

Imperial College
London

Annual Intensive Course on

Medical Ethics

for Medical & Nursing Professionals,
Members of Ethics Committees, GPs,
Hospital Consultants and Health Administrators

15 - 19 September 2014

Euthanasia
killing and letting die
justice and health care
human rights
virtue ethics

Directed by

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Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London

In collaboration with the Institute of Medical Ethics
and School of Professional Development, Imperial College London

CPD Approved

A School of Professional Development Programme

■ Introduction

Members of the medical professions are repeatedly faced by ethical dilemmas in the course of their normal working lives. For instance, is it right or wrong to “facilitate” the death of someone experiencing irremediable pain in the late stages of terminal illness? How should scarce resources of time, money and skill be apportioned by medical practitioners and medical administrators between the diversity of medical needs that present themselves daily? What are the rights and wrongs of being “economical with the truth” when telling patients about their medical condition? How much should the doctor’s view of what should be done and not done to benefit a patient over-ride the patient’s view?

All too often, issues such as these have been confronted somewhat tangentially and briefly during the initial training of medical, nursing and allied professionals, and tackled subsequently with uneasy pragmatism by practitioners. In particular, reasoned argument was not encouraged in many traditional courses.

■ Course Methods

The course consists of a series of lecture/seminars followed by small and large group discussions focused on the issues raised by the lecturers. One session will include presentation of arguments opposed to the position actually held by course members, in the context of a particular case.

■ CPD Approved

This course has been approved by the Royal College of Physicians for 27 credits.

In previous years when the PGEA approval scheme existed the course was always approved under the following categories:

- Health Promotion and Prevention of Illness (8 hrs)
- Disease Management (10 hrs)
- Service Management (8 hrs).

■ Course Aims

This course, which started in 1983, has been designed to provide medical, nursing and allied professionals - whether as teachers of emerging professionals, or practising professionals at different stages in their career - with an extended and intensive opportunity to review and update their approach to the analysis of key “medico-moral” issues, with the help of leading authorities in the field of medical ethics. It is also designed to be helpful to members of ethics committees, whether or not they are health professionals, and to others professionally involved with the ethical issues of health care.

Specifically, the course will:

- Clarify the meaning and significance of key ethical concepts.
- Outline important types of ethical theory, and their relevance to medical ethics.
- Offer a conceptual framework useful for ethical analysis of medico-moral problems in a variety of professional contexts.
- Give opportunities to participants - under supportive conditions - to articulate their current medico-moral attitudes, and explore reasoned arguments that challenge their existing assumptions and ethical stances.

■ Who Should Attend?

The course is intended to cater for medical, nursing and allied professionals and administrators who feel the need for an opportunity to review and update their thinking about ethical issues - including medical and nursing teachers, nurses, GPs, consultants, members of ethics committees, hospital administrators, and officials in government departments with responsibilities for health care. All participants will receive an Imperial College London Certificate of Attendance at the end of the course.

COURSE PROGRAMME

MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2014

08.45	Registration with Coffee	
09.15	Introduction to the Course	Prof. Raanan Gillon
09.45	Introduction to Philosophical Medical Ethics	Prof. Raanan Gillon
10.45	Coffee	
11.15	Theories of Ethics Concerned with Rights and Duties ("Deontological" Theories)	Dr. Piers Benn
12.45	Lunch	
14.15	Theories of Ethics Concerned with Maximising Welfare ("Utilitarian" Theories)	Dr Enzo Rossi
15.45	Tea	
16.15	Theories of Ethics Concerned with Virtue Ethics	Prof. Alastair Campbell
17.45	Course Reception	

TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2014

08.45	Coffee	
09.15	A Framework for Ethical Analysis	Prof. Raanan Gillon
10.45	Coffee	
11.15	Life, Awareness, Human Beings and Persons	Dr. Sarah Chan
12.45	Lunch	
13.45	Double Effect: Acts & Omissions: Killing & Letting Die	Prof. David Jones
15.15	Tea	
15.45	The Relation of Law and Ethics: The Case of Euthanasia	Prof. Jonathan Montgomery
17.15	Close	

WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2014

08.45	Coffee	
09.15	Paternalism and Respect for Autonomy in Health Care	Dr Georgia Testa
10.45	Coffee	
11.15	Truth-Telling in Medicine	Prof. Roger Higgs
12.45	Lunch	
13.45	Moral Argument in the Context of a Particular Case	Prof. Kenneth Boyd
	Course members are asked to bring their own case and be prepared to argue against their own positions. This facilitates the understanding of different types of moral argument and of views opposed to their own. Small Workshops followed by plenary analysis and discussion (15.30-16.00 Tea)	
17.00	Close	

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

08.45	Coffee	
09.15	Ethical and Legal Aspects of Paediatric Medicine	Dr. Paquita de Zulueta
10.45	Coffee	
11.15	Practical Aspect of Clinical Ethics	Dr. Wing May Kong
12.45	Lunch	
13.45	Ethics and Major Emergencies	Dr. Daniel Sokol
15.15	Tea	
15.45	Open Session	Facilitators
17.15	Close	
18.30	Optional (at extra cost) Sparkling Wine Reception followed by Course Dinner in the 58 Prince's Gate, Imperial College (dinner starts at 19:00 and finishes at 22:30)	

FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

08.45	Coffee	
09.15	Justice & Health Care	Prof. Raanan Gillon
10.45	Coffee	
11.15	Health Inequalities, Justice and Public Health	Dr. James Wilson
12.45	Lunch	
13.45	Human Rights and Medical Ethics	Dr. Julian Sheather
15.15	Tea	
15.45	Course Assessment (Completion of Course Evaluation Questionnaire and Final Discussion) Presentation of Attendance Certificates	
16.30	Close	

Course Facilitators: Dr Piers Benn, Dr Ruth Campbell

COURSE PRESENTERS

The course team includes leading international authorities in the field of medical ethics:

- **Prof. Raanan Gillon (Course Director)**
Emeritus Professor of Medical Ethics, Imperial College Faculty of Medicine; Retired NHS GP and Past Editor of the Journal of Medical Ethics.
- **Prof. Roger Higgs**
Emeritus Professor of General Practice, King's College Hospital & Case Conference Editor, Journal of Medical Ethics.
- **Dr. Piers Benn (also as Course Facilitator)**
Former Lecturer in Medical Ethics, Department of Primary Health Care & General Practice, Imperial College Faculty of Medicine.
- **Prof. Kenneth Boyd**
Professor of Medical Ethics, Edinburgh University Medical School. Research Director and General Secretary, Institute of Medical Ethics.
- **Prof. David Jones**
Director of the Anscombe Centre Oxford; Research Fellow in Bioethics at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford; and a Visiting professor of Bioethics at the Centre for Bioethics and Emerging Technologies, St Mary's University College, Twickenham.
- **Prof. Jonathan Montgomery**
Professor of Health Care Law, University of Southampton. Chair of the Hampshire PCT.
- **Dr. Georgia Testa**
Lecturer in Medical Ethics, Leeds School of Medicine.
- **Dr. Julian Sheather**
Ethics Manager, British Medical Association.
- **Dr. James Wilson**
Dr James Wilson is Lecturer in Philosophy and Health at UCL. He has published widely in bioethics and in applied philosophy, specialising in public health ethics, the philosophy of intellectual property, resource allocation and research ethics. He is co-chair of the International Association of Bioethics's Philosophy and Bioethics Network. In 2011-12 he is on secondment to the Royal Society, where he is the co-lead of the Science as a Public Enterprise study.
- **Dr. Sarah Chan**
Research fellow in Bioethics and Law, Deputy Director, Institute for Science, Ethics and Innovation, Universities of Manchester.
- **Dr. Enzo Rossi**
Research Fellow, Social Ethics Research Group, School of Health & Social Sciences, University of Wales.
- **Dr. Paquita de Zulueta (also as Course Facilitator)**
Part-time GP in West London, Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at Imperial College. Member of research and clinical ethics committees. Teaching medical ethics and law to medical undergraduates at King's College. Programme director for the Applied Clinical Ethics Course at Imperial College. practises as a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist and acts as a London Deanery appointed mentor/coach for doctors in transition.
- **Dr. Daniel K. Sokol**
Barrister, Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medical Ethics, Imperial College London. Editor, Postgraduate Medical Journal.
- **Dr. Wing May Kong**
Honorary Senior Lecturer, Endocrinology and Ethics, Division of Investigative Science, Imperial College Faculty of Medicine.
- **Prof. Alastair Campbell**
Chen Su Lan Centennial Professor of Medical Ethics and Director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, National University of Singapore. Emeritus Professor of Ethics in Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Bristol and former President of the International Association of Bioethics.

REACTIONS OF PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

Since 1983, a wide variety of medical, nursing and allied professionals have attended the course. The course is assessed each year, and has consistently achieved high evaluations from participants. The following extracts are representative of participants' enthusiasm for the course:

Letter from Dr G S Clayden, Consultant Paediatrician at St Thomas's Hospital, London in the BMJ:

"As a paediatrician, I greatly valued this opportunity to evaluate critically the ethical stand I take in practice and I believe I can now justify this stand more reasonably in teaching sessions. I was tempted to ignore this course, and I justified this by blaming a shortage of time or of money. But I think my reluctance initially was due to a fear of discovering my philosophical illiteracy, with the conclusion that my ethical judgements were based on prejudice rather than sound reasoning. We would all condemn doctors who have no knowledge of the pharmacology of the drugs they prescribe, but I think we tend to be more lax about our need for a critical awareness of how to make decisions on what is right. It is easy to dismiss philosophy in relation to medicine as either a matter of commonsense which is too obvious to be interesting, or as a hopeless jumble of contradictory ideas divorced from reality. The brief glimpse of moral philosophy I snatched on this course, however, has greatly helped me to recognise the defects in my education, and has helped to sharpen the criticism of my own ethical values."

Extracts from an article by Dr R Hull, a General Practitioner practising in Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, published in GP:

"The course is first class...excellent speakers of international standing and repute. Intellectually the course was exhausting if immensely stimulating; above all it was fun. This course is certainly one for the doctor or nurse who is thoughtful enough to realise he or she doesn't think enough about what he or she is doing."