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Sheila P. Davis
sheila.davis@patienthelp.care

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Ethics - Spring 2014

In two manuscripts with similar themes, nurse educator researchers, Drs Jennifer Brown of Columbus State University, USA; Dr. Francine Parker of Auburn University, USA; and Nurse Practitioner, Ramona Lazenby, of Auburn, examine the ethical climate as a contributor to nurse attrition, moral distress, and job satisfaction. Researchers stress the necessity of creating an ethical working environment to reduce moral distress and improve job satisfaction. Included in the article are the Moral Distress Scale and the Hospital Ethical Climate Survey. Their second study examined the effects of previous negative work experiences on job satisfaction and ethical climate. They conclude with recommendations regarding provision of ongoing support for nurses who have had previous negative experiences.

From the University of Gaza, Dr. Nasser Ibrahim Abu – El-Noor, explores the ethical question of - in using modern medical technology to extend life and suffering, have we done a good thing? And as such, do patients have rights to exert some control over the way their lives end. He implores: “should they suffer from a terminal illness or non-terminal chronic conditions that result in very low quality of life”? His article seeks to address this question from an Islamic perspective given the sanctity of life beliefs in Islam.

Last, few would disagree that the rising prevalence of obesity represents a health care crisis. Physicians from Australia, Drs. Venkat and Larkin, purport that as the gateway to the health care system, the emergency department poses perhaps the greatest difficulty in the care and treatment of obese patients. Their article presents a combination of virtue and narrative approaches as a framework to guide healthcare professionals who care for obese clients in acute care settings. OJHE editors concludes that their framework has utility for other vulnerable populations who rely upon the emergency as the one guaranteed access point for medical treatment.

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Editors,

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