With the world’s population now approaching 8 billion, approximately 90% live in the poor periphery with half the life expectancy of the 10% who are privileged to live in the centre of the developed world. Abdallah Daar and Peter Singer are bringing to the peripheral countries the scientific power needed to heal themselves through translation of scientific knowledge.

Abdallah attended medical school in Kampala, Uganda until the notorious dictator Idi Amin ordered all Asians out of the country. Abdallah completed his degree at the University of London and subsequently studied surgery and internal medicine at Oxford, completing a PhD in Immunology. As a young surgeon, he performed a double kidney transplant from a tiny 34 week gestational age stillborn donor. This is still a world record and the recipient is alive nearly two decades later.

The death of his sister from inadequately treated malaria drove home to Abdallah the lived experience of the 10/90 gap. She was one of the million who die each year from malaria. In 1998, he
left his position as Chief of Surgery in Oman for the new field of Global Public Health and Ethics. Though the genome revolution was on, the periphery was left out. “But the discovery of quinine and the malaria patients were all in Africa”.

He met Peter Singer while on sabbatical at the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics. Peter had come to realize the injustice of the 10/90 gap as his meteoric career in bioethics was unfolding. He served as founding director of the Joint Centre for Bioethics, where international students from Africa, India, Pakistan and South America came to study under an NIH – Fogarty Foundation grant aimed at promoting justice in international research ethics. Peter was trained in internal medicine at the University of Toronto and in public health and research methods at Yale. He studied ethics at the University of Chicago. He developed the unique partnership model of the Joint Center Centre for Bioethics with its network of 13 healthcare organizations. This allowed him to introduce bioethics from inside the medical system. At a bioethics meeting in Cape Town, he visited a clinic in an African slum and saw first hand the intensity of the 10/90 problem. “The clinic was a small room with peeling paint and nothing in it.”

When Abdallah joined Peter at the Joint Centre they launched a campaign to bring the innovations of the genomics revolution to the developing world. Despite initial rejection of their idealistic quest by the scientific community, they published a study in Nature Genetics, ranking the top 10 priorities to improve the health of the developing world. Attracted to the grand challenges proposed by Abdallah and Peter, The Gates Foundation asked their advice on how best to address these problems. This excellent book documents their remarkable experience.

They had used the Delphi method - “a structured way of building consensus among a group of experts that avoids the interpersonal dynamics of meeting.” In Davos, Switzerland, Harold Varmas, former director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health and former director of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center came up with the idea of overcoming critical barriers as a model for the grand challenges project. This new, unfamiliar
“There can be no peace, no security, nothing but ultimate disaster, when a few rich countries with a small minority of the world’s people alone have access to the brave, and frightening, new world of technology, science and high material living standard, while the large majority live in deprivation and want, cut off from opportunities of full economic development; but with the expectations and aspirations aroused far beyond the hope of realizing them.”

*Nobel Prize winner and Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson*

The compelling narrative style and in-depth accounts of problems and strategic solutions, told from the personal viewpoint of the authors, who participated in every step, provide a gripping story that will engage and benefit scientists and lay readers alike. Curiously, the chapters are entitled “Chapter 1”, “Chapter 2”, etc., leaving the reader uncertain about what will happen next as the story unfolds. A fitting climax develops when the Canadian Grand Challenges Program is launched with funding from the Canadian Government as part of its foreign aid budget. The program is serving as an operating system to deploy coalitions of international public, private and not for profit organizations like the Gates Foundation, US NIH, the Welcome Trust, the World Health Organization and other sponsors. Peter serves as CEO, and Abdallah as Chief Science and Ethics officer of the Canadian Grand Challenges Program.

and brilliantly simple way to think about a scientific project extended the range of the diseases that could be affected by eliminating a bottleneck. For example, by eliminating the need for refrigeration, needles, syringes, repeated doses, the barriers to immunization against many diseases could be addressed directly. Scientists from the developing and developed world collaborated in defining the challenges. Abdallah and Peter guided the selection process, while Bill and Melinda Gates provided the inspiration, determination and the initial financial support to move the projects forward.

*Dr. Martin McKneally*
Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto

Comments on articles in this Newsletter? Email your response to newseditor.jcb@utoronto.ca. We may publish your email in the next issue.
Director’s Corner: Physician Assisted Death: The Discussion Heats Up

This week the Québec Select Committee on Dying with Dignity issued its final report (http://www.asnнат.qc.ca/fr/travaux-parlementaires/commissions/csmд-39-2/index.html) with 24 recommendations. (Summary of the recommendations - http://www.jointcentreforbioethics.ca/enewsletter/linkdocs/Death-with-Dignity-Rec.pdf.) This release followed a consultative process that saw many submissions to this commission. The recommendations were evenly divided in supporting palliative care and in supporting the legalization of physician assisted death. The full report will be available in English in May 2012.

The twelve recommendations for palliative care covered areas of enhancing the quality of end of life care, improving access to palliative care services and establishing government policy in the area. Quebec has lagged somewhat in the development of palliative care services, particularly home palliative care. The government has been responding but slowly to the need for quality end of life care. Hopefully, this report will stimulate a faster response to the needs of dying Quebecers.

One recommendation that needs to be singled out involves the setting out of guidelines for palliative sedation. In the full report there was a lot of discussion of this increasingly common therapy partly because it has unfortunately been linked as form of physician assisted death. The need for ethical decision-making for this therapy is key. A Canadian consensus framework that involved three ethics and palliative care experts from the University of Toronto (Larry Librach, Blair Henry and Victor Cellarius) along with two colleagues (Doreen Oneschuk from Edmonton and Mervyn Dean from Newfoundland and Labrador) is currently in press. Reports of abuse of this powerful therapy are now coming to light. We need to make sure that our institutions in Toronto have policies about palliative sedation therapy built on sound ethical decision-making.

