaking and attitudes towards ethics

consultation of regional hospital physicians in Bulgaria, Silviya Aleksandrova; Ethical decisionmaking in nursing homes: a literature study, Georg Bollig; Evaluation of clinical ethics consideration: a systematic review and critical appraisal of research methods and outcome criteria, Jan Schildmann and Jochen Vollmann; Index.

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BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT THE DIVERSIFICATION OF HEALTH

Politics of Large-Scale Cooperation in Nutrition Science

Bart Penders

August 2010, 190 p., 29,80 €,
ISBN 978-3-8376-1480-0

Complex problems and ambitious goals are often thought to become easier by enlarging and diversifying the group of experts dealing with them. As a result, these complex entities are fragmented into smaller ones that can be dealt with by single laboratories. Bart Penders ventured into nutrition science to observe and join teams of scientists to find out what happens to these problems and goals. He attended conferences and workshops and worked in their laboratories. He shows that scientists mobilise everything in their power to solve problems: they reconstruct elements of the problem, such as our health. In the process, the search for health has led to its diversification.

Bart Penders (PhD) is a postdoctoral researcher in Science & Technology Studies.

For further information:
www.transcript-verlag.de/ts1480/ts1480.php

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EACME Annual Meeting "Bioethics from a cross-cultural perspective" 15 - 17 September 2011,

Istanbul Turkey- First Announcement and Call for Abstracts

Host of the conference and coordinators of the conference will be the Turkish Bioethics Association together with the Acibadem University School of Medicine. Conference chair: Yesim Isil Ulman.

The four central topics are:

- 1) Bioethics and Humanities;
- 2) The European Biomedicine Convention: a Platform of Dialogue;
- 3) Human Rights in Bioethics: Universalism and Particularism;
- 4) Bioethics in Conflicting Issues.

For more information, visit the website: <http://www.eacme2011.org>

The international journal “**Human Reproduction and Genetic Ethics**” has recently moved from its previous home in Edinburgh to become part of the research activities of Centre for Bioethics and Emerging Technologies at St. Mary’s University College in London, a member of the EACME.

Mindful of the fact that EACME’s annual conference has taken place in Oslo, the editorial board welcomes the submission of any papers presented at the conference which authors may like to consider putting forward for publication to the journal.

The journal fills the need for a publication that will anticipate research trends while also informing the international public of the important ethical issues in human genetics and reproduction.

All articles are written with the aim of bringing contributions to as large a spectrum of interested people as possible to over 30 different countries. Therefore, your possible submission of articles or letters to the journal will be of invaluable assistance to the continuing international research and information in this area.

Among the many themes (not exhaustive) being developed are:

- Human genome analysis;
- Human gene therapy;
- Human cloning;
- Artificial fecundation and reproduction;
- Eugenics;
- Sex selection;
- Privacy of genetic data and screening.

In order to submit an article or letter to the journal, you will find the detailed aims and scope, instructions to the authors and submission address at the following website:

<http://www.equinoxjournals.com/index.php/HRGE>

If you have any queries concerning this announcement then please do not hesitate to contact Matt James, Managing Editor of Human Reproduction and Genetic Ethics Journal (jamesm@smuc.ac.uk).

Call for Papers: Ramon Llull Journal of Applied Ethics (Second Issue)

Ramon Llull Journal of Applied Ethics publishes original articles that are aimed at relating ethics to the different areas of public life. Economic and social systems, organisations and professions are studied from an ethical point of view in order to spread the practical dimension of philosophical discourse. Applied ethics offer a new opportunity to continue thinking about the fundamentals, processes and consequences that determine the social sphere and, in this sense, the Journal aims to contribute to current debate by offering quality and academic rigour.

Selected Themes

In this second issue will address the following issues and topics:

- Theoretical and conceptual approach to ground of applied ethics.
- Empirical research demonstrating the impact of the applied ethics on the global or local level.
- Case study analyses exploring the different faces of bioethics, Business Ethics, Mass Media Ethics and Ethics of organizations.

Deadline

Please send full papers along with an abstract about 300 words by January 15, 2011 by e-mail. Include a cover page listing the name, title and affiliation of the author(s), as well as complete contact information (full address, telephone, fax and e-mail). Suggested length: between 5,500 and 7,000 words. We recommend using Times New Roman 12 point font and a line spacing of 1.5 lines. Place no line between each paragraph. Title pages are not necessary. Place endnotes and page numbers in the lower right corner and use the style guidelines employed by the Journal of Business Ethics as a reference.

Acceptance notices will be sent by February 1, 2011.

Languages

All papers should be in English language.

