

and patient will nurture moral imagination and help understand meanings and moral issues hidden in the voices of patients.

Narratives enrich all aspects of medical education. 'How much more powerful and salient would those anatomical lessons be if students knew the personal stories of their respective cadavers.'

Roxanne Sukol of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine outlined the moral signposts guiding her own actions:

i) Speak truthfully ii) Treat patients with respect iii) Acknowledge your own humanity iv) Keep the goals of our art constantly in sight. She quotes Kass: 'For if healing the sick is

always the heart of the physician's business, and, if, as I suspect, the essential features of the healing relation between the physician and the ill have not been, indeed cannot be, altered by technological advance or societal change, medicine must remain at its core... a very special profession...'

References

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4. Fins JJ: Book review. *How we die*. Sherwin Nuland. New York: Alfred Knopf, 1994. *Hastings Center Report*

25;38: 1995.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Courses in bioethics: University of Otago

The Bioethics Research Centre at the University of Otago was established in 1988 in response to growing awareness of new ethical issues related to law, medicine and technology; issues which touch upon the lives of everyone. It is the only centre for applied ethics in New Zealand.

The Centre has developed a network of links with other research centres and is attracting an increasing number of overseas scholars. Its staff offer supervision for postgraduate masters and doctoral degrees. The interdisciplinary nature of the staff ensures interaction with experts from a variety of academic disciplines.

The courses offered can be used to obtain the following degrees in bioethics: Master of Health Sciences, Master of Bioethics and Health Law (combining course work and thesis) and Master of Medical Science (for medical graduates). Further information can be obtained from Professor Alastair V. Campbell, Director, Bioethics Research Centre, P. O. Box 913, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Courses in Bioethics: Monash University

The Centre for Human Bioethics, Monash University (Clayton, Victoria, 3 168 Australia) offers a postgraduate degree in Bioethics. The Master's degree can be obtained by course work and minor thesis or by a major thesis. Compulsory subjects include

ethics and legal issues in bioethics. Elective units include questions on life and death, ethical issues in patient care, reproduction and genetics. Applications can be sent to Dr. Helga Kuhse, Director at the above address.

Courses in Bioethics: Southern Illinois University

The Department of Medical Humanities, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, P. O. Box 19230, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9230 (Director: Dr. George J. Agich) offers several integrated teaching modules and medical humanity modules. The latter include philosophical and ethical aspects of physician-patient relationship, organ donation, physician-assisted suicide, health care rights and obligations and conflicts of interest. Dr. Agich also runs the International Network for Bioethics Education.

Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAZ)

VHAI, a non-profit society, completes the 25th year of its laudable activities. It links over 3,000 health and development organisations spread across India and promotes community health, social justice and human rights in the provision of services related to health. It has evolved several low-cost programs harmonising traditional skills with modern knowledge. It runs two centres of traditional systems of medicine in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. Its publications include *State of India's Health* (August 1992), *Health expenditures in India* and periodicals including a bi-monthly

journal and newsletters. *Co-traveller*, its quarterly newsletter, features essays discussing neglect of patients by doctors making it necessary for us to issue the warning 'Caveat consumer' in medicine as well (1995;6:5-6) and on stemming the kidney bazaar (1995;6:7-8). In the first essay, the author asks the medical profession: 'In the process of progress where have you lost the human face?' Telling cartoons illustrate these essays. *Health related cases under consumer law* (1995, 40 pages) discusses the Consumer Protection Act of 1986 and pleads for 'medical services as if consumers mattered'. Also covered are the rights of the patient, means open to the patient and relatives for availing of these rights and case stories from hearings at the National and State Commissions where patients were able to obtain just settlements.

Ethics and Intellectual Disability

The Network on Ethics and Intellectual Disabilities has just published Volume 1, number 1 of *Ethics and intellectual disability*. The newsletter will facilitate interaction among those working in this field. The first issue features Dr. J. A. Costa e Silva's essay entitled 'Multicultural ethics and intellectual disability', describing the need for the network in this field, efforts being made by WHO and how multi-faceted collaboration will help remove the stigma attached to mental retardation. In the section entitled 'The law and retardation', the case Ricci v. Olkin is summarised. The court order in the class action

filed on behalf of mentally retarded residents in Massachusetts required the state to create an office to ensure that mentally retarded persons are provided the services to which the law entitles them. Each issue will feature a case study, based on real situations, for discussion. Here we are asked to

comment on a mother's request that her sexually active, mentally retarded daughter be sterilised. A book review, bibliography drawn from Bioethicsline and a note on meetings and announcements completes the issue. Those wishing to obtain copies should write to : Professor de Johannes S.

