

The Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University highlights its activities *from July 2021 to November 2021*

During the second half of 2021, we experienced a prolonged third wave of COVID-19 infection in South Africa that occurred in parallel with a dedicated vaccine rollout program. To date over 24 million doses of vaccine have been administered and almost 34% of our adult population (+/- 40 million) is fully vaccinated. Most hospitalized patients and most ICU admissions during the recent third wave were unvaccinated indicating the beneficial impact of Covid vaccines already.

Teaching, research and community engagement have progressed fully, either in synchronous or asynchronous formats. CMEL doctoral candidates have submitted abstracts for the 16th World Congress of Bioethics (WCB) Basel, Switzerland 20 – 22 July 2022. In addition, since all our staff and our PhD students are vaccinated, in-person PhD training on the Tygerberg campus is scheduled from 25 – 29 November 2021. Thereafter the candidates will be active participants in the 16th Annual International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation, hosted by CMEL and to be held at Spier and Asara Wine Estates in Stellenbosch from 30 November to 3 December 2021.

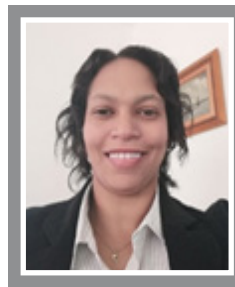
New appointments

Michelle Padiachee – Administrative Officer



In September 2021, Ms Michelle Padiachee joined the Centre as an administrative officer. Her past work experience includes the role of executive assistant for the South African Academy of Family Practice/Family Care, reservations administrator at the Addison Reserve Country Club (USA) and recruitment administrator for Workaway International. She has over 10 years of administrative experience and is a suitable addition to the CMEL administrative team.

Megan Jacobs – Research Assistant



In September 2021, Megan Jacobs-Alfred joined the Centre as a research assistant. She is currently engaged in research projects involving consent, research integrity and conflicts of interest. Megan has an M.Soc. Sc degree in Research Psychology and is a lecturer and thesis supervisor part-time at the South African College of Applied Psychology. She is currently completing her doctorate at the University of Cape Town, Division of Public Health and Family Medicine. Megan has so far made a valuable contribution to the Centre with her experience in both qualitative and quantitative research methodology.

MBChB student debate: Tygerberg Debating Union - 24 August 2021



In collaboration with the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, the Tygerberg Debating Union hosted a debate entitled: 'This house would deprioritize the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to those who contravene public health protocols (e.g., spreading false rumors or refusing to wear a mask etc.)'. Professor Keymanthri Moodley (Centre for Medical Ethics and Law), Clara-Marie Macheke (Tygerberg Debating Union Chairperson) and Grace Mngadi (Stellenbosch University, Debating Union Chairperson) adjudicated the debate. The proposition team members were Philip Visage, Terrence Ndhlovu, and Katinka Sik. The opposition team members were Abdul Aziz, Hannah Oberholzer, and Katelyn Moodley. Both teams cogently argued the motion and provided a realistic analysis of South Africa's COVID-19 protocol compliance and reasons for COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy. On a 2/1 split, the debate was awarded to the opposition team. Professor Moodley and staff from the Centre presented gifts to the opposition team members at the boardroom. The event was attended by both undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff, and health care practitioners.

PathReD webinar 19 – 22 August 2021



PathCare cordially invites you to attend an accredited Live Ethics CPD webinar

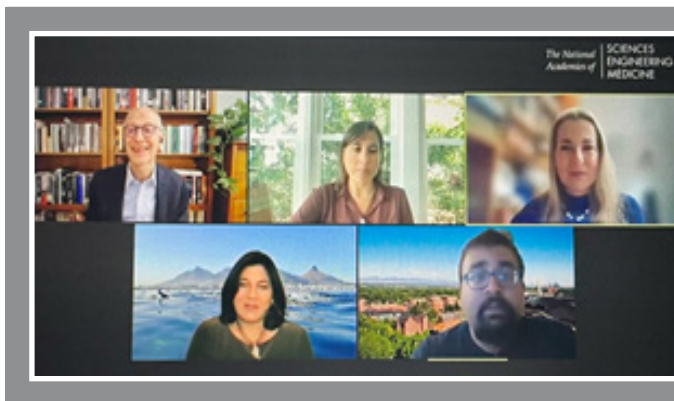
SPEAKER
Prof Keymanthri Moodley

Topic Why COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates are an ethical imperative in South Africa	Time 19h00
Date Wednesday, 15 September 2021	Register by using link provided

Registration link: webinars.pathcare.co.za
Please create a profile on our new webinar portal that will enable you to register for this webinar.