The recommendations on physician assisted death are very detailed. They ask for legalization and set out a framework for possible legislation. The gauntlet has been thrown down to the Quebec National Assembly to move on this particular issue. This initiative coupled with the recent Royal Society of Canada Report and cases before the Supreme Court will certainly bring the issue of physician assisted death into wider discussion. Any Quebec legislation will certainly be challenged in the Supreme Court of Canada.

As a bioethics community we will need to be part of the conversation. Our role will involve explaining what the issues are to the public, to health care professionals, to our institutions and to policy makers and making sure that policies that might come forward are protective and ethically-sound.

Larry Librach
Director
Joint Centre for Bioethics; Sun Life Financial Chair in Bioethics, University of Toronto
Announcements

Dr. Catherine Zahn, President and CEO of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) has received the Communicator of the Year (COTY) Award by the Toronto Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). The COTY Award is bestowed annually to a leader in the GTA who demonstrates a strong commitment to strategic communication. Dr. Zahn’s exceptional leadership, management and communication skills have helped catapult CAMH to the forefront of the battle against mental illness and addictions.

North York General Hospital (NYGH) has received Accreditation with Exemplary Standing, the highest designation from Accreditation Canada. To receive this level of Accreditation is a very rare achievement for any hospital or health service provider in Canada. Being Accredited with Exemplary Standing means an organization has attained the highest level of performance and quality against standards and criteria in the accreditation program. Surveyors from Accreditation Canada used over 1800 criteria to evaluate the hospital. NYGH met 100 per cent of requirements in every area, including all patient care programs and administrative functions like strategic and operational planning, and community engagement.

Dr. Randi Zlotnik Shaul has been appointed to the position of Director of Bioethics at SickKids. As the Director of Bioethics Dr. Zlotnik Shaul will lead SickKids towards a new and innovative vision for Bioethics.

Dr. Zlotnik Shaul has been a bioethicist at SickKids for the past 11 years. She is also an assistant professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto, has an appointment in the Department of Surgery, is an associate scientist in the Child Health Evaluative Sciences (CHES) program at SickKids, and is an active member of the JCB.

Jonathan Hellmann has been selected for the IMS Course Director Award. The award is received for a sustained contribution of three years or more to excellence in the teaching, administration, and development of an IMS graduate course at the University of Toronto. It will be presented on May 15, 2012.

Dr. Hellmann is the Clinical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at The Hospital for Sick Children, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto and Course Director of the MSC 3002Y Foundation II course in teaching bioethics at the JCB. He came to Canada in 1983 and has had a number of positions including Staff Neonatologist, Clinical Director of the NICU, Director of Continuing Education in the Department of Paediatrics and a Royal College of Physicians of Canada examiner in Pediatrics.
Funding Opportunities

Ontario Genomics Institute (OGI) SPARK Program

OGI is pleased to announce the launch of its 2012 SPARK program for high-impact, high-risk, early-stage technology development projects in the Genomic Sciences.

The overall goal of the SPARK program is to catalyze new research directions and increase the competitiveness of Ontario research and its life science sector. The ideal proposal will focus on developing technologies that create new capabilities or scientific resources that will be transformative for the field of Genomics/*omics sciences. Projects should address major hurdles or opportunities for Genomic Sciences and in the long term create innovative technologies that are easy to commercialize.

OGI will provide individual awards of up to $50,000 to be used for short duration (6-12 months) research projects. OGI may fund up to four (4) research projects per year. Funded research must be performed in Ontario (at academic, industry or other institutions) and should focus on a discrete, unique and transformative technology development project relevant to Genomics Sciences.

Applications are due to OGI by May 21, 2012. For more information, including the program guidelines and application forms, please visit the OGI website: http://www.ontariogenomics.ca/research/spark-program-technology-development-2012/

Fellowship

2013 Killam Research Fellowship
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

The Killam Research Fellowships are sponsored by the Canadian Council for the Arts and are awarded annually, on a competitive basis, to support scholars doing research in any of the following fields: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences, engineering, or studies linking any of the disciplines within these fields.

Killam Research Fellowships provide two full years of release time from teaching and administrative duties to individual scholars who wish to pursue independent research. They are intended for established scholars who have demonstrated outstanding research ability, have published the results of their research in substantial publications in their field and are expected to continue contributing to the Canadian research community after they have completed their fellowship project. These awards are valued at $70,000 per year. Fellowship recipients must obtain support for research and laboratory costs from other sources. Applicants who are retired are not eligible.

Deadlines
Thursday, May 3, 2012: Internal Deadline
Tuesday, May 15, 2012 (9:00am): Sponsor Deadline

For additional information visit: http://www.research.utoronto.ca/research-funding-opportunities/killam-research-fellowships/
Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Ethical Challenges in Cluster Randomized Trials Public Comment Phase

Over the past four years, the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) international research team has been working on a Canadian Institutes of Health Research funded project to study the ethical challenges in cluster randomized trials (CRTs). The ultimate goal of the project is to produce international consensus guidelines for the ethical conduct and ethics review of CRTs. The project comprised three components: an in-depth ethical analysis leading to a series of normative articles discussing the ethical issues in CRTs; review of the reporting of ethical issues in published CRTs; and surveys of CRT trialists and ethics review committee chairs. OHRI has created this Wiki webpage to facilitate an open discussion about the ideas expressed in the series of articles and the proposed ethics guidelines.

The draft guidance produced as a result of this process is now available and public comments are being invited. For more information and instruction on how to participate, visit: http://crtethics.wikispaces.com/. Comments will be accepted until April 2, 2012.

The Mark Rochon Leadership Award in Rehabilitation Sciences will celebrate the achievements of Mark Rochon who led Toronto Rehab from 1998 until it amalgamated with University Health Network in 2011. The Mark Rochon Leadership Award will support the next generation of leaders and innovators in rehabilitation sciences.

