



NEWS LETTER

The Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, highlights its activities from June 2019 to December 2019

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NEW APPOINTMENTS

Postgraduate Program Co-ordinator

In July 2019, Adetayo Emmanuel Obasa joined the Centre as postgraduate program co-ordinator. Adetayo is well suited to assist our doctoral students as he graduates with a PhD in virology in December 2019. He is planning an exciting program for the doctoral students for 2020 which includes attendance at the African Doctoral Academy, a sabbatical at the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, a sabbatical at the Bioethics Center at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill followed by attendance at the Summer School of the Odum Institute for Research and Social Science, UNC.



Research Assistant

In October 2019 Ms Siti Kabanda joined the Centre as a research assistant. Ms Kabanda, BSc (Hons) MSc MPH, is currently conducting a survey and interviews with stakeholders on clinical ethics consultation throughout Africa.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE



Prof Moodley attended the EDCTP Networking Meeting in Ethiopia in November 2019. The meeting was held at the AU Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, headquarters of the African Union. Recommendations generated from the discussions will be used to inform how EDCTP and Africa CDC plan to address gender and geographical imbalances in clinical research in sub-Saharan Africa.



WOMENS DAY EVENT 2019



The Women's Forum of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences celebrated Women's Day on 1 August 2019 with a talk by celebrated scientist, Prof Quarraisha Abdool Karim, on HIV research and women. Prof Abdool Karim is one of the world's leading HIV researchers and is also UN Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV.

VISIT FROM NIH FOGARTY FELLOWS, MBARARA UNIVERSITY, UGANDA

A delegation from the Research Ethics Education Unit at Mbarara University visited the Centre from 11-15 November. The visitors included the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, scientists, researchers and curriculum development specialists. The Unit has received funding to develop a Masters programme in research ethics and wished to benchmark their curriculum against the Centre's ARESA PGDip and PhD programmes. They visited the HREC, the Clinical Skills and Simulation Unit, the Health Sciences Library, FamCru and TREAD research facilities. Dr Sven Parsons discussed animal research ethics with the group and the Centre's doctoral students spent time with them as well. The chairperson of the Research Ethics Association of Southern Africa connected with the group by Skype. At the end of the visit, they expressed appreciation for having achieved much more than they had anticipated.



VISIT BY PROF GEORGE AGICH, TEXAS

On 29 October 2019, Prof George Agich gave a talk to the Faculty on ethical issues arising in innovative research requiring novel approaches to the ethics approval process. Prof Calvin Ho from the National University of Singapore who was visiting the Centre at the time, also attended the talk.



ARESA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IN RESEARCH AND CLINICAL ETHICS



We launched an interactive website for our doctoral students in July 2019. The website contains information about the students, their topics and their supervisors, and is accessible to the general public. The website also has a private feature which allows them to chat with each other. The website can be viewed at <http://blogs.sun.ac.za/aresa/>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL ETHICS & CONSULTATION

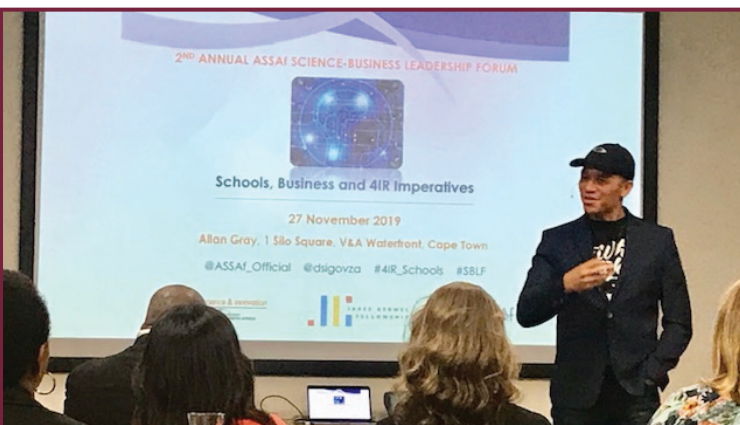
This international conference on clinical ethics and consultation will take place in April 2020. The conference will deal with the latest thought-provoking topics in clinical ethics such as euthanasia, abortion, organ transplants, artificial intelligence and digital health. The plenaries by bioethicists of international repute will deal with emerging technology and clinical ethics; end-of-life challenges and cultural pluralism; diversity in philosophical approaches and law and society. The final day promises an exciting debate on conscientious objection in healthcare. The Scientific Review Committee pictured below, convened at Spier Conference Centre in October to review all abstracts and to discuss the conference programme.



