

Fortnightly Digest by



Digest 59 & 60



Warm greetings!

We are pleased to bring you this fortnightly digest from the Health, Ethics and Law Institute (HEaL Institute) and the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* (IJME).

Newsletter Spotlight 1

[Comments on ICMR Consensus Policy Statement for the Ethical Conduct of Controlled Human Infections Studies \(CHIS\) in India](#)

On 17 July 2023, the ICMR released a [Consensus Policy Statement for Ethical Conduct of Controlled Human Infection Studies \(CHIS\)](#), inviting [comments from the public](#) within a month.

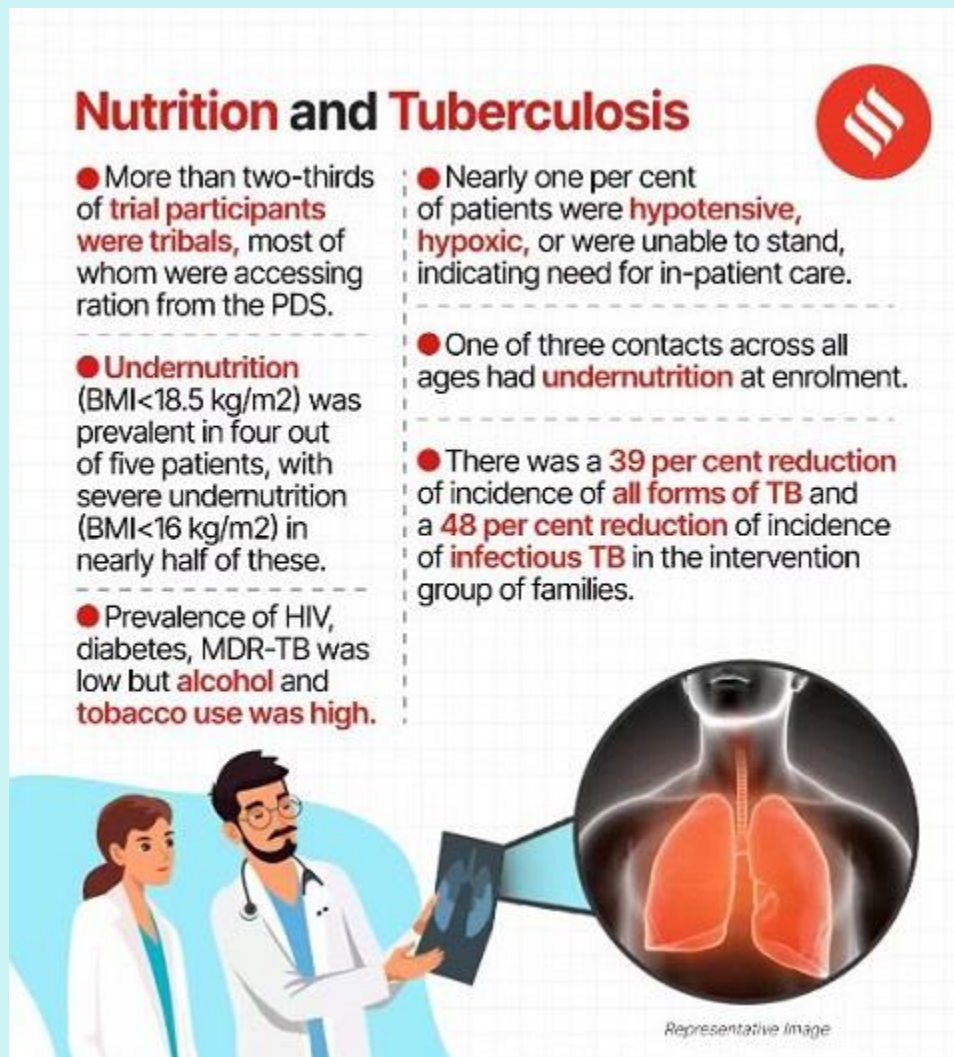
Comments on the policy statement from Veena Johari (Advocate, Mumbai), Sandhya Srinivasan (Journalist, Mumbai), Amar Jesani (Independent Consultant, Mumbai), Chinu Srinivasan (LOCOST, Vadodara), Sunita Sheel Bandewar (Independent Researcher, Pune), Bevin Vinay Kumar, (Public Health, Bhopal) were submitted to the ICMR on 16 August 2023.