Eligibility & Value: One award of $10,000 is available for a student entering the 2012-2013 academic year for her/his first year of full time studies in a Master’s or PhD program in a field of study related to rehabilitation sciences. The Award is renewable for one additional year for a Master’s level student and two additional years for a PhD student. The student must have at least an A- average.

Preference will be given to a student who has demonstrated leadership qualities through extracurricular activities, community service, and/or other personal achievements. Additional preference will be given to candidates who have demonstrated commitment to Toronto Rehab by providing service as a volunteer in patient care or research.

Please send a résumé, unofficial academic transcripts, a statement of intent and two letters of reference, electronically or by mail, to:

Lois Ward
Manager, Research Operations
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-UHN
550 University Avenue, 12th floor
Toronto ON M5G 2A2
ward.lois@torontorehab.on.ca

Applications must be received before April 14, 2012.
Calls for Submission

• Call for Proposals •

Workshops & Symposia 2013, The Brocher Foundation
Hermance, Switzerland

The Brocher Foundation offers to researchers the opportunity to organize a one and a half day multidisciplinary symposium or a two, three or four day multidisciplinary workshop on the ethical, legal and social implications on humankind of recent medical research and new medical technologies. These symposia and workshops are an occasion to take advantage of a uniquely located Conference room on the shores of Lake Geneva and to invite experts from the numerous international organizations and non-governmental organizations based in the area (WHO, UNAIDS, WIPO, WTO, ILO, WMA, ICRC, MSF, etc).

TOPICS FOR THE YEAR 2013: Ethical, Legal & Social Implications of recent medical research and new medical technologies.

Among the following disciplines: Bioethics, Medical Anthropology, Health Economics, Health Policy, Health Law, Philosophy of Medicine and Health, Medical Humanities, Social Science perspectives on Health, Medical Ethics, History of medicine.

Proposals of the following topics are notably welcomed: Equitable access to medical care, Biobanks, Biosecurity and Dual Use Dilemmas, Clinical Trials and Research on Human Subjects, Genetic testing and screening, Health Care Reform, Nanotechnology, Neglected diseases, Pandemic planning, Reproductive technology, Stem Cells and Cell Therapy, Organ transplantation.

Please note that in 2013 there will be also a special emphasis on Neurosciences and Synthetic Biology.

Submission deadline: April 8, 2012
http://www.brocher.ch/pages/appel_aux.asp

• Calls for Abstracts •

The Canadian Association on Gerontology Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting
“Aging in a Changing World”
October 18 - 20, 2012
Vancouver, BC

The theme of the 2012 conference is “Aging in a Changing World,” and we invite you to take part in this dynamic forum for knowledge exchange and networking.

http://www.cagacg.ca/page.aspx?menu=86&app=336&cat1=818&tp=2&lk=no

Eighth Annual Pediatric Bioethics Conference
“The Thin Ethical Line: When Professional Boundaries and Personal Interests Collide”
July 27-28, 2012
Seattle, WA

Healthcare providers have professional responsibilities to care for their patients. Yet physicians, nurses, social workers and trainees face daily choices when their professional responsibilities are not congruent with personal interests, beliefs and values. How should providers navigate these boundaries? We will explore these issues as we discuss the ethical concerns that may arise when personal interests and values challenge traditional professional responsibilities.
Calls for Submission

- Can healthcare professionals conscientiously object to providing certain kinds of healthcare services?
- Should healthcare providers perform procedures or prescribe medications for their own family members?
- Is it ever acceptable for healthcare professionals to lie on behalf of their patients?
- Is it OK to ask patients to sign a political petition in the office or hospital setting?
- Should healthcare professionals become "friends" with their patients or their patients’ parents on Facebook?
- Should healthcare professionals engage with families in non-medical settings or accept gifts or invitations to personal events?

Abstract Submission: We invite submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations at the conference. Topics should relate to the conference theme, and can take the form of a conceptual analysis, legal analysis, empirical study or case presentation.

Submit abstracts (500-word limit) and attach your CV online by April 13, 2012. You will be notified by May 1, 2012 if your abstract has been accepted. Conference registration fees are waived for all abstract presenters.

http://www.seattlechildrens.org/research/initiatives/bioethics/events/pediatric-bioethics-conference/

August 27 - 30, 2012
Malaysia

Bioethics and Life: Security, Science and Society examines the extent that scientific, social and security dimensions of Asian Bioethics impact upon life, society, environment, state and the international systems.

All Are Welcome: Paper presentation and participation are welcomed from academics, scholars, policy makers, students and enthusiasts in the various disciplines of Asian Bioethics, from expert to novice.

Submission of Abstract: 30 April 2012
Submission of Full Paper: 31 July 2012

Paper presentations are welcomed for the following sub-themes:

- Health, Disease & Medical Ethics
- Health Care System & Management
- Human Enhancement
- Research Integrity & Responsibility
- Ethics of Emerging Technologies
- Ethics of Science, Innovation & Industry
- Women, Gender & Bioethics
- Human Security & Dignity
- Environmental Ethics & Sustainability
- Ethical Worldviews & Common Wisdoms
- Resource Ethics: Water & Energy Ethics
- Religion & Ethics
- Race, Ethnicity & Medicine
- Ethics in Disasters & Conflicts
- Bioethics Education
- Land Use, Ownership & Indigenous Rights
- Law, Policy & Ethics
- Animal Ethics
- Neuroethics & Privacy
- Agricultural and Food Ethics
- National Bioethics Committees

http://www.eubios.info/conferences
Calls for Submission

**HandsOn: Biobanks “BioBanking and Molecular Resource Infrastructure of Sweden”**  
**September 20-21, 2012**  
Uppsala, Sweden

We call for abstracts for poster presentations and/or knowledge sharing seminars focusing on what can be learned from your work in:
- Ethics and regulations
- Sample/biospecimen collection & storage
- Sample/biospecimen analysis
- Data analysis

We invite researchers, scientists, networks, industry and health care providers to share knowledge during the conference. We offer poster presentations and/or 20 minute presentations in three parallel sessions.

