

Activities at the Centre for Ethics for the period from August 2011 to July 2012

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The Centre for Ethics was established in 2011. Dr.Vina Vaswani who has completed Masters in Bioethics (Erasmus Mundus) was appointed as the Director. The Centre was established with the following vision, mission and objectives:

Vision:

The Centre for Ethics, Yenepoya University will, through a process of change management and collaborative leadership, bring bioethics into the mainstream of all health care academics, clinical and research applications.

Mission:

To inculcate in all professionals a sense of ethical responsibility towards their job, family and society thereby making them better citizens, in a global sense.

Objectives:

The Centre for Ethics, Yenepoya University will

1. Promote ethical concepts among the various stakeholders in the University, and foster a sense of ethical practices that will enhance the quality of health care.
2. Train interested individuals in the fields of Bioethics, Medical Ethics, Health Care Ethics, Clinical Ethics, Research Ethics and other interdisciplinary areas, empowering them with skills necessary for resolving ethical problems.
3. Give support to clinical staff in the form of clinical ethics consultation.
4. Encourage trans-cultural explorations of ethical practices and will assist the stakeholders in accepting every view point, however digressive.
5. Provide a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue in ethics and thereby promote the national values of professional and ethical leadership.
6. Explore the possibilities of conducting research in different fields of ethics and encouraging collaborative research.
7. Seek out similar centres/departments and enter into partnerships with them for a broader interaction and cooperation.

From its inception the Centre has been academically very active and has managed to build innovative curriculum on two academic programs which are unique and not offered by any other health University in India. The first is the Post Graduate Diploma in Bioethics and Medical Ethics (PGDBEME). This is a one year course with six contact programs, two field visits and one project for publication, with plenty of e-learning. The curriculum is structured based on the highest International standards in Bioethics. Till

the end of 2012, the Post Graduate Diploma in Bioethics and Medical ethics had enrolled 17 students. The eight students in the first batch have successfully passed (100% results). The second batch had an enrolment of 9 students. Dr.Amar Jesani , Editor of Indian Journal of Medical Ethics is the visiting Professor who engages students in the Post Graduate diploma course.



Dr. Amar Jesani, Visiting Professor, Centre for Ethics interacts with the first batch of PG Diploma Bioethics & Medical Ethics students

The Centre also runs a certificate course in Clinical Ethics Consultation (CCCEC) in collaboration with the department of History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany. Dr. Norbert W Paul, Professor and Head of the Department is the visiting Professor at the Centre for Ethics and engages students in the CCCEC course. Additionally Dr. Anand Zachariah, Professor of Medicine, Christian Medical College, Vellore, was also a resource faculty. The first batch of CCCEC enrolled 5 students and also has the unique distinction of being the first course that is offered in India. The first webinar in Yenepoya University was conducted during this course wherein for three days Dr. Zachariah interacted with the students using “SCOPIA” software for web based seminars.

CENTRE FOR ETHICS, YENEPOYA UNIVERSITY

In February 2012 the Centre for Ethics conducted its Annual program – Second Indo German CME on Clinical Ethics with the theme “Inter Professional Ethics”. Drs. Norbert Paul and Vina Vaswani were the chief resource persons.



Dr. Vina Vaswani, Director, Centre for Ethics delivers the welcome address at the inaugural of the second Indo-German CME on Clinical Ethics Consultation. Also seen are Director R&F, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Norbert Paul from Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany and Registrar, YU

Dr. Vina Vaswani, Director and Dr. Ravi Vaswani, part time faculty in the Centre for Ethics attended the International Conference on “Education in Ethics” organized by International Association for Education in Ethics & The Centre for Health Care Ethics at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA from 1 to 3 May 2012 and presented papers.



The Centre for Ethics has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the department of Ethics of two reputed world class Universities (Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany and Duquesne University, Pittsburg, USA). In the implementation of these Memorandums, the Centre for Ethics has organized the visit of Ms. Theresa Volz for observership in

Infectious Diseases in the Department of Internal Medicine, Yenepoya Medical College Hospital. Ms. Leena Pramod, Curator, underwent six weeks training in plastination in the department of Forensic Medicine, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany.



In May 2012 the Centre for Ethics, established yet another unique and innovative course “Intensive Short Training Course on Ethical Issues in Biomedical Research”. This five day hands-on workshop trains and empowers participants who are presently engaged in research or are serving on institutional ethics committees; or are likely to do so in the coming years - empower them to recognize and deal with various ethical issues arising out of research in India, and are structured using the current guidelines of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Schedule Y of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the ICH-GCP and other relevant national and international bodies.

18 participants attended the program. The resource faculty included luminaries like:

- a) Dr. Richard Cash: Senior Lecturer on Global Health, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA. Presently with Public Health Foundation of India (PHI).
- b) Dr. Amar Jesani: Honorary Trustee of Anusandhan Trust, Mumbai and Founder Indian Journal of Medical Ethics.
- c) Dr. Arun Bhatt: President Clininvent Research Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai
- d) Dr. Mala Ramanathan: Additional Professor, Achuta Menon Centre for Health Science Studies and Member, Institutional Ethics Committee, Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology, Trivandrum.
- e) Dr. Vina Vaswani: Head –Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Yenepoya Medical College and Director, Center for Ethics, Yenepoya University.
- f) Ms. Neha Madhiwalla: Coordinator of Centre for Studies in Ethics and Rights, Visiting faculty at Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
- g) Dr. Divya Bhagianadh: Associate Coordinator of Centre for Studies in Ethics and Rights, Mumbai. (CSER)
- h) Ms. Rakhi Ghoshal: Senior Researcher at Center for Studies in Ethics and Rights, (CSER), Mumbai.



Faculty and participants for the First Annual Intensive Short Training Course on Ethical Issues in Biomedical Research

Dr.Vina Vaswani, Director, Centre for Ethics organized and conducted a special “Colloquium on Bio Ethics”, organized by St.John’s College at various institutions in South India (Nagercoil, Amandivil, Kanyakumari) from 19th and 20th December 2011 and also delivered a Talk at Fr.Mullers Medical College, Mangalore for curriculum building in Ethics on 12th January 2012. She also presented a paper at the International Conference on Retelling Familiar Tales of Birth at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford on 3rd and 4th July 2012 on Reinforcing values in the birth of a baby through mythological/folk tales.