In a [podcast](#) by The Hindu, Dr Amar Jesani, Editor — *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, gave a detailed overview on the ethical challenges involved in carrying out the Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIS) and the regulatory mechanisms that need to be in place before humans are deliberately infected with pathogens for studies.

Related article in popular press: [India might soon clear infection studies on healthy people. But why are experts worried?](#) | Tabassum Barnagarwala | Scroll.in

Newsletter Spotlight 2

ICMR-supported RATIONS (Reducing activation of tuberculosis by improvement of nutritional status) trial



Picture credit: How is nutrition related to TB? (Designed by Abhishek Mitra), The Indian Express

[When food is vaccine](#) | Vikram Patel | The Indian Express | August 30, 2023

[Our RATIONS trial found a 10 kg food basket really helped. Risk of TB death reduced by 60%](#)

[with a weight gain of 5%](#) | Rema Nagarajan | The Times of India | August 10, 2023

[Good nutrition reduces TB incidence, curbs mortality, says new Lancet study](#) | Anuradha Mascarenhas | The Indian Express | August 9, 2023

Papers published under RATIONS:

- Bhargava A, Bhargava M, Meher A, Teja GS, Velayutham B, Watson B, Benedetti A, Barik G, Singh VP, Singh D, Madhukeshwar AK, Prasad R, Pathak RR, Chadha V, Joshi R. [Nutritional support for adult patients with microbiologically confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis: outcomes in a programmatic cohort nested within the RATIONS trial in Jharkhand, India](#). *Lancet Glob Health*. 2023 Sep;11(9):e1402-e1411.
- Bhargava A, Bhargava M, Meher A, Benedetti A, Velayutham B, Sai Teja G, Watson B, Barik G, Pathak RR, Prasad R, Dayal R, Madhukeshwar AK, Chadha V, Pai M, Joshi R, Menzies D, Swaminathan S. [Nutritional supplementation to prevent tuberculosis incidence in household contacts of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis in India \(RATIONS\): a field-based, open-label, cluster-randomised, controlled trial](#). 2023 Aug 19;402(10402):627-640.
- Bhargava A, Bhargava M, Velayutham B, Thiruvengadam K, Watson B, Kulkarni B, Singh M, Dayal R, Pathak RR, Mitra A, Rade K, Sachdeva KS. [The RATIONS \(Reducing Activation of Tuberculosis by Improvement of Nutritional Status\) study: a cluster randomised trial of nutritional support \(food rations\) to reduce TB incidence in household contacts of patients with microbiologically confirmed pulmonary tuberculosis in communities with a high prevalence of undernutrition, Jharkhand, India](#). *BMJ Open*. 2021 May 20;11(5):e047210.

Online First from *IJME*

Abbasi, K., Ali, P., Barbour, V., Bibbins-Domingo, K., Olde Rikkert, M., Haines, A., Helfand, I., Horton, R., Mash, B., Mitra, A., Monteiro, C., Naumova, E., Rubin, E., Ruff, T., Sahni, P., Tumwine, J., Yonga, P., Zielinski, C. (2023). [Reducing the risks of nuclear war — the role of health professionals](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, August 4, 2023

Bruckner, T. (2023). [When lawyers pay scientists to join a billion-dollar fight over medical evidence](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, September 3, 2023

Dharmashaktu, G. (2023). [Musing over ethics](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, September 16, 2023

Ghosh, N., Jamir, L. (2023). [Men and menstruation in India: time for frank discussions](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, July 27, 2023

Hapsari, H., Huang, M. (2023). [Adolescent assent in research: a relational ethics](#)

[approach](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, August 3, 2023

Joshi, S., Shatrugna, V. (2023). [If you cant fix the problem change the standards](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, August 22, 2023