Submission deadline: **May 10, 2012**


**19th International Congress on Palliative Care**  
**October 9-12, 2012**  
Montreal, QC

In-depth workshops and seminars will address all aspects of end-of-life care, from the most current scientific developments in pain and symptom control to the large existential questions, to hands-on experiential sessions addressing practical issues faced every day. Topics include:
- The process of whole person care
- Focus on the nursing experience
- Clinical management of advanced neurodegenerative diseases
- Pediatric palliative care
- Perspectives from St. Christopher’s: doing more for less
- Skills development for volunteers and coordinators in palliative care
- Pharmacotherapy
- The architecture of compassion: hospice design
- Palliative care in Japan
- Research


**12th International Symposium on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (ISBGMO12)**  
**September 17-20, 2012**  
St. Louis, MO

The ISBGMO is a unique opportunity for scientists from across the globe to share experiences and engage in open and meaningful dialogue about biosafety. The discussion at this ISBGMO12 will be focused on a theme: considering biosafety in the application of biotechnology to meet the changing needs of agriculture, health, and the environment.

Abstract submission deadline: **May 25, 2012**  

**“Spirituality: The Invisible Ingredient in Health and Healing”, Providence Health Care**  
**May 3-4, 2012**  
Vancouver, BC

Call for Proposals: Providence Health Care of Vancouver, British Columbia invites you and your colleagues to participate in our fourth biannual conference that explores the integral relationship between spirituality, health and healing.
The focus of the conference will be on the importance of spirituality – the hidden source of meaning and purpose as it impacts: patients/residents, caregivers, healing, our lives, families and friends, the workplace, how we grapple with change personally and professionally.

Participants include: Physicians/Nurses and other health care providers; health care executives and managers; researchers; government leaders; instructors especially in medicine, nursing and other health disciplines; community and social service practitioners; primary care and religious leaders; educators; patients and families.

The conference will be held at the Coast Plaza Hotel and Suites in the heart of Vancouver’s colourful and cosmopolitan West End.

Contact: Elizabeth Turtle, 604-806-8528; eturtle@providencehealth.bc.ca

**Call for Papers**

Nursing Inquiry: Critical Perspectives on Healthcare Practice and Policy
Special Issue on Ideas with Impact

An upcoming special issue of Nursing Inquiry to celebrate the launch of the 20th edition will be devoted to publishing original manuscripts commenting on the ideas that have shaped the discipline of Nursing and continue to have influence today. Beyond the various ratings and rankings by which we commonly evaluate the impact of published work, knowledge development in the discipline has been catalyzed by important ideas whose impact is somewhat more difficult to “measure” but is strongly felt nonetheless. Contributions are sought that take up some of these “game changing” ideas, examining their origins and influence, and reflecting on the manner in which they have contributed to the evolution of scholarship by and about nursing and health care. Authors are invited to share their perspectives as to the ideas that have made our discipline’s scholarship what it is today.

Topics of special interest might include:

- Examination of ideas that have played a pivotal role at a particular time in nursing’s theoretical past.
- Analysis of the trajectory of certain influential ideas or thought traditions as they have been taken up in various ways across nursing theory, philosophy, or scholarship.
- Critical commentary on the ideas that have most powerfully resonated with nurses, or influenced the direction of nursing practice or policy.
- Consideration of the merits of some of the key concepts that have found a sustained place in the lexicon of nursing theorizing or might have changed the discipline had they been taken up more seriously.

Authors are encouraged to educate and inform our audience about the ideas that have most meaningfully influenced their own scholarship or those of their generation of scholars.

All submissions should be made online at [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nin](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nin). Please include an indication in your cover letter that you wish the article to be considered for the ‘Special Issue on Ideas with Impact’. We encourage submissions by **May 1, 2012**, although later submissions may still be considered should space and time permit. Sally Thorne, Editor-in-Chief (sally.thorne@nursing.ubc.ca).
Calls for Submission

The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy
Oxford University Press
A Series of Special Thematic Issues on the Philosophy of Medicine

Since its inaugural issue in 1976, The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy has been at the very center of critical debate in the philosophy of medicine, and papers on all aspects of the topic are always welcome. Additionally, we invite essays for a series of special thematic issues that focus on Clinical Reasoning and Evidence Based Medicine.

Authors may address any of a wide range of topics, including:

- what counts as evidence and how it is used
- critical analysis of applications of decision theory; the role of artificial decision support systems as replacements for, or augmentations of, clinician decision making
- integration of empirical/behavioral and conceptual/logical aspects of reasoning
- use of case studies in medical reasoning to address long-standing problems in the philosophy of science
- causal inference in medicine
- what is meant by “mechanistic reasoning”, and why this is criticized in some accounts of evidence based medicine
- implications of the systems turn (e.g., associated with Institute of Medicine reports on error and quality) for the way clinical reasoning is understood
- the social epistemology of health care practices
- ways information science and technology alter/inform clinical reasoning
- a philosophical analysis of psychological accounts of medical reasoning, including work on heuristics and biases
- the nature, function, and logic of “taking a patient history”
- nature of differential diagnosis, and the way disease taxonomies structure clinical reasoning and decision making
- scope and limits of Bayesian accounts of clinical reasoning
- use of operations/ human factors/ systems engineering and/or management sciences to “manage” clinical reasoning and decision making
- the appropriateness of using formal accounts as normative for clinical reasoning
- the nature of clinical competence and capacities, and the role an analysis of capacities might play in understanding the reasoning process
- what of importance might be lost (if anything) with efforts to make fully explicit the “art” of clinical reasoning and judgment.