Mandatory vaccine policies have stimulated contentious ethics debates during this pandemic. Based on her piece in The Conversation accessible here <https://theconversation.com/why-covid-19-vaccines-should-be-mandatory-in-south-africa-165682>, Prof Moodley presented arguments for why a mandatory vaccine policy is essential to improve vaccine uptake in South Africa. Given the poor uptake currently despite an adequate supply of J and J as well as Pfizer vaccines, South Africa will not reach its target of 300 000 doses a day or have 70% of the adult population fully vaccinated by December 2021. We are currently administering around 130 000 doses a day and only approximately 34 % of our adult population is fully immunized. At this rate, we risk vaccine expiry and vaccine wastage which are both unethical in the context of limited resources and vaccine scarcity.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine (NASEM) - USA – 26 August 2021



This international webinar hosted by the NASEM in the USA discussed and deliberated the ethics of COVID-19 vaccine passports. Although a precedent has been set for vaccine passports for Yellow Fever immunization supported by the International Health Regulations, COVID-19 vaccine passports, for travel internationally, has generated significant debate in the context of global inequity in access to and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. This has implications for global justice with LMICs constantly being left behind. The webinar was chaired by Prof Ezekiel Emanuel with Prof Vardit Ravitsky, Prof Govind Persad, Prof Keymanthri Moodley and Dr Carla Saenz as panelists.

Women's Day Event 2021: Picture a Scientist – 27 August 2021



ON AUGUST 27, 2021 JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Special event about Transplantation Ethics

With Prof. Elmi Muller, Prof. Govind Persad, Prof. Vardit Ravitsky, Prof. Ezekiel Emanuel, Prof. Keymanthri Moodley, Prof. Carla Saenz

Women in Transplantation

Webinar Account

For the first time this year, the Women's Forum at the Tygerberg campus co-hosted the annual event in celebration of Women's month with the University of Cape Town and the Transplantation Society. The hybrid webinar, hosted by our new dean, Prof Elmi Muller, focussed on the role of women as scientists and the multitude of challenges experienced in terms of interrupted research due to pregnancy and child-rearing, sexual harassment, and more subtle examples of gender discrimination such as patriarchal work environments, bullying by senior male colleagues, inappropriate email communication from male superiors and lack of support for women in research. Grant funding bodies have a duty to ensure gender equity in the award of grants and academic institutions need to support women in achieving their research goals by providing childcare support, flexible working hours and research assistance. Indirect costs taken off research grants obtained by women researchers should be used to support women in their research careers.

..... Medical Protection Society (MPS) student debate – 31 September 2021



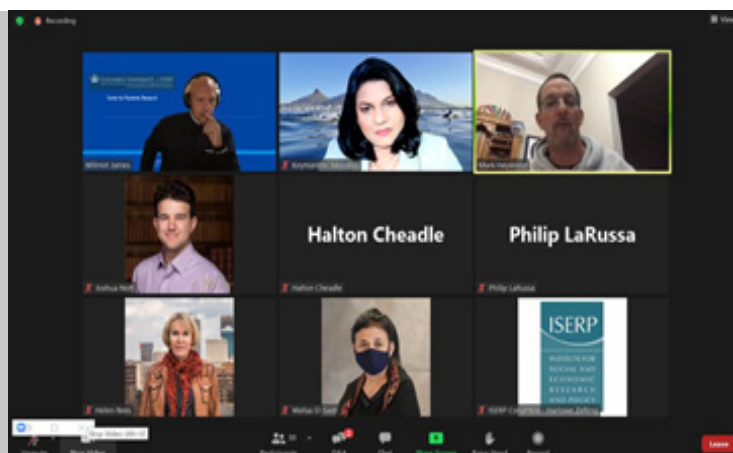
The Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, in collaboration with the Medical Protection Society (MPS) and the Tygerberg Debating Union, hosted a Provocative Ethics Debate with the motion: 'This house will allow doctors to conscientiously object to treating patients who refuse to take the COVID-19 vaccine.' Bulena Hulana, Clara-Marie Macheke (Tygerberg Debating Union Chairperson) and Grace Mngadi (Stellenbosch University, Debating Union Chairperson) adjudicated the debate. The proposition team members were Abdul-Mutakabir Aziz, Tshogofatso Lope, and Katelyn Moodley. The opposition team members were Leeshen Pillay, Katinka Sik, and Praise Chasela. Both sides agreed that the South African healthcare system is currently overburdened and has minimal access to resources. The opposition team proved that the South African sphere does not lend itself to an easy referral system, particularly in rural areas, thus making the policy either ineffectual or further incapacitating other healthcare facilities. Although the proposition team tabled important context surrounding vaccine hesitancy and why that public mistrust exists, that analysis came too late to weigh sufficiently in the final decision. However, the opposition eloquently proved that the implementation of this policy would further divide the public and cement anti-vaccination campaigns.



On a 2/1 split, the adjudicators awarded the debate to the opposition team. In addition, Professor Moodley and Dr Behrman presented trophies and gifts packages to the opposition team members. The proposition team received gifts packages for their participation, and the adjudicators received honorary gifts to thank them for their roles. The event was streamed LIVE on MS Teams with over 112 undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff, and health care practitioner attendees.



