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SAL-BAC Symposium

Rethinking Informed Consent in Biomedical Research

23 February 2012, 4.00pm – 6.30pm, Supreme Court Auditorium

Introduction

Informed consent is a key component in research involving human participants. New developments in biomedical research and healthcare provision have led to fresh challenges to the traditional concept of informed consent. Rapid advances following the completion of the human genome project in 2003 have also raised questions on the privacy and confidentiality of information generated from research. To what extent is it possible to protect individual privacy and confidentiality of research information? The increased interest in population-based genetic research has shifted the focus of ethical debates from autonomy (respecting an individual's decision whether or not to participate in research) to principles such as reciprocity and solidarity, which relate to the wider community and promote public good. Can any research be allowed without the consent of participants? If so, how can it be justified and how can any risk of harm to research participants be minimized? What about involving children in research? How can their involvement be justified? How much say should they have in the decision-making? Do they need to consent to the research use of biospecimens that have been collected while they are still minors, when they reach the age of majority?

This symposium is jointly organised by the Legal Education & Studies department of the Singapore Academy of Law and the Bioethics Advisory Committee of Singapore.

Programme

- 4.00 pm Registration and tea
4.30 pm **Welcome and Introduction**
by *The Honourable The Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong*
4.40 pm **The Rise and Rise of Informed Consent Requirements**
by *Baroness Onora O'Neill*
5.20 pm **Next-Generation Genotype-Phenotype Databases and Consent**
by *Dr Kon Oi Lian*
5.40 pm **Rethinking Informed Consent from a Legal Perspective**
by *Mr Gregory Vijayendran*
6.00 pm Q & A

Highly Recommended for:

- Lawyers
- Legal officers
- Corporate Counsel
- Medical Practitioners
- Biomedical Practitioners
- Academics in the legal, medical and biomedical fields
- Students in, or interested in, the study of Biomedical Research

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Professor Onora O'Neill, The Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve CBE, FBA, Hon FRS, F Med Sci

Baroness O'Neill comes from Northern Ireland and was educated at Oxford and Harvard, where she worked under the late John Rawls. She has taught in the US and the UK, was Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge until 2006 and teaches Philosophy in Cambridge. She was President of the British Academy, the UK National Academy for Humanities and Social Sciences from 2005-9, and chaired the Nuffield Foundation from 1998-2010. She has been a member of the House of Lords since 1999, and is an independent, non-party peer. She has served on the Select Committees on *Stem Cell Research*, *BBC Charter Review*, *Genomic Medicine*, *Nanotechnology and Food* and *Behavioural Change*. She writes on ethics and political philosophy, with particular interests in international justice, the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and bioethics. Her books include *Faces of Hunger: An Essay on Poverty, Development and Justice* (1986), *Constructions of Reason: Explorations of Kant's Practical Philosophy* (1989), *Towards Justice and Virtue* (1996), *Bounds of Justice* (2000), *Autonomy and Trust in Bioethics* (2002), *A Question of Trust* (the 2002 Reith Lectures) and *Rethinking Informed Consent in Bioethics* (jointly with Neil Manson, 2007). She is currently working on practical judgement and normativity, trust and accountability in public life; and the ethics of communication.

Panellists



Dr Kon Oi Lian, Senior Consultant and Head, Division of Medical Sciences National Cancer Centre Singapore

Dr Kon Oi Lian is an internist with research interests in gastric cancer and cellular therapy of diabetes mellitus and hemophilia A. She graduated with an MBBS (Hons) in 1971 and an MD in 1989 from the National University of Singapore. She has headed the Medical Sciences Division since the inception of National Cancer Centre Singapore in 1999. The Division aims to foster translational research with the objective of applying advances in basic research to clinical care, including new diagnostic and therapeutic technologies. Dr Kon has served as chair of the National Cancer Centre Tissue Bank Committee and co-chair of one of National Medical Research Council's Scientific Review Panels. In addition, she is a Professor at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, an Honorary Joint Faculty member at the Department of Biochemistry, National University of Singapore and a member of the Bioethics Advisory Committee.



Mr Gregory Vijayendran, Equity Partner Rajah & Tann LLP

Mr Gregory Vijayendran is an equity partner in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group in Rajah & Tann LLP. His practice covers many areas of law yet he has always maintained a keen interest in ethics. His article analyzing The Legal Profession (Professional Conduct) Rules 1998 entitled "Deciphering The Code of Conduct" has been a long standing teaching piece for postgraduate law students learning Professional Responsibility. In addition, he has given talks to NUS and SMU law students on different ethical issues that lawyers face. He has served on the Inquiry Panel of the Law Society since 2008. He is presently a member of the Bioethics Advisory Committee and a member of the National Transplant Ethics Panel of Lay Persons. He is also a Founding Director of the Singapore Cord Blood Bank.

Chairperson



Chief Judge (ret) Richard Magnus, Chairman Bioethics Advisory Committee

Mr Richard Magnus retired as Chief District Judge after a distinguished public service career with the Singapore Legal Service. In recognition of his sterling contributions to the nation, he was conferred the Meritorious Service Medal in 2009. Chief Judge (ret) Magnus is the Chairman of the Casino Regulatory Authority, the Political Films Consultative Committee, Temasek Cares CLG Ltd and the Public Guardian Board. He is on the Board of Directors of the CapitaMall Trust Management Ltd, Changi Airport Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd and UCB Media Singapore Limited. He is also Singapore's Representative to the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights, a Member of the Network of Global Agenda Councils, World Economic Forum, a Member of the Public Service Commission and a Member of the National Transplant Ethics Panel of Lay Persons. Judge (ret) Magnus' recommendations on the ethical, legal and social issues relating to Stem Cell Research were accepted by the Bioethics Advisory Committee and the Singapore Government; and relevant legislation ensued accordingly.

REGISTRATION FORM

(Closing date: 16 February 2012)

- Registration for the event may be made:
 - online by logging on to www.sal.org.sg
 - by fax to: (65) 6334 4940
 - by mail to: LES Department, Singapore Academy of Law,
1 Supreme Court Lane, Level 6 Singapore 178879
- Registrations received on or before the closing date are confirmed unless otherwise notified.
- Registration is accepted on a first-come, first served basis, subject to availability of seats.
- To view ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS, please visit www.sal.org.sg.
- For enquiries, please call Tel:(65) 6332 4149 or email les@sal.org.sg or Tel: (65) 6773 6475 or email contactus@bioethics-singapore.org.
- SAL's usual terms and conditions apply. See <http://www.sal.org.sg/RegistrationTermsNConditions.aspx> for more details.

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Tel _____
Email _____

Dietary Requirement: Vegetarian No Pork/No Lard

Delegate 2:

Name: Mr / Ms / Mrs / Dr _____
Designation _____
SAL No. (e.g.:A0012) (if applicable) _____
Non-Member NRIC/Passport _____
Tel _____
Email _____

Dietary Requirement: Vegetarian No Pork/No Lard