



GSMC MUHS UNESCO Bioethics Unit

Report of World Bioethics Day 2020 Celebrations

Theme: Benefit and Harm

GSMC MUHS UNESCO Unit

Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, INDIA

The GSMC MUHS UNESCO Bioethics Unit celebrated the **World Bioethics Day** on Monday, 19th October 2020 along with a weeklong celebration prior. This year the pandemic had us in a new normal way of celebrations with a lot of new learning and resilience. The World Bioethics Day 2020 began with the strong student wing that carrying out various activities based on the theme of World Bioethics Day 2020 'Benefit and Harm'.

Due to the current situation of COVID 19, all competitions were held online/offline mode on virtual platforms. Students were involved in planning, organizing and execution of these events. Experts from outside and within the institute were invited as judges.

- ❖ **Poster making Competition 2020**: Poster making competition was held on the theme 'Benefit and Harm'. All the participants were instructed to submit soft copy of their poster on mail. Total 38 registrations were received. There were 11 registrations from Seth GSMC & KEMH and remaining 27 were from other MCGM colleges.
- ❖ **Photography Competition 2020**: 08 entries were received. It was kept open for undergraduate students, postgraduate students and employees of MCGM colleges. The winning photographs were felicitated.
- ❖ **JIGYASA 'Ethical Reflections on the COVID 19 Pandemic' 2020**: This was an attempt to tender young minds in nurturing and understanding research. They were given four articles related to various ethical challenges during the pandemic for critically appraising. The participants presented a summary of the article, its strong points and weak points. They were asked to imagine they were writing an original



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bioethics paper and what was the single most ethical challenge they would focus on. This was followed by question answer session from the judges. Total 12 registrations were received from the undergraduate students of Seth GSMC & KEMH.

- ❖ **IDEON ‘Ideas Combating the Pandemic’ 2020:** WHO and UNICEF has warned the nations on an alarming decline in the number of children receiving life-saving vaccines around the world due to COVID 19 pandemic, these disruptions threaten to reverse the hard-won progress in immunization. Also, Older people are particularly affected by the COVID19 outbreak because of their vulnerability as well as the complexity of health organisations, particularly in the often-compartmentalized interactions between community, hospital and nursing home actors . Not only that , the COVID-19 pandemic has led to maternity services adjusting in how they provide antenatal care to pregnant women due to the government restrictions regarding social distancing which has definitely impacted on pregnant women’s access to routine antenatal care. These are some of the stories.....and taking inspiration from these problems , we thought why not make young doctors to do a little brain storming and

Thus , **SETH GSMC and KEM hospital Bioethics Unit** thought of this competition .Here is a Hypothetical situation ,“ *Consider yourself to be a Medical Officer of a Primary Health Care Centre (PHC) , how will you solve the problems stated below (any 2 out of 4) in a novel , innovative and techy way*” 1. Immunisation of infants 2. Medical Follow up of geriatric patients 3.ANC checkups and aseptic deliveries. 4. Education and training of people in your area to control the pandemic. Individual participants were expected to make a short PPT explaining the solution for 5 minutes, followed by question answer round for 6 min.

- ❖ **STORY TELLING Competition 2020:** This was based on this year’s theme ‘Benefit and Harm’. Participants were told to video record a story based on this theme. Various stories related to work and personal life were narrated. It gave an opportunity to reflect. This was a way of exploring emotions and actions.



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- ❖ **Guest Lectures:** Cancer research is increased tremendously over few years even then we have not found miraculous cure . “Ethical Issues in cancer therapy and Research by Dr Sewanti Limaye who is currently working as Consultant - Medical Oncology, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Institute and Director Clinical and Translational Research, Oncology. Because of her experience as a clinician and researcher . She spoke on ethical issues by taking a case of women with breast cancer , she is treated and investigated and found to have a rare genetic type of breast cancer for which drug is available in research setting . Then how the patient is consented and takes part in research . A brief journey from practice to research was elucidated by her
- ❖ Dr Akash Shukla , who is currently working as in charge and Head of Medical Gastroenterology – KEM Hospital and Hepatologist at Global Hospital delivered a talk on “Ethics of Transplant Medicine”. He is trained in transplant medicine, prolific researcher and a hard core physician. He narrated the story from history to types of transplant. The demand and the supply crisis in India. He touched on the prevailing rules and the regulations governing transplant. He emphatically conveyed the message of donating organs and body .
- ❖ **Key Note Address:** The main event was organized on 19th October 2020 in the afternoon. Dr Mariya Jiandani, Head of the Unit welcomed all, introduced the theme and spoke about the events planned to celebrate the World Bioethics day. Dean Dr Hemant Deshmukh addressed the audience. Following the speech, the annual bulletin of the Bioethics Unit ‘Inarch 2020’ was released by the Dean Dr. Hemant Deshmukh. Subsequently Dr Anjali Telang secretary of the unit presented the annual report. The key note speaker Dr Vasantha Muthuswamy, renowned Senior Deputy DG & Scientist G (Retd.), Indian Council of Medical Research who is also President, Forum for Ethics Review Committees in India (FERCI), Chair, Ethics



