

Health Care Ethics

Sheila P. Davis

Follow this and additional works at: <http://aquila.usm.edu/ojhe>

Recommended Citation

Davis, S. P. (2011). Health Care Ethics. *Online Journal of Health Ethics*, 7(1). <http://dx.doi.org/10.18785/ojhe.0701.07>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by The Aquila Digital Community. It has been accepted for inclusion in Online Journal of Health Ethics by an authorized administrator of The Aquila Digital Community. For more information, please contact Joshua.Cromwell@usm.edu.

HEALTH CARE ETHICS

Ethical issues surrounding the beginning of life continue to headline ethical discussions and debates internationally. From the vantage point of a certified nurse midwife, Corsaro's article, "Patient Requested Induction of Labor: Examining an Ethical Dilemma," explores the ethics associated with a patient requested induction of labor for convenience sake. Who speaks for the fetus? Applying ethical theory, Corsaro, shares a clinical decision pathway designed to enable practitioners to derive a viable solution. In opposition to the application of a normative ethical theory as a panacea for solving clinical decisions, Dr. Scott of the United Kingdom in the article, "Moral Intuition in Clinical Decision-Making," discusses the use of one's moral intuition in making clinical ethical decisions. Scott frames this ethical argument around the case of Dr. Michael Munro who administered pancuronium to two infants to hasten their deaths. This article will engender supporters and opponents on both sides. Please voice your opinion on our Facebook site. Should the infant's death have been intentionally hastened by the physician?

Mirror, mirror on the wall, do I have the eyes of my father? These and other daunting questions are those which donor children wrestle with. Relph, in the article, "Abandoning Anonymity," reminds readers that genetic information and family medical history are unknown to children conceived by anonymous gamete donation. Hence, offspring are denied health information deemed vital to the maintenance of health and well-being by early detection, diagnosis and treatment. What are your thoughts? Do children have a right to know who their biological parents are? Is the nonprovision of parental identity and health information a denial of moral status for children conceived by anonymous gamete donation? Please weigh in on the debate.

What are the attitudes of Greek health care professionals toward human cloning? A team of Greek health care practitioners explored this question from a sample 303 medical and nursing Greek personnel. Did they make a distinction between reproductive and therapeutic cloning? How were their attitudes similar or different from those of health care providers in the United States? Was there a difference in attitudes toward cloning between medical and nursing personnel? Find the answer to these and other issues surrounding human cloning in Katsimigas, Kaba, Pantelidou, Bellou, and Spiliopoulou's article, "Attitudes of Greek Health Care Professionals on Human Cloning". Do you agree with the conclusions? Let us hear from you on this hot ethical topic.

As the spotlight shifts to those who administer healthcare, the articles of Dr. Otu, "Violence from Within: Doctors vs. Nurses," and Drs. Singh and Purohit's, "Ethical Issues in Scientific Research in Developing Countries," examine the misconduct of healthcare providers that is often winked

at and tolerated. Dr. Otu analyzed official and self-report data from the NURSE WEEK/American Organization of Nurse Executive Survey and the literature in an attempt to formulate a correlation between physician violence against nurses and nurse turnover rates. The results are startling. Included are explicit recommendations to address this secret problem. Now that the secret is out, do you have any experiences you would like to share about personnel violence in the healthcare setting? If so, please share your experience and your recommendations for solving this growing problem of incivility among healthcare providers on our Facebook page. Last, Drs. Singh and Purohit shed light on the scientific misconduct that results among healthcare providers associated with academic healthcare institutions with pressure for its employees to publish or perish. Although the context is India, we know that the problem is not germane to India or to the developing nations. Do we have any responsibility to ensure or report issues relating to scientific integrity of colleagues?

As you read the articles, give consideration to works that you can share in the journal. Also, if you would like to be a reviewer for the journal, we welcome your expertise. Kindly sign into the journal and indicate your desire. I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to the reviewers who served for this issue and to Mrs. Laura Hudson, copy editor and journal manager and to Mrs. Jillian Wright, web master and journal designer. Take care all and do the right thing.

Sheila P. Davis, PhD, RN, FAAN

Editor-in-Chief

Online Journal of Health Ethics