

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Presentations by Dr Ruth Macklin, Mumbai, August 9, 2004

Dr Ruth Macklin, international editorial advisory board member of the *IJME*, spoke at two meetings organised by the Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) during her visit to Mumbai. At the department of medicine, she spoke on ethics of transplants and of intensive care. At the department of clinical pharmacology, BYL Nair Hospital, she spoke to ethics committee members of various hospitals on problems encountered during ethical review of research. Both presentations were followed by question-answer sessions.

Workshop on reproductive health, Pune, August 11, 2004

Members of FMES participated in a workshop on 'Reproductive health: integrating medicine, ethics and the law', organised by IPAS in coordination with the Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes.

Course in ethics and research, AMCHSS/SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram, August 16-20, 2004.

Members of FMES coordinated a five-day course in ethics in health research, for the Achutha Menon

Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram. This was in collaboration with the Fogarty Project of the University of California, San Francisco, USA. The course will be offered annually at the institute.

Annual general body meeting, Mumbai, September 5, 2004

The annual general body meeting of FMES was held on September 5, 2004 at the Jaslok Hospital. New members to the FMES were welcomed. The audited accounts for the previous financial year were passed. Details were presented of the journal's subscription and financial status. Reports were given on activities relating to the Human Organs Transplantation Act, the Maharashtra Medical Council and other campaigns.

It was resolved that the managing committee would be empowered to take action to explore the possibility of affiliations with other organisations to undertake further collaborative activities related to health ethics in Mumbai and elsewhere. Some suggested activities were: offering independent ethics review for research proposals, clinical ethics consultations, national conferences on ethics, a study circle and investigation of violations of human rights.

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE FIRST NATIONAL BIOETHICS CONFERENCE

The Indian Journal of Medical Ethics and the Forum for Medical Ethics Society plan to organise the First National Bioethics Conference in October or November 2005 in Mumbai.

The Conference will be organised in collaboration with individuals, institutions and professional bodies interested in advancing bioethics in India. We invite their suggestions for theme(s), support and sponsorship. We also call for volunteers to help organise the conference.

Further details, including a call for papers, will be published in the January-March 2005 issue of *IJME* as well as in other publications.

Those interested in participating may e-mail Amar Jesani at jesani@vsnl.com or write to *the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, 0-18 Bhavna Cooperative Housing Society, Veer Savarkar Road, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025. e-mail: fme@vsnl.net