Executive Education from Columbia University New York City and University of Witwatersrand Johannesburg: Effective Ways to Increase Vaccination Rates – September 27 to October 1 2021



This webinar series, chaired by Prof Wilmot James, and hosted by Columbia University, New York, included international panelists from Columbia University (Wafr el Sadir) as well as speakers from various universities in South Africa (Prof Helen Rees, Prof Keymanthri Moodley, Prof Halton Cheadle and Mark Heywood). Panelists responded to a range of current and controversial questions: should COVID-19 vaccines be mandated? If so, under what circumstances?

Publications: July – November 2021

Moodley K, COVID-19: 'A pandemic of the unvaccinated'? – compassion fatigue among healthcare professionals in South Africa. SAMJ 2021
<http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/13398/9919>

Singh S, **Moodley K**. Stakeholder perspectives on the ethico-legal dimensions of biobanking in South Africa. BMC Medical Ethics 2021
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12910-021-00645-z>

Moodley K, Why COVID-19 vaccines should be mandatory in South Africa
<https://theconversation.com/why-covid-19-vaccines-should-be-mandatory-in-south-africa-165682>

Moodley K, Kabanda S, Kleinsmidt A and Obasa AE. COVID-19 underscores the important role of Clinical Ethics Committees in Africa. BMC Medical Ethics 2021
<https://bmcmedethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12910-021-00696-2>

Bonney GK, Chew CA, Lodge P, Hubbard J, Halazun KJ, Truneka P, Muiesan P, Mirza DF, Isaac J, Laing RW, Iyer SG, Chee CE, Yong WP, Muthiah MD, Panaro F, Sanabria J, Grothey A, **Moodley K**, Chau I, Chan ACY, Wang CC, Menon K, Sapisochin G, Hagness M, Dueland S, Line PD, Adam R. Liver transplantation for non-resectable colorectal liver metastases: the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association consensus guidelines. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol 2021
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2468125321002193?via%3Dihub>

New NIH Grant 2021

Research for Ethical Data Science in Southern Africa (REDSSA) project: RFA-RM-20-017

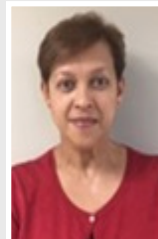
The Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with the Center for Bioethics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was successful in an application for funding for a Data Science Innovation (DSI) in Africa grant funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

This project aims to implement a process for involving diverse interdisciplinary stakeholders in Data Science research to contribute to the development of governance policies for DSI Africa. The study will be conducted in three phases. Phase 1 will aim to obtain key stakeholder views on the development of Data Science guidance to inform governance of Data Science Research Hubs and the Open Data Science Platform in southern Africa. This phase of the project will start with conceptual research and literature searches on the ELSI of Data Science and inform the development of a suite of innovative educational tools that could be adapted for stakeholder engagement in Data Science throughout the DSI Africa network. In Phase 2 of this project, we will develop the guidance informed by phase 1 of this study. Finally in Phase 3 of the project, we aim to amplify the impact and enhance the sustainability of our research, policy and governance activities by creating ELSI networks and communication channels focusing on data science in Southern Africa.



Nezerith Cengiz – Research Assistant

Nezerith Cengiz obtained her Honor's and Master's degrees in Bioethics and Law from the University of Witwatersrand. In January 2022, she will be joining the Centre as a research assistant on the Data Science Innovation (DSI) in Africa research project funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We look forward to her joining our team.



Sharon Hess – Administrative Assistant

In November 2021, Sharon Hess joined the Centre as Administrative Assistant. She previously worked at Mediclinic South Africa as a secretary of the training department at the Panorama Centre. Given her experience in administration, Sharon will make an important contribution to the new DSI-A project.



Dr Aneeka Domingo – Project Coordinator

Aneeka Domingo is a qualified medical doctor. She graduated in 2016 from the FHMS Stellenbosch University and completed her internship at Groote Schuur Hospital. Thereafter, she completed Community Service at Otto du Plessis Hospital in Bredasdorp. Aneeka has also worked in various emergency centres in the Western Cape and served as a part-time intern at the WC Department of Health Medicolegal Unit. She is currently a Research Medical Officer for the EpiC Trauma Study (Epidemiology and Outcomes of Prolonged Trauma Care) at Tygerberg Hospital. She is currently working towards an MPhil in Applied Ethics. Dr Domingo will be joining the Centre as a project coordinator for the DSI-A grant.

New and Final Dates: ICCEC 2021 – Stellenbosch, South Africa

FIRST ICCEC CONFERENCE IN AFRICA!

ICCEC 2021
SOUTH AFRICA • CAPE TOWN • Spier Estate (Stellenbosch)
30 November - 3 December 2021

16th Annual International Conference on Clinical Ethics & Consultation
Beyond Borders: exploring new frontiers

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Conscientious objection in healthcare
- Euthanasia
- Termination of pregnancy
- Medical litigation
- Artificial intelligence and digital health
- Gender discrimination
- Covid-19 Clinical Ethics

Virtual Attendance options available
Early bird rates apply up to 30 September 2021
register now!

CONFERENCE NOW ACCREDITED FOR 15 ETHICS CPE POINTS

DEADLINE OF ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2021
Only abstracts related to COVID-19 and clinical ethics within respective categories will be considered

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