



To News Editor
For Immediate Release

14 July 2014

CUHK to Host First Annual Bioethics Summer Workshop to “Train the Trainers”

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is beginning an ambitious effort to bring bioethics into its core medical curriculum with a two-day workshop aimed at faculty training, from July 15 to 16.

While bioethics has become a familiar concept in many parts of the world – it is even taught in high schools in the United States – it has been slower to gain a foothold in Asia. CUHK’s new Centre for Bioethics, which is organizing the workshop, will be the first research institute on bioethics in Hong Kong housed in a medical school.

The new centre aims to provide a hub for scholars and students from a variety of disciplines who are interested in bioethics, in addition to clinicians. By doing so, CUHK hopes not only to train better doctors and healthcare workers, but also to make better global citizens of its students and to bring a Hong Kong and Asian focus to international collaboration on bioethics.

What is “Bioethics?”

For those who are new to the topic, bioethics, medical ethics, and biomedical ethics are closely related in terms of history and practice. Bioethics has grown out of the rapid development of biotechnology over the past two decades, as well as a growing recognition that health systems, medical practice, and the environment exist in an intimate relationship. Bioethics engages a broader set of issues than medical ethics and considers a wider context than the classical, clinical environment. It builds on the strong legacy of values in the medical profession that exists in many cultures. Today, the subjects of bioethics range from classic scenarios of medical practice to possibilities approaching science fiction.

When biotechnology enters the picture, the ethical choices multiply along with the clinical alternatives. Is it right for parents to engineer desired characteristics in their children through non-invasive prenatal genetic testing (NIPT)? How does the definition of parenthood change when a combination of *in vitro* fertilization and surrogacy produce children with both biological and non-biological parents? Stem cell research, cloning, and genetic sequencing in clinical diagnosis and treatment raise many more such issues.

CUHK’s First Summer Workshop to Focus on “Training the Trainers”

These are the kinds of questions that will be raised at the first of an annual series of bioethics workshops organized by CUHK’s soon to be launched Centre for Bioethics.

The organizers view it as a first step in building capacity for bioethics research and education

at CUHK, even though the sponsoring Centre for Bioethics is still under development.

“We believe it is necessary to build educational software even before putting in place hardware in terms of cement and infrastructure,” said Professor Fok Tai-fai, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of CUHK and interim director of the CUHK Centre for Bioethics, which will be formally launched in January 2015. “The first step is to establish a baseline of knowledge across the faculty, especially those who will be involved in training clinicians,” Professor Fok added. “At CUHK, we wish to give priority to the fundamentals – so that by the time the Centre for Bioethics is up and running, we will have a strong coterie within the university that is already networking across disciplinary lines to bring our students the best cases, mentoring, and creative talent needed to understand the ethics of complex clinical situations.”

“We could start with an elegant façade and big name bioethicists, or we could start with our students,” said Professor Fok. “We choose the latter.”

Ultimately, CUHK’s new Centre for Bioethics will have its own office and staff. Driving it within CUHK have been some of the most senior faculty in the university. Among the most important tasks of the new centre will be to develop a new core curriculum in bioethics, to cover all 500 health-sciences undergraduates beginning in 2015, and potentially all 15,000 undergraduates.

A Focus on NIPT, Ageing Policy, and Web-based Training

Co-organized with the highly regarded Hastings Center, the first of the CUHK bioethics summer workshops will include sessions on non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT), an area in which CUHK scientists have achieved important breakthroughs; the problems of caring for a rapidly ageing society; and Singapore’s experience with creating an innovative web-based teaching tool for bioethics.

Alastair V. Campbell, director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics (CBmE) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore, will be a keynote speaker at the workshop, discussing the role and potential of the CUHK Centre for Bioethics.

Other international bioethicists who will speak at the workshop include Josephine Johnston, director of research at the Hastings Center; Nancy Berlinger and Michael Gusmano, both research scholars at the Hastings Center; Michael Dunn, lecturer at the Ethox Centre in the Department of Public Health at the University of Oxford; and Jacqueline Chin, assistant professor at CBmE.

Hong Kong-based keynote speakers will include Professor Dennis Y.M. Lo, director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences at CUHK and Professor Jean Woo, director of the S.H. Ho Centre for Gerontology and Geriatrics, CUHK.

For additional background on the CUHK Centre for Bioethics and details on upcoming events, see the website: <http://bioethics.med.cuhk.edu.hk>, or contact bioethics@med.cuhk.edu.hk.

