

Fortnightly Digest by



Digest 24

Newsletter Spotlight 1

Research ethics capacity strengthening initiative

You may recollect we mentioned that FMES-HEaL Institute have resumed conducting short-duration intensive training program in various sub-fields of bioethics after a disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. After having done a [three-day research ethics institute](#) with [ARMMAN](#) with focus on ethics of mHealth during November 2021, we [[HEaL Institute](#), [FMES](#) and Vidhayak Trust], in collaboration with Center for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes ([CEHAT](#)) recently concluded yet another two-day research ethics training titled [Research Ethics Matters in the arena of Programmatic Interventions Research to respond to Gender Based Violence](#) for [CEHAT](#) and its collaborating partners. We were privileged to engage with course participants working on the ground in Maharashtra ([Stree Mukti Sanghatana](#)), Madhya Pradesh ([Jan Sahas](#)), and Uttar Pradesh (Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives) on the issue of violence against women. It was customised to respond to specific needs of colleagues from CEHAT's collaborating partners working on the ground and was spread over two days – December 09 and 10, 2021.

Broadly speaking, it was to enable participants to appreciate the salience of research ethics in upholding scientific integrity of research enterprise in general; and identify and apply the methods of ethical reasoning to health research with special focus on intervention research in the spaces of gender-based violence/violence against women, use of intervention/program data for generating evidence to inform ongoing interventions and advocacy; and to know, recognise and respond to conflicting interfaces of law and ethics in gender-based violence spaces – a dynamic sub-field. The course covered eight thematics weaved around the three key thematic modules namely, Foundations of research ethics; Ethics of intervention research towards evidence-based advocacy and program; and navigating through conflicting interfaces of law and ethics.

The faculty comprised of Drs [Amar Jesani](#), [Anant Bhan](#), [Prof Lakshmi Lingam](#), [Mala Ramanathan](#), and [Sunita Sheel Bandewar](#) (Course Director). Dr Sanjida Arora, a senior professional from CEHAT facilitated the collaboration and helped us to customize the course curriculum.

As always, it was a mutually enriching research ethics institute and allowed us yet another

opportunity to explore specificities of research ethics matters in the gender-based violence spaces.

For your enquiries on customized short-duration intensive training program in various sub-fields of bioethics, you can write to us at fmesmumbai@gmail.com and admin@fmesinstitute.org. For over two decades, we have been organizing training program in bioethics sub-fields, amongst others, research ethics in social science research in health; public health ethics; clinical ethics, research ethics in public health research; implementation science and ethics, research ethics in mental health interventions; research ethics and digital technology-based health interventions; ethics of program monitoring and evaluations; and research ethics in research involving adolescents and children.



Newsletter Spotlight 2

A witness seminar on

'Community engagement and Patient-centered care in TB related public health interventions in India: perspectives of survivors, champions and community-based organizations

We — HEaL Institute, FMES — recently concluded this witness seminar under the aegis of [Eco-research™](#) (Engagement of Communities in research in Tuberculosis and Mental Health), a 'A collaborative research initiative cataloguing key community engagement practices embedded in Implementation Research Public Health Projects Involving Disadvantaged (rural/indigenous) Communities in India'. It is supported by the UNICEF/UNDP/World

Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) *and is being led by* Drs Sunita Sheel Bandewar and Anant Bhan.

It was focused on exploring the historical trajectory of community participation in TB-related public health interventions in India. Intention was to understand the perceptions of TB survivors, activists and advocates, impacted community members to understand history of, as well as enablers and challenges of incorporating community and stakeholder engagement (CSE) or community engagement (CE) approaches and patient-centered interventions in TB care in India.

We were privileged to have a number of TB patients, TB survivors and TB patients' champions and advocates from across the country on board, making the proceedings deeply insightful and directional for future work in this space.

Please look out for this space for a proceedings report of this witness seminar.

Newsletter Spotlight 3

Call for Nominations for IJME Ethics Awards 2020-21

for

'Outstanding Contribution to Ethical Practices and in Improving Access to Healthcare for the Marginalised during the COVID-19 Pandemic'

The Center for Ethics, Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), Mangalore and Forum for Medical Ethics Society are pleased to announce this second round of IJME Ethics Awards. FMES launched the IJME Ethics Award in 2018 on the occasion of the 7th National Bioethics Conference, the platform of FMES, jointly organized with the 14th World Congress of Bioethics, the platform of the International Bioethics Association in Bangalore. The IJME Ethics Award/s will be announced as and when the resources allow us to do so.



SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR
FMES-IJME ETHICS AWARDS 2020-21
IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE CENTER FOR ETHICS, YENEPOYA (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)



For Outstanding Contribution to Ethical Practices and
Improving Access to Healthcare for the Marginalised
during the COVID-19 pandemic

Dr M Prakasamma,
Executive Director, Academy for
Nursing Studies and Women's
Empowerment Research Studies
(ANSWERS)



Dr Pavitra Mohan,
Co-founder and Secretary,
Basic Healthcare Services &
Director, Health Services,
Aajeevika Bureau, Udalpur.