Further information

Prof. Cristian Palazzi – Ethos Chair (Ramon Llull University)
C/Claravall, 1-3. 08022 Barcelona (Spain)

Email: ethos@rektorat.url.edu
<http://ethos.url.edu/categories/Journal-of-Applied-Ethics/>

BROCHER FOUNDATION CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR VISITING RESEARCHERS IN 2012

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The deadline for submission is the **11th of January 2011**.

More information

http://www.brocher.ch/pages/appel_candidature.asp

New scholarships (A and B) for students Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics

The selection of students starts in the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics for the academic year 2011-2012.

This particular Master's program exists since 2000 and is organized by the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), Radboud University Nijmegen (the Netherlands) and the Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy). The main objective of the Master of Bioethics is to train highly qualified students for research work or professional activities in the interdisciplinary field of bioethics, a field that is increasingly confronted with different moral questions and dilemmas. It approaches bioethics from an international perspective, paying special attention to European philosophical traditions in this area.

More information on the program is available on the website <http://www.masterbioethics.org>.

The deadline for application is **January 30th, 2011**.

Call for Abstracts

Justice in Modern Health Care. Perspectives for the 21st Century International Conference 28-30 March 2011. Bochum. Germany



Successful applicants will be allotted 25 minutes for presentation, including discussion. Please submit an abstract (up to 500 words, including title, name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address) to Johannes.Lange@rub.de. We explicitly also encourage researchers at an early stage of their carrier to apply.

Deadline for submissions: 31 January 2011

Participation in the conference is free of charge.

For more information and registration:

<http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/malakow/bmbf-conf/>

Ethics and Ageing – EOB International Conference Perspectives on the ethics of healthy ageing, anti-ageing, and life-span extension.

Organisation: Erasmus MC / University Medical Center
Department of Medical Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine

Venue: VU University, Amsterdam (The Netherlands),
17-18 March 2011

Free registration and more information:

a.vantintelen@erasmusmc.nl

4th International Congress on Bioethics 'The Autumn of Life: Ethical Challenges of Aging', Strasbourg, March 23-26th, 2011

For more information:

[http://ethique-alsace.unistra.fr/index.php?id=4666&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=2459&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=4559](http://ethique-alsace.unistra.fr/index.php?id=4666&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=2459&tx_ttnews[backPid]=4559)



ICCEC 2011: Moving ethics

Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation to be held at the VU university medical center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, May, 18-21, 2011

For more information: <http://www.iccec2011.org/>

Third European Conference on Health Law- Open for registration

Leuven (Belgium) 6-7 October 2011

An ageing Europe - Health Law Revisited

www.eahl2011.eu

info@eahl2011.eu

CFP: Moral Responsibility: Analytic Approaches, Substantive Accounts and Case Studies. International Conference, Center for Ethics & Value Inquiry (Ghent University, Belgium) Monday and Tuesday 18-19 October 2010

For more information visit the conference website at:

<http://www.cevi-globalethics.ugent.be/MR2010>

DEADLINE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the first edition of 2011:

APRIL 1st, 2011

If you wish to promote an event, or to inform your EACME-colleagues about the results of your work, descriptions of projects, book reviews etc. Any good ideas?

Don't hesitate to contact editor Rouven Porz: rouven.porz@insel.ch or Angelique Heijnen: a.heijnen@maastrichtuniversity.nl

EDITORIAL BOARD

Rouven Porz, Editor

Ethics Unit

Direktionspräsidium, Bern University Hospital
"Inselspital"

CH – 3010 BERN, SWITZERLAND

Tel: + 41 – 31 6321956

rouven.porz@insel.ch

Alessandra Bernardi

Fondazione Lanza

Via Dante, 55

35139 PADOVA, ITALY

Tel: + 39-334-600 9005

alessandra.bernardi@ioveneto.it

Jean-Philippe Cobbaut

Université Catholique de Lille

Centre d'Éthique Médicale

56, rue du Port

F-59046 LILLE Cedex, FRANCE

Tel: + 33 3 20134046

jean-philippe.cobbaut@icl-lille.fr

Angelique Heijnen

Maastricht University

FHML, Health, Ethics and Society

P.O. Box 616

6200 MD MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Tel: + 31 43 3882145

a.heijnen@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Jeanette Hewitt

Swansea University

Department of Philosophy, History & Law

School of Health Science

Singleton Park SWANSEA

South Wales SA2 8PP, UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: + 44 1792 518598

j.l.hewitt@swan.ac.uk

Elleke Landeweer

Department of Medical Humanities, VUmc

P.O. Box 7057

1007 MB AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Tel: + 31 20 44 48394

e.landeweer@vumc.nl

Jean Martin

La Ruelle 6

CH- 1026 ECHANDENS, SWITZERLAND

jean.martin@urbanet.ch

**We wish you all a prosperous
New Year in which we would
like to invite you to further
develop and participate in the
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