

Forum for Medical Ethics Society



National Bioethics Conference

**Eighth National Bioethics Conference
Of
Forum for Medical Ethics Society
And
*Indian Journal of Medical Ethics***

**With
Centre for Ethics
Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) Mangalore India**

THEME

Crisis within a crisis: Scientific, ethical & humanitarian challenges of COVID-19

DATES

Pre-conference satellite meetings: between November 15, and January 15, 2020

Main Conference: Saturdays: November 28, 2020; December 5, 12 and 19, 2020

Timings: 1430 hours to 1900 hours

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT: Forum for Medical Ethics Society, Mumbai |

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Conference Secretariat Coordinator: Mahendra Shinde and Vijay Sawant

[8th NBC website](#)

8TH National Bioethics Conference Program

Pre-conference satellite meetings: between November 15, and December 15, 2020

DAY ONE | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2020 | 1430-1900 Hours

ACCESS, RIGHTS & JUSTICE IN A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Time	Program details
	Day 1 8 th NBC Session 1 Inaugural Plenary
1430-1515 (45 minutes)	<p>Co-Chair 1: Dr Vina Vasvani, Director, Centre for Ethics, YU Co-Chair 2: Dr Sunita Sheel Bandewar, General Secretary, Director, FMES</p> <p>Welcome note by organizers, Introduction to Organisers and the NBC platform, and Introduction to speakers</p> <p>Inaugural address: Dr Gagandeep Kang, Professor, The Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory, Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences, Christian Medical College, Vellore, TN, India [Ten months of the pandemic: The scientific and humanitarian challenges]</p>
1515-1615 [60 mins]	<p>Keynote address 1: Dr Sundar Sarukkai, Founder of the Barefoot Philosophers, Bangalore [The Moral crisis of public health] Keynote address 2: Adv Mihir Desai, Senior Counsel and Human Rights Lawyer, Mumbai, [Human rights and social justice in a pandemic]</p> <p>Discussion Closing remarks by Co-Chairs</p>
1630-1800	Day 1 8 th NBC Session 2 ACCESS TO CARE IN COVID: SHIFTING THE RULES OF THE GAME?
	<p>A defining feature of Covid-19 in India has been the hurdles faced by ordinary citizens in accessing care. The panel will engage with the following issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do citizens have a right to affordable care in a public health crisis? Given the limited capacity & acceptance of the public sector & the dominance of private medicine what are the mechanisms to ensure access given the cost barrier? Does the state have a right to safeguard access by curbing costs? How far can it go? Are price caps sustainable for the healthcare industry? Are constitutional rights involved in cost curbs but also in denial of care on cost grounds? Is there common ground between citizens, the state & the healthcare industry to collectively face an unprecedented & existential crisis? How is this realised? <p>Moderators: Dr Sanjay Nagral, Surgeon, Chairperson, FMES</p> <p>Panelists: Dr Sandeep Budhiraja, Group Medical Director, Max Healthcare & Senior Director – Institute of Internal Medicine, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, Dr Bhavin Jhankaria, Radiologist, Past President – Indian Radiology & Imaging Association Malini Aisola, All India Drug Action Network & Campaign for Dignified & Affordable Healthcare, and Dignified Care Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD) Dr S Prakash, MS, FRCS(Glasg), FAIS Managing Director STAR HEALTH INSURANCE - INDIA Sucheta Dalal, Business Journalist, Trustee, Moneylife Foundation, Author ‘The Scam’ Adv Talha Abdul Rahman, Advocate on record, Supreme Court Dr Vipul Aggarwal, Dy CEO, National Health Authority, Ayushman Bharat PMJAY</p>

8TH National Bioethics Conference Program

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DAY TWO | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020 | 1430-1900 Hours
THEME: CLINICAL ETHICS AND HEALTHCARE IN THE PANDEMIC

