

Editorial

This is the last of the 2014 issue of the Bangladesh Journal of Bioethics and we look forward to newer and stronger issues in 2015 with a theme based approach bringing aspects and concerns on Bioethics to the fore front. As the name suggests Bioethics deals with the ethical standards and practices relating to all living being –humans, flora and fauna. Research articles from different organizations, experts and institutions are welcomed for peer review and selection. The current issue presents the following articles:

Zoheb Rafique and Urooj Bhatti discuss the Practice of Informed Consent, Confidentiality and Privacy by Physicians at a Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital . The paper assesses the practice of medical ethics by the physicians at a public sector hospital in Sindh through a survey of four medical units of tertiary care hospital at Jamshoro . The majority of patients reported that informed consent was taken from them and that privacy and confidentiality maintained during their treatment. However, many patients stated that they were not properly informed about the laboratory findings, role of proposed drugs and also side effects of drugs. The authors recommend awareness workshops to be conducted to update and improve the knowledge of medical ethics among physicians

Alma Linkeviciute, et al discusses the challenges of setting up Ethical Oncofertility Practice in Developing Countries. The authors bring up issues related to fertility preservation for cancer patients which offers possible solution but also raises ethical questions. The authors provide a summary of ethical principles with options and restrictions to access fertility preservation in developing countries. Their proposed model is patient centered and focuses on patient values, needs and wishes. They also provide a list of organizations working in oncofertility field.

Norman K. Swazo discusses the case of Jahi McMath and the Ethics of the Brain Death Standard. The author questions the definition of brain dead in the classical sense versus the current evidence of recovered brain function. The author focuses on the case of 13-year old Jahi McMath, certified dead on the basis of neurological criteria but maintained in mechanical ventilation and care at the insistence of the parents who claim she is alive. In this brief discussion, the medical and legal issues are reviewed.

Avinash De Sousa et al provide an insight on psychosocial and ethical dilemmas arising when doctors are on strikes. This paper is a commentary on whether doctors have the right to strike work or not while keeping in mind, psychosocial and ethical implications of the same.

Tahera Ahmed discusses the role of the recently formed Midwifery cadre in ensuring Safe Motherhood and decreasing maternal deaths. She provides the background and an overview of the Midwifery Strategic Directions for the policy, education, research and deployment for the midwifery profession. She stresses on the need for such a dedicated cadre to bring about a rapid decrease in maternal deaths and

morbidities in Bangladesh where currently 5000 women die every year due to complications of pregnancy, most of which are preventable.

Shamima Parvin Lasker General Secretary, Bangladesh Bioethics Society; provides an update on recent activities of BBS. She highlights important events such as the establishment of an Academic Scholarly Exchange and Collaborative Agreement with American University of Sovereign Nation (AUSN), Arizona, USA and BBS. AUSN is offering a one year Master of Bioethics and Global Public Health hybrid online and onsite master's degree program with free tuition fees. Collaboration has also been established with College of Medicine, National Taiwan University & Hospital for Research and Professional Training Workshop for Cancer Treatment, Hospice/Palliative Care and Bioethics in Southeast Asian Countries.

BBS is organizing an Intensive Training Workshop on Bioethics and Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2-4 January 2015 in collaboration with Eubios Ethics Institute and AUSN. Professor Darryl Macer, Director of the Institute of Indigenous Peoples and Global Studies, and Dean, Masters Program in Bioethics and Global Public Health (MBGPH), AUSN, USA will conduct the Training. Two members attended the 15th Asian Bioethics Conference, November 2014 in Japan. They contributed with their scholarly research papers in the conference and enhance the prestige of BBS.

Please continue to bring up issues and concerns in the realm of Bioethics which will contribute to the improvement of the quality of life on our planet.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to all our readers and authors!

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And

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