



Karl Landsteiner Institute
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and Space Neurology

Background of Modern Medical Ethics

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Workshop Ethics and Transcultural Requirements

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Hippocratic Oath

Obligation to heal

Not do anything to harm the patient

No continuation of therapy in untreatable disease

No therapy in advanced physical and mental destruction

No continuation of life prolongation for hours or days

No prolongation of suffering during dying

Not to tell anyone the details of patients

No admitting of lethal poison, even as advice

Will to respect the teacher like own parents, sharing one's life
support with teacher and his successors, treated as own brothers.

Medical teaching to own sons and the sons of the teacher
or to pupils bound by physicians rules and oath

Hippocratic philosophy

- Separation between discipline of medicine and religion
- Diseases are not a punishment of gods
- Diseases are the product of environmental factors, diet and living habits
- Diseases are no mystical illness
- Development of "Corpus Hippocraticum"

Corpus Hippocraticum

- Written for specialists and laymen
- Notable treatises:
 - The Hippocratic Oath
 - The Book of Prognostics
 - On Regimen in Acute diseases
 - Aphorisms
 - On Airs, Waters and Places
 - Instruments Of Reduction
 - On the Sacred Disease

Hippocratism Definition

- Hippocratism is a combination of scientific thinking with great medical experience based on high quality observations and deep criticism
- Hippocrates defined medicine as an art with high medical ethics – Hippocratic principles

Development of European Ethics Occidental Ethics

Western ethical thinking, "Christian Ethics"

- Founders:
 - Socrates, Plato, Aristoteles
 - Greek philosophy: moral virtue values are natural rather than conventional ethics as science
- Christian influence:
 - Saint Augustinus, Thomas Aquinas
 - Christian doctrine incorporated in Greek ethics
 - God given natural order

Human Rights

- **1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**
 - International reaction after the 2nd World War and medical experiments with human beings
 - Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly
 - Right of everyone to live independent
 - Right to health

Bioethical principles

Medical conduct, physicians obligations
(Belmont Criteria, 1979)

- Autonomy of the patient
- Beneficence
- Non-maleficency
- Justice
- Trust

World Medical Association, Helsinki Declaration, 1964
Medical Research Involving Human Subjects
Ethical Principles

- Medical progress is based on research which ultimately must rest in part on experimentation involving human subjects
- In medical research on human subject, considerations related to the well-being of the human subject should take precedence over the interest of science and society

UNESCO Bioethics Declaration on Human Rights - 1
Paris, September 2005
Aims – Article 2

- Universal framework of principles and procedures to guide States in bioethics
- to guide the actions from individuals as well as communities, public and private
- to promote respect for human dignity and protect human rights

UNESCO Bioethics Declaration on Human Rights - 2
Paris, September 2005
Aims – Article 2

- to acknowledge the importance of freedom in scientific research
- to foster multidisciplinary and pluralistic dialogue
- to promote equitable access to medical, scientific and technological development
- to safeguard and promote the interest of present and future generations
- to underline the importance of biodiversity

Main demands of patient's care generally

- To preserve the life of a patient with best nursing and medical care
- To beware of needless pain
- To preserve the personal identity
- To preserve social contacts
- To improve the quality of life
- To provide all necessary resources:
 - structural
 - personal
 - financial

**EUROPEAN CHARTER OF PATIENTS' RIGHTS
FOURTEEN RIGHTS OF THE PATIENT
BASIS DOCUMENT - Rome, November 2002
Active Citizenship Network Group**

- 1 - Right to preventive measures
- 2 - Right of access
- 3 - Right to information
- 4 - Right to consent
- 5 - Right to free choice
- 6 - Right to privacy and confidentiality
- 7 - Right to respect of patients' time

**EUROPEAN CHARTER OF PATIENTS' RIGHTS
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- 8 - Right to the observance of quality standards
- 9 - Right to safety
- 10 - Right to innovation
- 11 - Right to avoid unnecessary suffering and pain
- 12 - Right to personalized treatment
- 13 - Right to complain
- 14 - Right to compensation

Basic Principles of Human Personality

- Values
 - Morality
 - Ethics
- Commonly confused with one another because of their inherent overlap

Values

- Values are the qualities or ideas which each of us cares about and considers important
- Can be morally or ethically based, or simply based on natural wants or needs
- Can be good or bad, reasonable or unreasonable
- Values are the elements on which we base our actions.

Morality

- Morality is one's individual perception of right and wrong, good and evil.
- While one's perception of morality does not directly affect others, it does influence the attitudes and values of a society.

Ethics

- The word *ethics* refers to a set or system of moral ideals. Just as it takes the thoughts and ideas of many people to make up an ideology, ethics are a product of society.
- Being so, it is not surprising that many ethical issues deal with the relationship between the individual and the group. This is the area where most change have occurred in ethics throughout time.

Conflict Issues in Medicine - 1

General examples after J.L. Bernat

- Diagnosis – right or wrong?
- Treatment program – acceptance
- Aggressive treatment of a terminally ill patient
- Abortion debate (medicaments addiction, drugs, rapes, etc.)
- Neonates with profound somatic damage
- Triage in emergency medicine – decision of life sustained measurements

Conflict Issues in Medicine - 2

General examples after J.L. Bernat

- End of life decision
- Handling of “positive” examination results of “healthy volunteer” proposed for a clinical trial (antibodies, tumor marker, etc.)
- Handling of incidentally discovered abnormalities in normal volunteers
- In-vitro-fertilization (question of paternity)
- Medical support of healthy people to enhance cognitive and physical performance

Conflict Issues in Neurology - 1

- Neonates with profound brain damage
- Decision “brain (stem) death” and its consequences
- End of life decision in hopeless neurological conditions – respect of advanced directives
- End of special treatment in severe neurological diseases – time of change to a “care status”
- How to handle the end state of dementia, Huntington Disease, etc.
- Inherited diseases: offer or recommendation of predictive tests?
- The refuse of treatment in patients with psychiatric symptoms: respecting and determination, if refusal is rational or overruling the patient’s will?