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Advisory Committee & Central Ethics Committee on Human Research ,ICMR ,Member, National Apex Committee for Stem cell research & Therapy (NACSCRT), President, (Former)Senior Deputy Director General, ICMR, New Delhi, India Madam was associated with development of atleast 30 national and international guidelines from ICMR guidelines to ICMR-DBT National guidelines for Stem cell research and therapy, 2007. With her immense experience and contribution in taking research ahead in India . She was the right person for the talk on “Ethical issues in stem cell research” After explaining the basic tenants of ethics madam highlighted the guidelines of ICMR research ,basic concept of stem cell research, how it evolved, present scenario and its applications..She started her talk from the past to the present form of stem cells , types of stem cells , Categorization of stem cell based on the ethical and/or safety concerns regarding source of stem cells and levels of manipulation which warrant additional review and monitoring. The areas mainly are classified as Prohibited / Restrictive/ Permissible. She also emphasized the success rate of stem cells and how people should be alert about the false hope generated by advertisement , media and clinicians .engaged the audience with ethics in stem cell research in and interesting and thought-provoking speech. She discussed the various ethical issues related to stem cell research. She went on further to explain the monitoring mechanism of stem cell research in our country and globally. The address ended with risk benefit analysis.

- ❖ **Inarch Release:** The “ Inarch” is annual bulletin of the unit released every year on world bioethics day. The articles are written by students and Bioethics wing members. Along with invited guest articles.
- ❖ **Prize Distribution:**

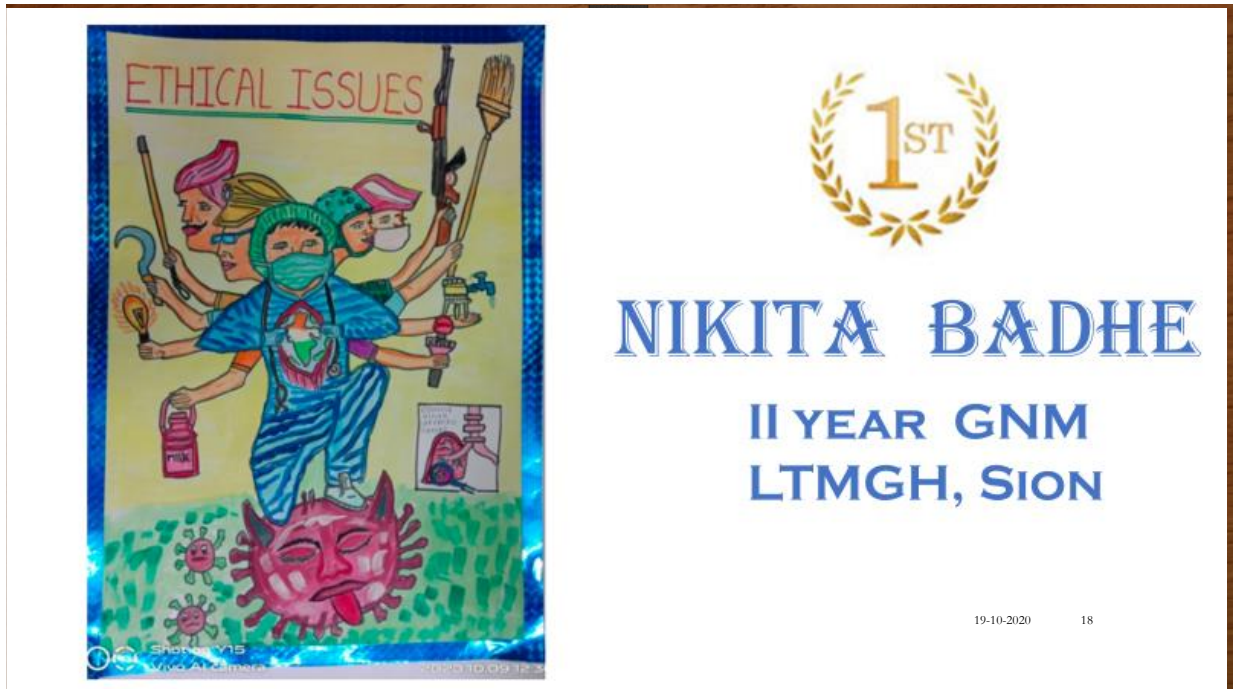
The prize distribution ceremony was held for felicitation of the winners of the bioethics competitions. The judges invited for these competitions from within the institution and outside institution were also felicitated. Ms Shruti Tilak Was awarded the Best Student Wing Member award. Dr.Nayana Ingole, Head of Steering Committee presented the vote of