Dr Sulakshana
Co-Chair of People's Health Movement
Global Steering Council; and National
Co-Convenor of PHM India)



AWARD CATEGORIES

- ASHAs and ANMs
- Nursing Professionals
- Groups formed during COVID-19 to support vulnerable constituencies

AWARD CEREMONY

A virtual event on World Health Day

APRIL 7, 2022

8th National Bioethics Conference

NOMINATIONS OPEN : JANUARY 7, 2022
NOMINATIONS CLOSE : FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Who can apply?

Any Indian nationals in the award categories serving marginalised and vulnerable communities and promoting the culture of ethical healthcare practice.



Call for Nominations FMES-IJME Ethics Awards 2020-21

Nomination form for [Category 1 & 2](#); Nomination form for [Category 3](#)

For queries, please write to us at: fmes.ijmeethicsaward@gmail.com

Twitter handle: [@ijmeethicsaward](https://twitter.com/ijmeethicsaward)



PLEASE DO HELP US FIND A DESERVING CANDIDATE. IT COULD ALSO BE YOU.

In this round, there will be three awards across three different categories.

Nominations are requested to be done by means of the prescribed form [Nomination form for individuals from [Category 1 and 2](#); Nomination form for [Category 3](#): Citizens' Groups], accompanied by supporting documents and any other relevant material, and submitted by email at fmes.ijmeethicsaward@gmail.com.

Important dates:

- Call opens on: Jan 7, 2022
- Call ends: Feb 15, 2022, 11:59 pm IST
- Round 1 – Short-listing by committee: March 5, 2022
- Round 2 – Interaction with short-listed candidates: March 15, 2022
- Final decision: March 25, 2022
- Award ceremony: April 7, 2022 (Virtual Event, will be hosted by FMES in collaboration with the Center for Ethics, Yenepoya Deemed to be University)

Call for nomination: [Call for nominations: FMES-IJME Ethics Award 2020-21](#)

Twitter handle: @ijmeethicsaward

[About FMES-IJME Ethics Award](#)

[Inaugural FMES-IJME Ethics Award 2018](#)

[Winner](#) of the inaugural FMES-IJME Ethics Award 2018

In Media

Dr Sunita Bandewar speaks to Suno India on

[‘Why forcing people to take vaccine doesn’t work?’](#)

State governments are using coercive measures such as restricting entry to public places, mandating vaccinations on government employees, and refusing free treatment to those who aren't fully vaccinated, as a step towards the conquest of the global pandemic. With the announcement of vaccination for teenagers aged 15-18 years, the question of whether such measures work becomes crucial.

To answer this question, Suno India's Menaka Rao spoke to Dr Sunita Bandewar, the General Secretary of FMES and Dr Prabir Chatterjee, a senior public health professional.

The link to the podcast is available [here](#).

Other important links related to this topic:

- [Press briefing on the actions taken, preparedness and updates on COVID-19, Dated: 05.01.2022](#)
- [No free Covid treatment to unvaccinated, says Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan | Thiruvananthapuram News – Times of India](#)
- [Data | India falls short of December 31 vaccination target – The Hindu](#)
- [AEFI Reports | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | GOI](#)

Online First from IJME

MURALIDHARAN, J., PINTO , A., HOPKINS, P., BHUGRA, A., KURPAD , S., IDICULLA, J. (2022). [Readings from a book by Victoria Sweet: A novel medical ethics learning experience](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, January 25, 2022

LANEWALA , A., SHEKHANI, S. (2022). [Indirect costs associated with “free” paediatric haemodialysis: Experience from Karachi, Pakistan](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, January 21, 2022

DA SILVA, R. . (2022). [Impact of the lethal “Politics” variant on the population in Brazil](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, January 13, 2022

GøTZSCHE , P. (2021). [Made in China: the coronavirus that killed millions of people](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, December 22, 2021

[Read more](#)

Conference Announcement from the global peer community

APBEN conference 2022

The New Norm of Professionalism, Bioethics and Beyond

Asia Pacific Bioethics Education Network (APBEN) is conducting a two-day online conference which is to be held on May 21 – 22, 2022. The theme for the conference is ‘*The New Norm of Professionalism, Bioethics and Beyond*’. The call for the [abstracts](#) is now open and will close on February 1, 2022. For more please visit their website [here](#).

Forthcoming webinars

being hosted by local and global peer community

Forthcoming Webinars

[March 1 – 3, 2022 | Sabin Vaccine Institute | Join the Sabin Vaccine Institute and its Vaccination Acceptance Research Network \(VARN\) at their inaugural VARN Conference on March 1-3, 2022!](#) is currently open and will be closing on February 21, 2022. Please register and share within your networks!

Concluded Webinars

[January 31, 2022| Epidemic Ethics and The Hastings Center | Epidemic Ethics and The Hastings Center invite you to a new virtual seminar : Ethics and pandemic policies: democracy in crisis | at 1 pm, London](#)

[Read more](#)

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APPEAL FOR DONATION TO THE FORUM FOR MEDICAL ETHICS SOCIETY

APPEAL TO PAY WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD FOR ACCESSING THE IJME and ITS DATABASE

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- By paying a fee of any amount for full-text views or PDF download of any article from the IJME website;
- By paying article processing charges of any amount on publication as affordable to the readers/authors.

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