

## Hard Core Ethics

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## Hard Core Ethics

2018

This issue, perhaps like none other, exposes flagrant human right abuses, which challenge our ethical philosophies and frameworks. Hard core ethical quandaries presented demand our acknowledgment, critical debate, and earnest efforts in problem solving. Also presented is the human side of ethical counseling. Who ministers to the ethicist when tempted to engage in ethical compromises? Last, race is discussed in the context of Medical Ethics. Join the debate with us on Facebook.

Dr. Peter DePergola II (University of Massachusetts Medical School, Baystate; College of Our Lady of the Elms) presents two equally provocative articles: (1) *The Ethical Principle of Vulnerability and the Case Against Human Organ Trafficking* and, (2) *The Ethical Justification of Equal Candidacy for Organ Transportation in Alcoholic Patients*. DePergola explores and exposes practices surrounding global 'transplant transactions' of human organs. This practice, termed by DePergola as 'a curious combination of altruism and commerce, consent and coercion, gifts and theft, science and sorcery, and, care and human sacrifice' decries a critical need to revisit the fundamental moral normlessness of the human trafficking enterprise. The second article juxtaposes the arguments of the compassionate fiduciary relationship existing between a health care provider and patient and that of allocation of scarce resources (human organs) to patients who suffer from alcoholism. Share your opinion regarding these issues on our Facebook page. Do you agree or disagree with Dr. DePergola?

The year 2016 was a seminal year for global displacement of refugees outside of their home country. Dr. Lori Walton (University of Sharjah) shares that approximately 22.5 million refugees were displaced due to armed conflict. Over half of this number was from one country alone: Syria. What has been the 'humanitarian' response to this international travesty? Interestingly, countries accepting the largest number of refugees from Syria are non-signatory countries of the UN Convention of Refugees. Stately differently, the countries with fewer resources who are not under UN mandates to take in refugees are shouldering the lion's share of displaced people. Lori explains that the displacement phenomenon places women and children at particular risk to be victims of trauma from violence, exploitation by trafficking, chronic mental and physical health issues, and being bereft of the right to control one's own body. This paper addresses the health and human rights of Syrian woman and children. Thereafter, Dr. Walton proposes a courageous comprehensive program intervention to address the health and human right's issues of the women and children. We have a moral duty to care for this vulnerable population.

Dr. Robert Scott Steward of Cape Breton University presents a paper previously presented at the Nova Scotia Alzheimer's Society. Using the framework of principlism, Steward discusses tacit relational issues inherent between those suffering from Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Specific issues explored in through this framework are autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, and justice. With the

pandemic explosion of cases of Alzheimer's, it is incumbent upon all to attend to this argument.

In a study conducted by University of Vermont faculty, Dr. Marcia Bosek, and Dr. Brian Fulmer of the University of Utah School of Medicine, 12 clinical ethicists explored personal ethical dilemmas inherent in their professional role. Work-related ethical issues: maintaining confidentiality, non-professional communication, and acts of deception are a partial list of themes, which emerged. Are their challenges unique to them or are these shared by most professionals (i.e. teachers, healthcare providers, law enforcement, etc.)? This article facilitates examination of one's values and aids in identifying actual or potential threats to one's moral integrity regardless of profession.

Similar to the work of Fulmer and Bosek, Dr. Vanette McLennan of Griffin University (Australia) examines ethical dilemmas experienced by Australian Rehabilitation Counsellors. In this article, McLennan does an exploratory literature study to identify both the types of ethical dilemma encountered by rehabilitation counselors and to share preferred methods for resolving of ethical dilemmas. This work certainly has implications for ethics education and development of future counselors and informing current ethical counselors.

Mongan, of Radford University, asks readers to join the debate as to whether social workers, like attorneys, nurses, physicians, and other professionals should be granted exemption from caring for patients if they have conscientious objections and religious laws which conflict with their moral views. While this may be legally protected, ethical issues are presented which question the appropriateness of this 'right' if exercised by social workers. Your input is solicited to this argument.

Should doctors take into account human races? This last argument is presented by Dr. Gabriel Andrade of Xavier University School of Medicine in Aruba. Albeit, highly controversial, Dr. Andrade argues that disease is a bio-psycho-social process and not as much race mediated as has been postulated. Join the debate!

Last, special thanks are extended to our authors, editors, layout designer, and Mr. Josh Cromwell, general manager. Please note that the opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editorial staff or of our host university for the *Online Journal of Health Ethics*, The University of Southern Mississippi. Thank you. Please not only *like us* on Facebook but also join the dialogue.

Best,

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