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thanks. She specifically appreciated the student wing members' efforts in making the event successful.

Winning poster





UNITWIN Network in
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2ND
ZOYA KHATRI

**II YEAR MBBS
GSMC, KEMH**



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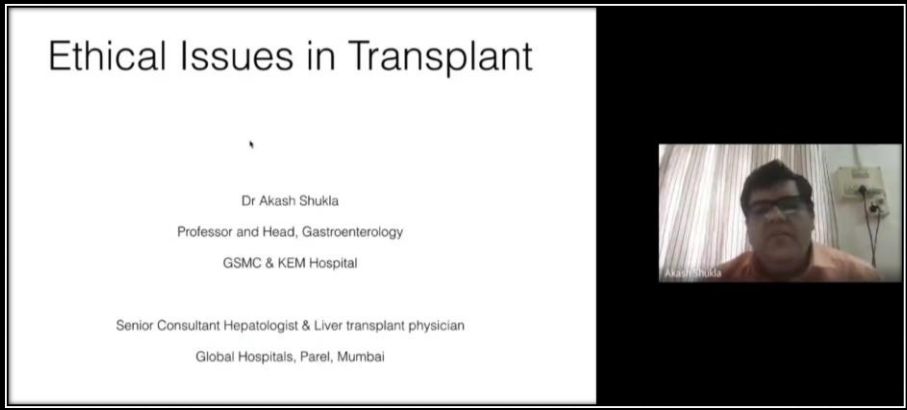


" Ethical Issues in Cancer Therapy and Research" Benefits and Harms

Dr Sewanti Limaye MBBS, MD (NYU), MS (Columbia University) (USA)
 Ex-Consultant Dana Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard Med School
 Ex Consultant Columbia University Medical Center
 Director Clinical and Translational Oncology Research
 Director Precision Oncology
 Consultant Medical Oncologist
 Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Center, Mumbai

DR SEWANTI LIMAYE
 Consultant Medical Oncologist,
 Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Research Center, Mumbai

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Ethical Issues in Transplant

Dr Akash Shukla
 Professor and Head, Gastroenterology
 GSMC & KEM Hospital

Senior Consultant Hepatologist & Liver transplant physician
 Global Hospitals, Parel, Mumbai

DR AKASH SHUKLA
 Professor and Head, Gastroenterology,
 GSMC & KEMH, Mumbai

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Dr Vasantha Muthuswamy (MBBS, MD, OBGY)

Currently working as President - (The Forum for Ethics Review Committees in India (FERCI)
Former Senior Deputy DG , ICMR headquarters

- She has delivered more than **1000** lectures on bioethics, drug development, clinical trials, genomics, stem cell research, research methodology, GCP
- She is done research management for **25 years** at ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi
- She worked as co PI. in NIH funded project on Capacity building in ethics for India for **10** years since 2002
- She is associated with development of atleast **30** national and international guidelines
- She is part of training/ workshops in Bioethics as faculty in more than 35 countries
- She is part of SIDCER -FERCAP recognition programme in India and has made receive recognition for **17 IECs** in India