Lokaneeta, J. (2023). [Narcoanalysis is neither effective nor ethical: Response to Dr Harish Gupta](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, July 18, 2023

Viswanathan, A. (2023). [Barbie – reclaiming pink, pastels, and sparkles](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, August 10, 2023

Zadey, S., Sharma, P., Nimkar, P. (2023). [The data quality debate on Indian surveys should be more responsible](#). *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, September 8, 2023

Announcement from the local and global peer community

Forthcoming conferences and webinar

[Two Decades of Progress Getting Medical Interpretation Right](#) | David N. Hoffman | Columbia University, School of Professional Studies | November 3, 2023 | 3:45 – 5:15am IST

[Islam and Bioethics: What We All Need to Know](#) | Sayed Ammar Nakshawani, Sameer H Ladha | Columbia University, School of Professional Studies | October 27, 2023 | 3:45 – 5:15am IST

[A Webinar Series: Ethics and Public Health: Ethics and Statistics Education](#) | GW Public Health | October 18, 2023 | 12:00 PM EDT

[Webinar: How to be a good Trial Manager \(TM\)](#) | The Global Health Network, UKRI, MRC Clinical Trial Unit, UCL | Wednesday, 4 October 2023 | 10:00 – 11:15 BST

[The Future of Bioethics: Challenges Visions and Opportunities](#) | Vardit Ravitsky | The Hastings Center | September 28, 2023 | Time: 6:15-7:45 PM (ET) Online via Zoom

[The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Building Responsible Open Science Infrastructures](#) | EOSC-Future/RDA AIDV-WG, GOSC, and CODATA IDPC | September 27, 2023 | 13:00 to 15:00 UTC; 15:00 to 17:00 CEST (Brussels time)

[Seen Yet Invisible: Lessons from Muslim Experiences at the Margins of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Healthcare](#) | Aasim I Padela | Center for Bioethics | September 22, 2023 | 12 – 1 pm CDT Zoom | Free | Open to the Public

[Faith Sommerfield Memorial Lecture: “Living Well and Dying Well”](#) | Peter Singer | Columbia University, School of Professional Studies | September 21, 2023 | 6:15 pm EDT

[Conference on Open Scholarship](#) | OASPA | September 19 – 21, 2023 | All times listed are UK BST (British Summer Time) / UTC +1

Grant Writing in Research for Nurses and Midwives

[Hybrid Workshop: Grant Writing in Research for Nurses and Midwives](#) | Saturday, 30 September 2023 | 09:00 – 16:00 GMT+3 (Kampala Time) | 07:00 – 14:00 UK

[Reminder: Applications are open for the Global Research Nurses Pump-priming Grants 2023: Research Project Award](#) | Global Research Nurses | Deadline by midnight (BST) Saturday 30 September 2023

[The Global Health Network Asia Data Science Club Sessions on R in Epidemiology](#) | The Global Health Network Asia

Clinical Trials

[Your valuable insights can shape the future of clinical trials – participate in the World Health Organization’s public consultation and make a difference in healthcare research](#) | World Health Organization | July 19, 2023 | Deadline for submission of comments is 15 September 2023

[Good Clinical Trials Collaborative and leading clinical trial networks join forces to improve clinical research in low resource settings](#) | The Global Health Network Latin America and The Caribbean

Publications (academic and popular press) on bioethics, human rights, law and allied themes

Academic and popular press

[Trust as the new prestige](#) | OASPA

Report

[Summary Report: Community Engagement in Health Research in the Context of Humanitarian Crises](#) | NIH Fogarty International Center

Podcast

[Ethics in Medical Publishing and Practice](#) | The India Forum | June 16, 2023 | Episode Duration: 44 mins

Kiran Kumbhar speaks with **Amar Jesani** on the discipline of bioethics, on ethical issues in the medical publishing world, and on activism and action in healthcare reform. Dr. Jesani is a

bioethicist, health analyst and activist, and editor of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics.