Time	Program details
	Day 2 8 th NBC Session 3 Plenary 2 CLINICAL ETHICS IN PANDEMICS
1430-1515 (45 minutes)	<p>Co-Chair 1: Dr Olinda Timms, Working Editor, <i>Indian Journal of Medical Ethics</i>; Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Health and Humanities at St. John's Research Institute, Bangalore, KA</p> <p>Co-Chair 2: Dr Ravi Vaswani, Professor, Yenepoya Medical College, Mangalore, KA</p>
1515-1610 [60 mins]	<p>Presentation of proceedings of the Day 1 by Dr Jagriti Gangopadhaya, Member, 8th NBC, Rapporteurs Committee</p> <p>Introduction to speakers</p> <p>Special Talk: Dr C S Pramesh, Director, Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai [Obligations of health care institutions: providing essential services to non COVID patients]</p> <p>Keynote address 1: Dr Pavitra Mohan, Co-founder and Secretary, Basic Healthcare Services & Director, Health Services, Aajeevika Bureau, Udaipur. [Ethics of managing syndemics in a high-migration, tribal community]</p> <p>Keynote address 2: Dr M Prakasamma, Executive Director, Academy for Nursing Studies and Women's Empowerment Research Studies (ANSWERS), Hyderabad. [Nursing practice during the pandemic: Ethical obligations, Practical Challenges, and Structural Barriers]</p> <p>Discussion Closing remarks by Co-Chairs</p>
SWITCH TO THE DAY 2 8 TH NBC SESSION 4	
1610-1745 [45 mins]	Day 2 8 th NBC Session 4 COVID in the ICU: Dilemmas & Challenges
1610-1745 (45 minutes)	<p>Moderator and Curator: Dr Shivakumar Iyer, Professor, Critical Care Medicine, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune, MH, India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of the public healthcare system: Has the horse bolted? • Strict isolation of COVID patients from families: Necessity of overkill? • Costly experimental drugs & interventions for the critically ill: Need for explicit consent? • Transferring costs of healthcare workers' protection to patients: Necessity or commerce? • Triage ICU beds based on prognosis and end of life care protocols: Is COVID a wake up call? • Right to healthcare workers to protection vs right of patients to treatment: Achieving a balance? <p>Dr R K Mani CEO, Intensiist, Batra Hospital Delhi, Past President, ISCCM</p> <p>Dr Navin Salins Prof. and HOD, Palliative care medicine, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Editor, Indian Journal of Palliative care</p> <p>Dr Archana Patil Director General of Health Services, Government of Maharashtra</p> <p>Dr Shruti Tandan Pardasani Intensivist, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai</p> <p>Inayat Kakar Campaign for Dignified & Affordable Care</p> <p>Dr Anant Bhan Bioethicist, Past president, International Association of Bioethics</p> <p>Dr Swati Rane CEO, SevaShakti Healthcare, Consultancy, Vice President, Clinical Nursing Research Society</p>
SWITCH TO THE DAY 2 8 TH NBC SESSION 5	
1745-1915: (60 mins)	Day 2 8 th NBC Session 5 EAR TO THE GROUND: CENTERSTAGING VOICES FROM THE MARGINS IN THE PANDEMIC

1745-1915 (60 Minutes)

- What are the specific vulnerabilities of these constituencies in general even prior to COVID-19 times?
- Why and how has it intensified their already existing crisis? Has COVID-19 hit them directly? How has it affected their lives and livelihoods?
- What has been the state's role in safeguarding safety and existence of vulnerable constituencies? What could have been done differently by the State?
- How have these constituencies sustained during Covid-19 times despite all the odds?
- 'Leave no one behind' is the center-piece of SDGs by 2030 Agenda. How has the COVID-19 impacted this goal in relation to some of the most marginalized constituencies?

Chair 1: [Dr Sulakashana Nandi](#), National Co-convenor, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan

Chair 2: [Dr Shamim Modi](#), Member, Managing Committee, FMES; Founding member, Shramik Adivasi Sanghatana Chair, Center for Law and Society, School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance, TISS, Mumbai

[Dr Tejaswi Sevekari](#), Founder and Director, Saheli Sangh, Pune [**Existential crisis faced by sex workers: Navigating through COVID-19 times**]

[Dr Aqsa Shaikh](#), Assistant Professor, Dept of Community Medicine, Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Jamia Hamdard, Delhi [**Rising up to the challenges of the pandemic: Perspectives from Transgender community**]

[Shri Gangaram Paikra](#), National Convener Right To Food Campaign, Surguja, Chhattisgarh. [**Adivasi communities in pandemic times: Further marginalization of those at margins**]