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新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

致新聞編輯
請即發布

中大醫學院 首辦生命倫理工作坊 重點培訓師資

香港中文大學（中大）新成立的生命倫理中心將於7月15及16日首次舉辦生命倫理工作坊，培育新一代醫療工作者，致力將生命倫理學引進醫學教育的核心課程。

生命倫理學在許多歐美國家已經廣為人知，美國部分中學甚至把這課題納入教材，但在亞洲，市民大眾對生命倫理學的認識仍未普及。中大生命倫理中心是本港首間設於醫學院內專門從事生命倫理研究的中心，為來自不同學科的學者和學生以及醫療工作者提供探討生命倫理學的平台，促進香港以至亞洲在國際生命倫理學方面的合作。通過強化生命倫理教育，中大醫學院不單致力培訓學生成為出色的醫療工作者，亦會栽培他們成為優秀的國際公民。

什麼是生命倫理？

生命倫理 (Bioethics)、醫學倫理 (Medical Ethics) 和生物醫學倫理 (Biomedical Ethics) 在歷史和臨床醫學上是關係密切但涵義又不完全一樣的相關名詞。過去二十年間生物科技的高速發展，加上人們日益意識到醫療系統、臨床醫學和環境之間的密切連繫，衍生了對生命倫理的關注。生命倫理學源自普世醫者堅守的傳統醫學倫理和價值觀，但覆蓋面比醫學倫理更為全面，包括了許多傳統醫學以外，因新科技和醫學研究引發的倫理道德問題。

生物科技的應用，為接受治療者提供更多的臨床選擇的同時，亦凸顯許多難以釐清界線的道德抉擇，為生命倫理帶來不少挑戰。例如：父母是否有權利利用產前胎兒基因檢測和生物科技，因應他們喜好改造孩子的遺傳特徵？當體外受孕、代孕母親等讓胎兒同時擁有血緣關係和非血緣關係的父母時，父母身分和親子關係應如何定義？此外，幹細胞研究、複製科技，以及應用基因排序於診斷和治療，亦帶出愈來愈多的生命倫理問題。

中大首個生命倫理工作坊致力培訓老師

中大生命倫理工作坊將深入討論上述課題。今次的工作坊，是中大生命倫理中心於開拓其科研及教學領域的歷程中關鍵的第一步。中大副校長、生命倫理中心暫任總監霍泰輝教授指出：「發展教育軟件遠比添置設施等硬件重要，所以中心特別著重師資培訓，務求在中心明年一月正式成立之前，不同學科負責指導未來醫護人員學習生命倫理學的老師，已獲得足夠的訓練。我們期望，中心成立運作時，我們已建立一支有實力的跨學科教學團隊，以最切題的臨床案例、創新的演繹方法，向學生現身說法，幫助他們明白掌握複雜的生命倫理課題。」

「當然我們會建設硬件及考慮邀請著名的生命倫理學專家加盟，但我們以人才培訓為先。」霍教授說。

中大生命倫理中心由大學的多位資深學者共同推動發展，中心將設辦公室及聘用相關人員，首要工作是開設有關於生命倫理的醫學課程。由 2015 年起，逾 500 名醫學院本科生將率先學習生命倫理，希望日後推廣至逾 15,000 名大學本科生。

工作坊重點研討無創產前基因檢測、老齡人口政策及網上教學

中大與全球首屈一指的生命倫理研究所——Hastings Center 合辦首屆生命倫理工作坊，會議主題包括由中大領導開發的無創性產前基因檢測、本港人口老化與長者照顧，以及分享新加坡編寫生命倫理學網上教材的經驗。新加坡國立大學楊潞齡醫學院 Centre for Biomedical Ethics (CBmE) 的總監 Alastair Campbell 是工作坊其中一位主題講者，將探討中大生命倫理中心所擔當的角色和其影響力。Hastings Center 的研究部主管 Josephine Johnston、研究學者 Nancy Berlinger 和 Michael Gusmano；牛津大學 Ethox Centre 的講師 Michael Dunn；新加坡國立大學楊潞齡醫學院 CBmE 的助理教授陳韻玲(Jacqueline Chin)；中大李嘉誠健康科學研究所所長盧焯明教授和何善衡老年學及老年病學研究中心主任胡令芳教授，亦將分別發表主題演講。

如欲了解中大生命倫理中心的詳情及活動，請瀏覽網頁：<http://bioethics.med.cuhk.edu.hk>，或電郵：bioethics@med.cuhk.edu.hk。

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2014 年 7 月 14 日