Reinders, Institute for Ethics, Free University, Amsterdam, Netherlands (J.S.Reinders@esau.th.vu.nl) or Dr. Robert M. Veatch, Director, Joseph and Rose Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, Washington DC 20057-1 065, USA (veatchr@guvax.georgetown.edu)

GIFTS

Through the courtesy of **Dr. Helga Kuhse**, Editor, we are receiving *Monash Bioethics Review* in exchange for our own journal. Dr. Kuhse is Australia's first research fellow in bioethics and serves The Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University, Victoria as Director. She is also the joint editor of the British journal *Bioethics* and the author of several books on the subject, the most recent of which is *Willing to listen - wanting to die* (Melbourne: Penguin Books, 1994).

Through the courtesy of **Dr. Margaret Somerville**, Gale Professor of Law, Director, McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, Montreal, Canada, we have received several reprints and photocopies of key papers on medical ethics. They are particularly valuable as her Centre has just recovered from a disastrous fire that destroyed not only the premises but also most of its books, papers and manuscripts.

We especially call attention to the following:

1. Somerville M: Doctors, ethics and 'dropping dead'. The Dean's Lecture. University of Sydney, 1990. (She provides a necessarily brief answer to the question, 'What is ethics?'. The section on euthanasia will interest many.)
2. Somerville M: 'The song of death: the lyrics of euthanasia'. *The Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy* 1993;9: 1-76.
(The reprint contains corrections and changes- not present in the original printed version. The text is based on a series of lectures on medical decisions at the end of life.)
3. Somerville M: 'Death talk' in Canada: The Rodriguez case. *McGill Law Journal* 1994;39:602-617. (Continuing the euthanasia debate, Dr. Somerville emphasises basic principles that should guide us and ends up asking whether legalising euthanasia will help or hinder our respect for people as persons.)
4. Somerville M: The right to health: a

human rights perspective. In: Mann J, Dupuy C (Eds.). *SIDA, Sante et Droits de L 'Homme: AIDS, health and human rights*. Veyrier du Lac, France: Fondation Marcel Merieux Institut des Sciences du Vivant, 1993;75-90.

5. Somerville M: The case against HIV antibody testing of refugees and immigrants. *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 1989;141:669-894.
6. Gilmore N, Somerville M: *Physicians, ethics and AIDS*. Ottawa: Canadian Medical Association, 1989; 1-35.
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8. Gilmore N et al: *HIV/AIDS in prisons*. Final report of the expert committee on AIDS and prisons. Ottawa: Correctional Service of Canada, 1994; 1- 144.
9. Gilmore N et al: *HIV/AIDS in prisons*. Summary report and recommendations of the expert committee on AIDS and prisons. Ottawa: Correctional Service of Canada, 1994; 1-44.
10. Chateauvert M, Gilmore N et al: *Counselling guidelines for Human Immunodeficiency Virus serology testing*. Ottawa: Canadian Medical Association, 1993;1-15.
11. Silvis J, Hendriks A, Gilmore N: *Drug use and human rights in Europe*. Utrecht: Willem Pompe Institute for Criminal Law & Criminology and Montreal: McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, 1992; 1-233.
12. Gilmore N, Somerville M: Stigmatisation, scapegoating and discrimination in sexually transmitted diseases: overcoming 'them and us'. *Social Science and Medicine* 1994;39:1339-1358.
13. Gilmore N, Somerville M: Health care professionals responding to AIDS: ethics, law and human rights. In: Ross M, Bennett L, Miller D (Eds.) *Health*

workers and AIDS: research, intervention and current issues in burnout and response. London, Harwood Academic Publishers, 1994; 1-36.

Through the courtesy of **Dr. George J. Agich**, Professor of Medical Humanities and Psychiatry and Director, Medical Ethics Program, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield, Illinois, we have received several reprints and details of curricular programs offered by this department.

We especially call attention to the following:

1. Agich GJ, Youngner SJ: For experts only? Access to hospital ethics committees. *Hastings Center Report* September-October 199 1; 17-25. (This essay asks important questions on the manner in which ethics committees function with special reference to whether patients and families should be permitted free access to them.)
2. Kottow MH: When consent is unbearable - a case report. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 1978;4:78-80. (Under certain conditions, a doctor may be justified in withholding information from a patient and making a decision on his behalf without his consent. Dr. Kottow describes an example.)
3. Kozak S, Nash R, Agich G et al: *Resuscitation of patients: one medical center's new approach*. Springfield, Illinois: Memorial Medical Center, 1990;41-61.
4. Agich GJ: Rationing and professional autonomy. *Law, Medicine & Health Care* 1990; 16:77-84. (Dr. Agich asks whether it is ethical for a doctor to ration medical care on the grounds of professional autonomy. He quotes as example Harvey Cushing's refusal during World War I to do more than two operations a day, despite the needs of so many other wounded, in order to ensure a high standard of care.)
5. Agich GJ: Symposium on ethics and biomedical research. *Research in Phi-*