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Worldwide Ethics 2017

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In this issue, three articles address the ethics of morality issues involving sexual encounters. Dr. Akpan, from the Department of Physiology Calabar, Nigeria, tackles the topic of same sex marriage. Is it right? Is there a historical context? Is this practice confined to the Western World? He traces the historical context, dating back to 1061 in medieval times. Additionally, he informs of certain tribes in Africa where it is legal and customary for women to marry women in order to preserve the family line. However, these tribal unions are all nonsexual unions. You will find the evolution and contrast of modern day same sex marriage unions very informative, controversial and though provoking. Next, Dr. Fouqueler of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, USA, challenges readers to consider the legal and ethical issues surrounding the provision of reproductive health in the United States as it relates to informed consent and confidentiality. Fouqueler concludes that laws differ from state to state and that it is inherent upon health care providers to know the laws in their state and to know their philosophy of practice. With that, it is incumbent upon organizations to know the ability or willingness of individual providers to offer confidential services. Article Three by Drs. Idom and Lorsamber of the Department of Sociology at Federal University Nasarawa State, Nigeria and the Environmental Safety Management Institute team up to do an ecological study to determine the influence of social activities on seasonal variation in birthrates in Makurdi Town, Nigeria. Their results confirm definite seasonal peaks and lows for copulation and subsequent births. Given regional and global population challenges, they provide recommendations for policy makers to help to deter further population strains in areas of limited resources.

The next set of articles deal with our duty to members of society. Dr. Lewis of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, USA challenges us to examine the ethical theory of Ethics of Care in concert with the phenomenon of childhood obesity. Lewis exclaims that any action or inaction that results in harm for obese children is concerning. As such, not only should parents, but society has a responsibility toward this vulnerable population of children who are obese. Find out what you can do to ameliorate this epidemic. Next, Dr. Udofia of the University of Calabar, Nigeria, examines our duty to another vulnerable population - those who have HIV/AIDs. Against the backdrop of the leadership model of Utilitarianism, he posits that the utilitarianism normative axiom works well in theory, but is vulnerable to abuse by leaders who are totalitarian in nature. Unfortunately, human greed has severely hampered the war on HIV/AIDs in areas where the disease is most rampant. From the Dexter Healthcare System in Victoria, TX, Dr. Crisp applies the Kantian argument to appeal for Universal Healthcare. He states that just society has a moral duty to ensure access to healthcare to all of its members. In the USA, the debate continues to rage regarding the right or duty of the nation to provide healthcare for all of its citizens. Certainly, Dr. Crisp presents a strong argument in terms of the nation having a moral duty to care for its own. Last, Drs. Mazloom, Jahromi, and Bastani present a novel idea as it relates to euthanasia and physician-assisted dying. They contend that to engage in the ending of life is counter to the ethics of the Hippocratic oath taken by most health care providers. They propose a very unique approach to assist patients in dying. It is not a new approach historically, but new to modern times. In essence, they propose removal of the

healthcare provider from the termination of the patient's life and in its place, having a _____.
Got cha! You have to read the article to find out their solution.

Thank you for being a part of our reader and author audience. Next year, why don't you consider submitting an article to the Online Journal of Health Ethics? We accept full articles, poems, opinion articles, commentaries, etc. Have a happy holiday period and don't forget to like us on Facebook.

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