Conflict Issues in Neurology - 2

- Handling of unexpected “positive” examination results – breaking of confidentiality?
- Confrontation the patient with medically unexplained signs and symptoms
- In case of doubt: decision to neurosurgical interventions?
- Controversial opinions in treatment decision – different meaning (physicians vs patients vs relatives vs nurses)
- Randomized clinical trials: selection of volunteers (control group!)
- Conflict of interest: working in public health system versus private practice
- Enhancement of cognitive performance in healthy people

Ethical Dilemma

- Is a complex situation that will often involve an apparent mental conflict between moral imperatives, in which to obey one would result in transgressing another
- This is also called an ethical paradox since in moral philosophy, paradox often plays a central role in ethic debates:
 - “Love your neighbour” (Matthew 5:43) is sometimes in contradiction to an armed robber, if he succeeds, we will not be able to love him
 - alternative: fight-or-flight response

Ethical Dilemmas

Explanation of backgrounds

- Advanced directives
- Surrogate decision making
- Refusal of treatment (patients, relatives)
- Conflicts with caregivers
- Foregoing life-sustaining treatment
- “Do no resuscitation orders”
- “Futile” care determination
- Other issues perceived as ethical issues (cultural-, religious-based, etc.)

Future Outlook and Recommendations

- Ethical training for physicians, lectures at Medical University
- Teaching program for neurological trainees
- Organization of special training courses for ethics in neurology
- Annual colloquium in neuroethics
- Review committee for neuroethics

"The principal lesson I have learned over the years of performing these consultations is **humility**" (J.L. Bernat).

"Cynics say it cannot be taught - you either have it or you don't. But clearly, there are methods of ethical analysis and proven strategies to resolve dilemmas that can be taught. I have always been an advocate of the power of teaching trainees by example. When students and residents observe their teachers and mentors practicing ethical behaviors, they learn by emulation (J.L. Bernat).

**Ethics can be taught
Ethics have to be taught.**

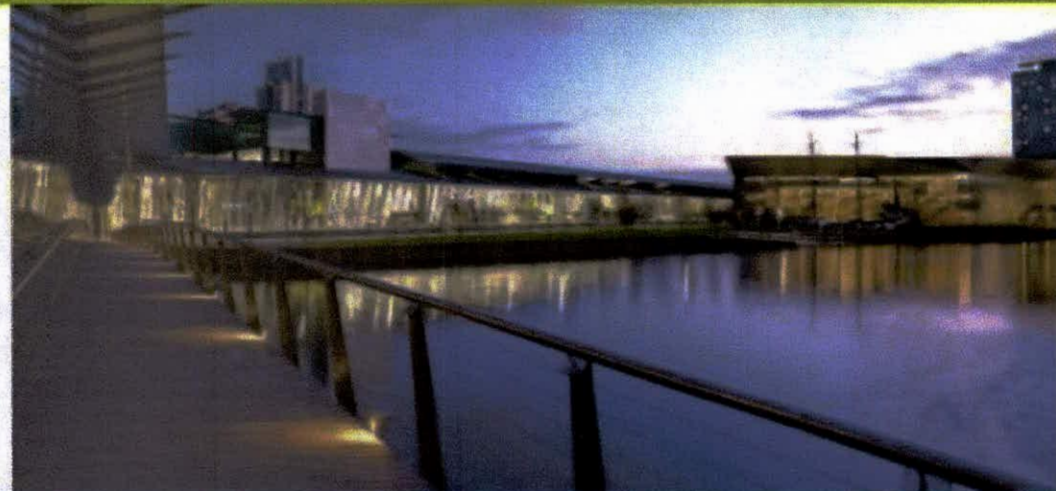
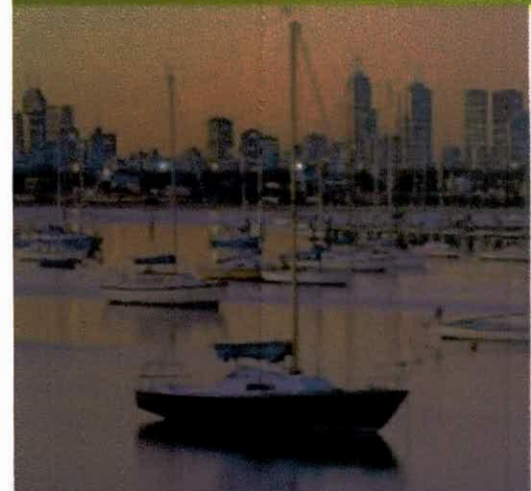
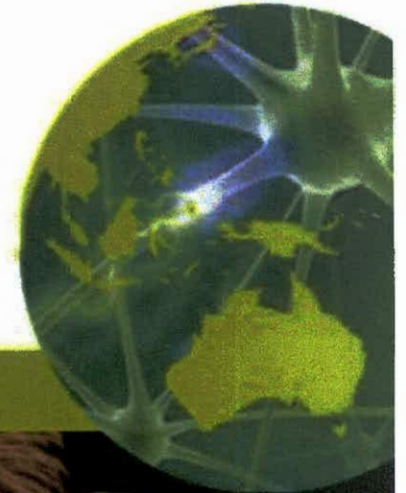
WFNR

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presents its Biennial Congress

 **WCNR2012**

7th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation

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