To help with planning future issues, potential contributors are encouraged to send tentative topics and/or titles to the editors. Essays should be prepared for blinded peer review, with author and identifying information appearing only on a cover sheet, and submitted to both George Khushf (khushf@sc.edu) and Ana Iltis (iltisas@wfu.edu).

Papers may be up to 25-35 typed double spaced pages in length, including notes and references, although that is only a rough guideline. Longer treatments of key topics may be considered. Papers should conform to Journal style: www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/jmp/for_authors/msprep_submission.html

Deadline for the first issue is: August 15, 2012.
Calls for Submission

Synthetic Biology for Human Health: Ethical and Policy Issues Bioethics Special Issue

The Editors of Bioethics are pleased to announce a special issue in 2013 on the ethical and policy issues in synthetic biology for human health. Synthetic biology is an emerging field with important potential applications for human health, such as innovative drugs, new vaccines, tissue regeneration, or even synthetic cells. Synthetic biology aims to be able to design, engineer and build biological systems that do not occur in nature as well as re-engineer systems that already exist. This raises fundamental ethical questions about the moral status of life, the conceptualization of risks and benefits as well as possible implications for future people. Questions also arise about how we should approach these ethical issues and the moral grounding which ought to guide policy and regulatory issues in this area.

We invite submissions on all aspects of this topic.

Questions include but are not limited to:

- Is there anything inherently morally objectionable in creating or (re-)designing life?
- What are appropriate methodological paradigms for ethical debates over synthetic biology for human health?
- What questions does synthetic biology for human health pose with regards to justice?
- When should we consider the risks that may arise in the development of synthetic biology applications for human health as morally justifiable to take?
- How should we interpret contested concepts important to normative thinking about synthetic biology and human health? (e.g. life, risk, public interest, health and dignity).
- What should be the moral grounds for any specific regulation of synthetic biology research and applications to human health?

We discourage papers of more than 5000 words. For further information visit: http://sybhel.org/?p=812. Closing date for submissions: October 1, 2012.

Recent Publications

The new WHO publication “Standards and operational guidance for ethics review of health-related research with human participants”, is a compilation of 10 standards that are applicable to the ethics review of health related research with human participants. This document is intended to provide guidance on the research ethics review process, not to take a substantive position on how particular ethical dilemmas in health-related research should be resolved. It is designed to serve as a basis upon which Research Ethics Committees (RECs) can develop their own specific practices and written procedures, and benchmark their achievements.

To download, go to: http://www.who.int/ethics/publications/research_standards_9789241502948/en/index.html
Recent Publications


Miller FA, Hayeems RZ, Li L, Bytautas JP. What does ‘respect for persons’ require? Attitudes and reported practices of genetics researchers in informing research participants about research. *Journal of Medical Ethics*. 2012;38:48-52.


"Grandest Challenge is not only enlightening, solution orientated and deeply personal but it also encourages the reader to challenge the existing norm and encourages us to ask ourselves pivotal questions."
—Dr. Sima Barmania,
The Independent

"Daar and Singer show us how to rise to the grandest challenge of all: to make sure that science keeps its promise to all people, not just the rich. They point the way to how we can heal sick, protect the vulnerable, reach the unreached, and bring human dignity to all. Essential reading."
—Ismail Serageldin,
Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina

"The Grandest Challenge is a book of hope and belief in humanity. More so a belief in the developing world that we can take our own development into our own hands with some help from global citizens like Daar and Singer. It is a must read for anyone thinking about innovation, entrepreneurship and design for people in emerging economies. It is a great book that I will be reading many times over for inspiration and for reference."
—Moi’s Blog

An inspiring and revelatory book by two of today’s finest scientists shows how advances in global health will transform lives — particularly in the developing world — over the next decade.
JCB Bioethics Seminars This Month

Seminars are held on Wednesdays at 4:10-5:30pm, 155 College Street, Suite 754 and are webcast through ePresence.

April 4, 2012
NO SEMINAR - JCB Closed

April 11, 2012
Michelle Allain, Academic Fellow in Clinical and Organizational Ethics, Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto
“To object or not to object? Catholic hospital conscientious objection in rural Canada”

April 18, 2012
Dr. Norbert Steinkamp, Institute for Quality of Healthcare, Section of Ethics, Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
“TBA”

April 25, 2012
Lisa Forman, SJD, Lupina Assistant Professor, Dalla School of Public health, University of Toronto
“A right to global health equity? Interrogating the promise and pitfalls of international human rights law for advancing global health”

ePresence Registration Instructions:
Most of our bioethics seminars are being webcast live. Archived seminars are available under Published Events. You can register to view and participate in live events by following the steps below:

2. Click on the Join button (at the top-right corner).
3. Enter your information in the Join screen, including Username and Password.
4. Remember your Username and Password so that you can join future seminar webcasts.
5. Please report by email to brenda.knowles@utoronto.ca if you have any difficulty registering.
6. For subsequent seminars, login with your Username and Password – you do not have to re-register.
7. This registration process should be done well before the event itself. If you have difficulty viewing your first seminar, check with your IT professional and ensure you have the latest version of Flash Player on your computer.
The objective of this conference is to bridge a connection between researchers and decision-makers, using health economics, services, policy and ethics research to improve cancer control and the delivery of cancer care.