[Anaemia, Nutrition, and Health Inequalities in India](#) | TIF Talkies By The India Forum | Aug 24, 2023 | Episode Duration: 32 mins

Kiran Kumbhar speaks with **Veena Shatrugna**, a medical doctor and a public health researcher, on the challenges in anaemia and undernutrition in India and on recent attempts to dilute the diagnostic standards for anaemia. The podcast also covers the decolonisation of global health.

Internship

[Internship Opportunity at KHPT](#) | Mid-September- Mid-December, 2023 | Number of Positions: 4 | Location : Bengaluru

Call for Applications

[2024 World Congress of Bioethics Call for Submissions](#) | International Association of Bioethics | Deadline: September 30, 2023

[FAB Call for Abstracts : Feminist Approaches to Bioethics](#) | Doha, Qatar | June 2-3, 2024 | Deadline for abstract submissions: September 30, 2023

[Short Course: Introduction to Innovation & Access to Medicines in Global Health](#) | Global Health Centre | November 16-17, 2023 | 9:00 – 13:00 CET (two half-days)

Call for Proposals



INVITE PROPOSAL FOR

INDO-US CLINICAL RESEARCH ETHICS FELLOWSHIP

under the aegis of
Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP)
&
National Biopharma Mission
(Mission co-funded by
Department of Biotechnology
and World Bank)



OBJECTIVE

Program jointly conceptualized by Department of Biotechnology, GoI and Department of Bioethics, National Institutes of Health (NIH), US with the aim to create capacity in the area of clinical research ethics.

FELLOWSHIP & RESEARCH GRANT AMOUNT

A fellowship amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs/annum for candidates who have a permanent position in the host institute or Rs. 10.20 lakhs/annum for candidates working on temporary/contractual/adhoc position, with additional research grant not exceeding Rs. 40 Lakhs for a period of 3 years for each selected fellow, which will be supported by NBM-BIRAC. The selected fellow shall be eligible for short focused visit for the purpose of research at NIH's Department of Bioethics, US, which will be supported by NIH, US

Call Opens
03rd August
2023

For online
application details
and eligibility
criteria please login
to BIRAC website
<https://www.birac.nic.in>

**Last date of
Submission**
18th September 2023
(5:30 PM IST)

For queries please contact:
PMU-NBM
nbm1.birac@nic.in; nbm5.birac@nic.in

[Indo-US Clinical Research Ethics Fellowship](#) | Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India, BIRAC, NBM, NIH | Deadline: September 18, 2023

[2025 Call for Proposals | Residencies & Workshops](#) | Brocher Foundation | Research for Human being and Society

[Call for Proposals- Partnering with patients and communities](#) | Deadline from September 15 to November 15, 2023 | CIECC / SCB

Call for Contributions



The Center for the Study
of Bioethics

The Hastings Center and The Oxford Uehiro Centre
for Practical Ethics

are jointly organizing the international conference

EXISTENTIAL THREATS AND OTHER DISASTERS: HOW SHOULD WE ADDRESS THEM

Mediterran Hotel & Resort, Budva, Montenegro
May 30-31st 2024

Confirmed Speakers:

Vojin Rakić, The Center for the Study of Bioethics

Vardit Ravitsky, The Hastings Center

Roger Crisp, The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics

Peter Singer, Princeton University

John Harris, The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics

Julian Savulescu, National University of Singapore

Arthur Caplan, New York University's Langone Medical Center

Josephine Johnston, The Hastings Center

Ingmar Persson, University of Gothenburg

Anders Sandberg, Oxford University's Future of Humanity Institute

office@csb.eu.com
www.csb.eu.com/conference



[“Existential Threats and Other Disasters: How Should We Address Them”](#) | The Center for the Study of Bioethics, The Hastings Center and The Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics | May 30 – 31, 2024

Call for papers

[Coercing for Public Health: \(When\) is coercion ethically justified?](#) | Monash Bioethics

Review | Deadline: October 15, 2023

Capacity strengthening in bioethics and its sub-fields: Enquires for short-duration intensive training program

Please write to us on fmesmumbai@gmail.com and admin@fmesinstitute.org with your enquiries for customized short-duration intensive training program in various sub-fields of bioethics. 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.

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