

ICCEC

CENTRES : The Singapore Initiative to build capacity in Clinical Ethics Associate Professor Roy Joseph and Julie Sabaratnam

Abstract

The Singapore Ministry of Health appointed the Centre for Biomedical Ethics (CBmE) at the National University of Singapore to lead an initiative to establish CENTRES (Clinical Ethics Network for Training Research and Support). CENTRES will evolve into a platform that will not only link the clinical ethics committees in the public and private hospitals in Singapore but serve as a one-stop centre providing access to rich information resources on clinical ethics and an online forum that will facilitate discussions and sharing. CENTRES will focus on developing capacity and hence emphasis will be placed on organizing training workshops to encourage learning through knowledge sharing. The first workshop focused on neonatal dilemmas and included participation from international leaders in the field. The second workshop will focus on the role and function of Clinical Ethics Committees (CEC), and models and processes of ethical deliberation and consensus building dynamics in the Committee's work. The video presentation will provide insights into the role of CENTRES in capacity development and how we are working with local and international clinicians, ethicists and healthcare professionals to inquire, shape and disseminate knowledge in the field of CEC work. It will also highlight how CENTRES is establishing collaborative learning opportunities with other CEC networks internationally and inviting international experts in the field to offer independent evaluations of the project.

Profile of Presenters:

Associate Professor Roy Joseph is a full time academic staff member of the Department of Paediatrics, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore and Senior Consultant in Neonatology at the National University Hospital. He is the Chairperson of the Hospital's Clinical Ethics Committee and also the Chairperson of the National Medical Ethics Committee. This committee is tasked to identify prevailing public health, medical practice and research related ethical issues; develop ethical codes for medical practice in Singapore; advise on potential ethical issues and through sub committees to deal with special issues.

Dr Joseph also serves in the Transplant Ethics Committee of the Hospital and as an independent medical practitioner for the TEC of other hospitals. He contributes to the training of neonatologists through membership in the National Sub specialty training committee for Neonatology and as the Departmental Post Graduate Training Director. His undergraduate medical training was from the Christian Medical College Vellore and post graduate training from the University of Singapore and he is a member of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, United Kingdom.

Julie Sabaratnam is a Research Associate with the Centre for Biomedical Ethics (CBmE) at the National University of Singapore and was appointed to manage the CENTRES initiative. Julie is an experienced information and knowledge professional and strategic planner who has played critical roles in developing national plans for various Singapore government agencies such as the National Computer Board, Infocomm Development Authority and the National Library Board. She spearheaded the development of a Science and Technology Information Network that evolved into the first national digital library in Singapore. She has also helped set up innovative information and research services in various public and private sector organizations. Julie graduated with a Masters in Library and Information Studies from the Loughborough University of Technology, UK.