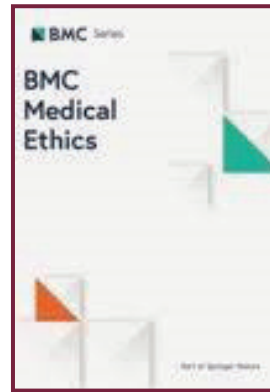
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ETHICS - WHO CC PROJECT

The Cape Eye Hospital Ophthalmology Symposium hosted this year by Dr Rizwana Amod included a number of talks on AI in healthcare and Ophthalmology, more specifically. As one of the disciplines incorporating scanning of various parts of the eye, the visual images are amenable to building algorithms to facilitate deep learning required for AI to enhance diagnostics. Several ethical and legal challenges were discussed.

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) hosted a symposium on AI and Education at the Allan Gray offices at the Silo in Cape Town recently. The guest speaker, Stafford Masie, well known for bringing Google to SA, and current General Manager of We Works, shared interesting perspectives on how AI can be integrated with human skills to improve productivity and excellence. The symposium was chaired by Professor Jonathan Jansen, the President of ASSAf.



PUBLICATIONS



Moodley K, Staunton C, Rossouw T, de Roubaix M, Duby Z, Skinner D. *The psychology of 'cure' - unique challenges to consent processes in HIV cure research in South Africa*. BMC Medical Ethics (2019) 20:9

<https://bmcmedethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12910-019-0348-z>



Labuschaigne M, Dhai A, Mahomed S et al. *Protecting participants in health research: The South African Material Transfer Agreement* South African Medical Journal: 2019; 109(5) 353.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.7196/SAMJ.2019.v109i5.13803>



Rennie S, Moodley K. *Delineating the role of penile transplantation when traditional male circumcisions go wrong in South Africa*. J Med Ethics 2019;0:1-2.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/medethics-2019-105414>



Staunton C, Abayomi A, Bassa F, Moodley K. *Negotiating requests for reimbursement for community engagement: challenges in developing an educational video for genomic biobanking research in South Africa*. Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics: 2019

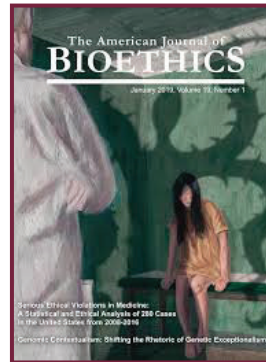
DOI:10.1177/1556264619856223

CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS & LAW



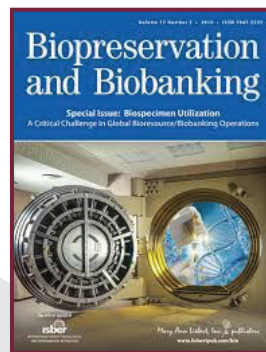
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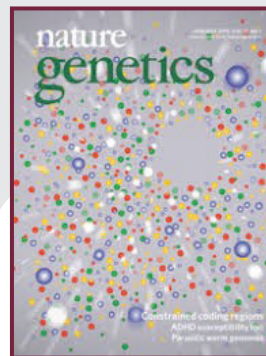
The Brussels Collaboration on Bodily Integrity. *Medically unnecessary genital cutting and the rights of the child: moving toward consensus.* The American Journal of Bioethics 19:10, 17-28

DOI:10.1080/15265161.2019.1643945



Moodley K, Beyer C. *Tygerberg research Ubuntu-inspired community engagement model: Integrating community engagement into genomic biobanking.* Biobanking and Biopreservation

<https://doi.org/10.1089/bio.2018.0136>



Nembaware V, Johnston K, Diallo AA, Kotze MJ, Matimba A, Moodley K, Tangwa GB, Torrorey-Sawe R, Tiffin N. *A framework for tiered informed consent for health genomics research in Africa.* Nature Genetics, 2019

DOI: 10.1038/s41588-019-0520-x