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Peter Bach, MD, MAPP**

Dr. Bach’s is well known for his investigation into Medicare’s approaches to coverage policies. Dr. Bach currently serves on the Institute of Medicine’s National Cancer Policy Forum and the Committee on Performance Measurement of the National Committee on Quality Assurance. In addition he chairs the Technical Expert Panel that is developing measures of cancer care quality for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the United States. Dr. Bach’s research has appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), the New York Times, and the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Want to learn more about us? Check out our website.
[https://www.cc-arcc.ca/](https://www.cc-arcc.ca/)

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**Don’t miss out!**

To register, go to: [https://www.eplyevents.com/Event.aspx?l=1&c=2&evt=c64b9829-ce30-4d34-b8f9-25daf0c2d062](https://www.eplyevents.com/Event.aspx?l=1&c=2&evt=c64b9829-ce30-4d34-b8f9-25daf0c2d062)
April 4-5, 2012
5th Annual Regenerative Medicine Symposium
CIHR Training Program in Regenerative Medicine

The CIHR Training Program in Regenerative Medicine invites you to join us at the 5th Annual Regenerative Medicine Symposium (ARMS) where health researchers will be sharing their latest insights and discoveries in the rapidly progressing field of regenerative medicine. This 2 day symposium is structured to allow ample opportunity for participants to interact with each other as well as with leading experts, professors, clinician scientist, regulation and industry officials, both within the formal sessions and informally at other times. We encourage any active researchers who are interested in keeping pace with the latest developments in regenerative medicine to participate.

Astellas Conference Room, 585 University Avenue, 11th floor, Rm. 11C-1135
http://www.regenmedcanada.com/ARMS2012.cfm

April 18-20, 2012
Intensive European Bioethics Course “Health Care Ethics Commitees”
Padova, Italy

The Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Educational Sciences and Applied Psychology, University of Padova, announces the advanced European Bioethics Course ‘Health Care Ethics Commitees’.

Contents of the course include: a historical and theoretical framework of the process of institutionalization of HECs; an introduction into the typical functions of HECs, providing for each of them a conceptual frame, a concrete experience and useful practical tools; a presentation and discussion of an important European experience of building and running a network of HECs. As to the methods, the course will combine lectures, group discussions and workshops. All course activities and materials will be in English.

For more information, please visit our website: www.masterbioethics.org, under Intensive courses.

April 19, 2012
SickKids Bioethics Grand Rounds “Reconstructing Hope: Parental Perspectives on End-of-Life Decisions in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit” Alexandra Saltman, BA (Hons) Bioethics, Cornell University, MD Candidate 2012, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto; Jonathan Hellmann, MBBCh, FCP, FRCPC, MHSc, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit & Professor, Department of Paediatrics, University of Toronto

12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.
The Hospital for Sick Children, Room 1250 Burton Wing

April 19, 2012
Hospice Foundation of America
2012 Spring Program: End-of-Life Ethics

Available only on DVD, the program examines, using a case study approach, the ethical issues and dilemmas that emerge at the end-of-life. Ethical decisions at the end of life provide a point where all the factors that influence end-of-life care such as finances, laws, values, culture, and technology converge. The decisions that are made at the end-of-life affect not only the way that the person dies, but also the ways that survivors face the loss. These decisions may influence staff – affecting morale and turnover consequently directly influencing patient care as well as families struggling with grief. This program explores ethical dilemmas that are likely to arise at the end-of-life, the
principles of ethical decision-making and the effects of these decisions on staff and families. Case studies will be used to illustrate ethical issues that will be addressed by the program panel.

Registration ($150) includes:

• one full-length DVD (2.5 hours)
• availability to show the program as many times as you wish throughout the year - to your registered site location(s) only.
• a detailed Site Coordinator’s Manual
• 35 Program Guides (with a tip & resource sheet included)
• access to a media kit to help you publicize the event in your area
• a discount coupon for the program’s companion book, as well as additional useful program materials
• one complimentary copy of the companion book

For more details and to register, visit: http://www.hospicefoundation.org/2012springprogram

April 24, 2012
CAMH Brown Bag Research Ethics Discussion Groups “Clinically Relevant Information in Genetic Research: How should it be handled?” Gregory Costain, MD/PhD Candidate, CAMH

12:00pm–1:00pm; 33 Russell Street, 2nd Floor, Room 2022 (ELCLC). Bring your own lunch. Questions? Contact: Susan_Pilon@camh.net.

April 24, 2012
Hospice Foundation of America Annual Teleconference: Ethics and End-of-Life-Care
Brenham, TX

2:00pm-5:00pm; Blinn College Student Activity Center Conference Room, Brenham, TX

To register, please visit: http://www.hospicebrazosvalley.org/calendar.html

April 28, 2012
The Globe and Mail Open House Festival “The Grandest Challenge”
Toronto, ON

Abdallah Daar, Stephen Lewis, James Maskalyk, Samantha Nutt, James Orbinski, Peter Singer
Moderators: Gillian Findlay, Carol Off

10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
The Bram and Bluma Appel Salon, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario
http://www.randomhouse.ca/openhouse/grandest-challenge.html
**April/May 2012**

**Intensive Bioethics Courses**

**Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics program**

The intensive courses are part of the Erasmus Mundus Master of Bioethics programme organised by a consortium of three European universities, namely the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (The Netherlands) and the Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy). Because of this combination, participants of the intensive courses will join Master students from all over the world.

**Padova**

Health Care Ethics Committees: 18 - 20 April 2012
Ethics of Pediatric Research: 14 - 16 May 2012


**May 4-5, 2012**

**2012 National Health Law Conference: Global Health Challenges & the Role of Law**

Metropolitan Hotel, Toronto, ON

This conference will bring together leading scholars, policy-makers, practicing lawyers and health care professionals to explore how law can address global health challenges and make real progressive change.

The kinds of global challenges participants will explore include:

- Access to care and essential medicines on the part of the most vulnerable (poor, mentally ill, aboriginal populations)
- The rise and inequitable impact of medical tourism
- The spread of chronic diseases around the world
- Exponential increases in smoking in many countries
- The obesity epidemic and so forth...

**Confirmed Speakers:**

- Mary Anne Bobinski, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia
- Timothy Caulfield, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta
- I. Glenn Cohen, Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics, Harvard Law School
- Rebecca Cook, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
- Jocelyn Downie, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University
- Colleen M. Flood, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
- Richard Gold, McGill University
- Lawrence O. Gostin, O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown Law
- Trudo Lemmens, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto and many more...

**Keynote Panel Debate:** “Can Law Meet Global Health Challenges? Perspectives from Medicine and Politics”

**Keynote panelists:**

- Abdallah S. Daar, Senior Scientist, the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health & Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
- Theodore R. Marmor, Health Care Policy, Politics and Law Expert, Yale University
- Michael Ignatieff, Senior Resident, Massey College, University of Toronto
- James Orbinski, Chair and Professor in Global Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health; Co-Director, Global Health Diplomacy Program, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto

Register at: http://nhlc2012.ca/

May 15-18, 2012
Teaching Research Ethics
Nineteenth Annual Workshop
Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Session topics will include an overview of ethical theory, trainee and authorship issues, conflicts of interest, using human subjects in clinical and non-clinical research, and responsible data management. Many sessions will feature techniques for teaching and assessing the responsible conduct of research.

For more information contact Glenda Murray, Program Associate, Poynter Center, Indiana University, 618 East Third Street, Bloomington IN 47405-3602; (812) 855-0262; FAX (812) 855-3315; glmurray@indiana.edu.

Information & registration available at: http://poynter.indiana.edu/tre

May 31-June 2, 2012
Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Conference
Montreal, QC

The conference theme is “Fostering Innovation in Canadian Bioethics”. The program will tackle numerous subjects including the development of new theoretical, practical and pedagogical approaches to bioethics as well as their applications in the fields of health and wellness, while bearing in mind the concerns of the general public. It will gather researchers, students and members of ethics committees, but also ground-level healthcare workers who care about ethical issues related to their practices. This event has its eye focussed directly on the future with a view to the germination of new initiatives.

For more information, visit: http://www.cbs-scb2012.com/program/program-e.html

June 4-5, 2012
Brocher Symposium, ”Ethical Legal and Social Implications of Neonatal Intensive Care Units”
Geneva, Switzerland

Most neonates who now survive intensive care would have died 50 years ago, and ”nature” would have decided the outcomes, making ethical discussions about initiating or withholding resuscitation irrelevant. Medical developments in neonatology have changed the way we respond to diseases of neonates, to their illness, and to the pain and suffering of their parents. Not only as physicians, but also as a society. Perinatal dilemmas often raise one of the most profound questions regarding human life: which life with disability is worse than death?

For more information or to register, visit: http://www.brocher.ch.

June 13-14, 2012
Brocher Symposium, ”Changing the Brain, Changing The Society: Clinical and Ethical Implications of Neuromodulation Techniques in Neurology and Psychiatry”
Geneva, Switzerland

The symposium will gather world leading scientists who are working on novel technologies specifically designed to change brain functions for therapeutic or
Seminars, Events & Conferences

For more information or to register, visit: http://www.brocher.ch.

June 18-22, 2012
Brocher Summer Academy in Global Population Health 2012, “Distributing Human Resources for Health: Ethics and Health Policy”
Geneva, Switzerland

The ethical issues that must be faced in responding to the critical shortage of trained health professionals in countries bearing the greatest burden of disease are likewise distinctive. Even the richest countries are short, and they are filling empty posts by offering jobs to well-trained health workers in the poorest countries, where lower incomes and difficult working conditions provide motivation to emigrate to where pay is higher, some research and career opportunities are more available, and living can be easier. This ethical challenge will be addressed at the 2012 Summer Academy in the Ethics of Global Population Health. These biannual events introduce faculty and advanced graduate students to the fast-developing field enhancement purposes, together with international experts on ethics and philosophy of science. Different domains of neuromodulation will be addressed including deep brain stimulation, neuroprosthetics, neurofeedback, and pharmacology. This symposium should contribute to increase awareness for these domains and related issues among clinicians and laymen, and ultimately help integrate science and technology with ethical guidance.

TREC & JCB Education Event
Afternoon and Evening

Professor Lorraine Ferris, Chair, Toronto Academic Health Science Network’s Research Ethics Committee (TREC) is pleased to announce that the Toronto Academic Health Science Network Research Ethics Committee (TREC) with the Joint Centre for Bioethics are holding an educational event in research ethics for researchers and REB members on Genetics, Ethics and Privacy.

The keynote will be given by Dr. Shane Green, Leader of the Ethics, Social and Cultural (ESC) Program in Global Health at the Sandra Rotman Centre at the UHN and U of T. Shane specializes in the ethics of biotechnological (“benchside”) research and research involving human subjects and has dedicated his career to the integration of ethics into biological research endeavors. Shane was previously the Director of Outreach and Lead of Social Impact Programs at the Ontario Genomics Institute. He has a PhD in Medical Biophysics from U of T, specializing in cell and molecular biology, and has studied and taught bioethics at the U of T Joint Centre for Bioethics and as a post-doctoral fellow with the American Medical Association. Dr. Green is currently a member of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Stem Cell Oversight Committee.

The event will be in the afternoon and will involve the keynote as well as panel discussions.

This event will be followed by an evening U of Toronto Dickens Lecture (which will be open to the public) on Genetics and Ethics. Dr. Green has agreed to also be the speaker at that event.

Further details will be forthcoming, but for now please SAVE THE DATE!
of population-level bioethics, which addresses ethical questions, not in individual patient care, but in population- and global health.

For more information or to register, visit: [http://www.brocher.ch](http://www.brocher.ch).

**July 12-14, 2012**

**Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL) Conference**

Auckland, New Zealand

The theme of the conference is ‘Harm, Health and Responsibility’. There is a call for abstract submissions for oral presentations, and workshop and cafe sessions.


**July 16-17, 2012**

**Symposium: Bioethics and Regenerative Medicine**

Brighton, UK

Centre for Applied Philosophy, Politics & Ethics and School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Brighton, with the support of Brighton & Sussex Medical School and LABTEC

A two-day workshop bringing together colleagues in regenerative medicine and in medical- and bioethics for sustained discussion of these and related issues.

More information: [http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/research/cappe/conferences/conferences/bioethics-and-regenerative-medicine](http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/research/cappe/conferences/conferences/bioethics-and-regenerative-medicine)

**July 27-28, 2012**

**Eighth Annual Pediatric Bioethics Conference: The Thin Ethical Line: When Professional Boundaries and Personal Interests Collide**

Seattle, WA

There’s a fine line between professional and personal relationships. Where does one begin and the other end? A distinguished panel of experts will address a range of challenging ethical issues:

- Is it ever appropriate for a healthcare provider to “friend” a patient or parent?
- Should a healthcare provider perform procedures on or prescribe medications to a family member?
- Is “firing” a patient an appropriate response to parents who refuse to vaccinate their children?
- Is it ever OK for a healthcare provider to lie on behalf of their patient?


**August 2-5, 2012**

**“Brave New World?” Genetic Engineering & Human Dignity**

Pasadena, CA

BRAVE NEW WORLD endeavors to bring together scholars from a wide range of disciplines and denominations for an exciting international conference which takes both scholarship and faith seriously. Symposium Venue: ICSA VII is co-sponsored by IIR-ICSA-JIS in the City of the Roses--the world-famous Tournament of Roses--in sunny Southern California, with many cultural/sightseeing opportunities.

For more information, visit: [www.JIS3.org/icsavii.htm](http://www.JIS3.org/icsavii.htm)
Seminars, Events & Conferences

Registration: Symposium participants must preregister: $75 by April 15, 2012; $100 after April 15, 2012; $150 after June 1, 2012.

September 2-5, 2012
UNESCO Chair in Bioethics 8th International Conference on Bioethics Education: Contents, Methods, Trends
Tiberias, Israel

Main Topics in Ethics Education
- general objectives
- teaching methodology
- level of teaching
- status of the programs
- evaluation of teaching
- teachers and students
- study resources
- references
- materials

Main Aspects
- bioethics
- echo-bioethics
- dental ethics
- environmental ethics
- ethics and law
- ethics and religion
- ethics and social sciences
- medical ethics
- meta-ethics
- nursing ethics
- pharmacy ethics
- philosophical ethics
- scientific ethics
- technological ethics

For more information or to register visit: http://www.isas.co.il/bioethics2012/

September 20-22, 2012
European Association of Centres of Medical Ethics Annual Conference
Bristol, UK

The conference theme, “Other voices, other rooms” is borrowed from Truman Capote’s novel, which deals with issues of coming of age, including embracing one’s identity, understanding others, caring and being cared for, searching for oneself and for those to whom one is relationally bound. The conference will investigate how these issues reflect on the identity of bioethics, and particularly of European bioethics, and the many places and people with whom it is intimately bound.

For more information or to register visit: http://www.eacme2012.org

October 9-12, 2012
19th International Congress on Palliative Care
Montreal, QC

Enjoy a unique opportunity to meet, share experiences and exchange ideas with colleagues from 60 countries, representing all disciplines – nurses, physicians, social workers, physical and occupational therapists, music therapists, pharmacists, pastoral care persons, administrators, volunteers and psychologists.

Attend in-depth workshops and seminars covering all aspects of end-of-life care, from the most current scientific developments in pain and symptom control to the large existential questions, to hands-on experiential sessions addressing practical issues faced every day.
Seminars, Events & Conferences

For more information or to register visit: http://www.pal2012.com.

**October 18-21, 2012**  
American Society for Bioethics and Humanities  
ASBH 14th Annual Meeting: "Representing Bioethics"  
Washington, DC

The theme for the 2012 ASBH meeting “Representing Bioethics” - invites participants to explore the varied ways in which “representation” and “bioethics” intersect. We encourage members to think about who is represented, misrepresented, or underrepresented in medicine, the medical humanities, and bioethics, and investigate the ways in which we can understand, challenge, or improve these representations. We encourage scholars to reflect in particular on representation of American health care in a time of transition, whether driven by rapidly emerging technologies, new areas of biomedical research, innovative health and public health policies, or social and political movements. We are eager to elicit work that either analyzes representations of medicine using the arts or humanities, or considers tools of representation in the arts or humanities that cast light on problems in biomedicine in new ways. Finally, in a year of important political choices, we recognize that the field of bioethics represents itself to the public, press, and policy makers, to those outside its borders, and to the field of medicine itself and we welcome work that explores how bioethics can best do this. Submissions that propose innovative, engaging methods of presenting scholarly content are particularly encouraged.

For more information, visit: http://www.asbh.org/

**JCB Seminar Series**

**Wednesdays**  
4:10 to 5:30 p.m.

Join us at  
The Joint Centre for Bioethics  
155 College St., 7th Floor, Suite 754.

Go to: http://www.jointcentreforbioethics.ca/tools/seminars.shtml for upcoming seminar info.
The University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics

The Joint Centre for Bioethics (JCB) is a partnership among the University of Toronto; Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care; Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Centre for Clinical Ethics, a joint venture of Providence Centre, St. Joseph’s Health Centre, and St. Michael’s Hospital; The Credit Valley Hospital and Trillium Health Centre; Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital; The Hospital for Sick Children; Humber River Regional Hospital; Mount Sinai Hospital; North York General Hospital; Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Toronto Community Care Access Centre; and University Health Network (Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, and Toronto Western Hospital).