[Arundhati Dhuru](#), Convenor, National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM), Uttar Pradesh. [**Increased domestic violence during COVID-19 pandemic: Interplay of adversities of the pandemic and caste, class and religion**]

Discussion

Closing remarks and vote of thanks by Chairs

END OF THE DAY 2

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DAY THREE | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020 | 1430-1910 Hours
THEME: RESEARCH ETHICS IN THE COVID PANDEMIC

Time	Program details
	Day 3 8th NBC Session 6 Plenary 3 RESEARCH ETHICS IN THE COVID PANDEMICS
1430-1600 hrs (90 mins)	<p>Co-Chair 1: Dr Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice-Chairperson, University Grants Commission, New Delhi</p> <p>Co-Chair 2: Dr Amita Pitre, Member, Managing Committee, FMES; Founding Trustee, Vidhayak Trust; Lead Specialist, Gender Justice, Oxfam India</p>
1515-1610 [60 mins]	<p>Presentation of proceedings of the Day 3 by member of Rapporteurs committee</p> <p>Introduction to speakers</p> <p>Special Talk: Dr S P Kalantri, Director Professor of Medicine at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha, and Medical Superintendent of Kasturba Hospital, Wardha, [Politics of science in a pandemic: Impact on evidence-based medicine]</p> <p>Keynote address 1: Prof Laisram Ladu Singh, Vice Chancellor, Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, Assam [Ethics of epidemiological modelling research]</p> <p>Keynote address 2: Dr Cat Chatfield, Quality Improvement Editor, BMJ and Member, Steering Committee for the International Forum in Quality and Safety in Healthcare [Scientific integrity and publication ethics in pandemics]</p> <p>Discussion and Closing remarks by Co-Chairs</p>
	SWITCH TO THE DAY 3 8TH NBC SESSION 7
1615-1745 [90 mins]	Day 3 8th NBC Session 7 CRISIS OF ETHICS REVIEW AND RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
1615-1745 (90 mins)	<p>In the face of COVID-19, many stakeholders have been gathering data and conducting research to inform more robust responses to the pandemic. This has uncovered new challenges and conversations around ethical research methods researcher responsibilities as well as addressing respondent distress</p> <p>In this panel, we will bring together perspectives across social science and clinical research, to share the vantage point of researchers who are actively collecting and using data around COVID-19 as well as the perspectives of IRB/Ethics Committee members who are attempting to adapt and guide researchers around ethical research practices.</p> <p>Moderators: Suneeta Krishnan, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Priya Nanda, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Dr Mala Ramanathan, Professor, Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)</p> <p>Dr Prabha Chandra, Professor, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore (NIMHANS)</p> <p>Dr Sanjida Arora, Member Secretary-IEC, Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT)</p> <p>Dr Karima Khalil, Maternal and Child Health Consultant, Oxford Policy Management Limited</p> <p><i>Presented by the COVID-19 Research Network (CORE Net)</i></p>
	SWITCH TO THE DAY 3 8TH NBC SESSION 8
1745-1915: (90 mins)	Day 3 8th NBC Session 8 REGULATORY APPROVALS IN PANDEMIC: CLINICAL TRIAL APPROVALS & THE EMERGENCY AND MARKETING APPROVALS OF DRUGS AND VACCINES?

1745-1915 (90 mins)	<p>Chair 1: Dr Amar Jesani, Editor-in-chief, IJME Chair 2: Adv Veena Johari, Working Editor, IJME</p> <p>Dr Nandini Kumar, Former Deputy Director General Senior Grade, Indian Council of Medical Research [ICMR's COVID-19 Guidelines and fast-tracked approvals for drugs and other interventions]</p> <p>Dr Arun Bhatt, Consultant – Clinical Research & Drug Development [Scientific and Ethical Issues in COVID-19 clinical trials]</p> <p>Siddhartha Das, Postdoctoral Researcher, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium [Mishaps in drug regulatory processes: Insights into drugs approved by DCGI for COVID-19 treatment]</p> <p>Discussion and closing remarks by Chairs</p>
	END OF THE DAY 3

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DAY FOUR | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020 | 1430-1930 Hours

THEME: HEALTHCARE HUMANITIES

Time	Program details
	Day 4 8th NBC Session 9 Plenary 4 MENTAL HEALTH, HEALTH CARE HUMANITIES AND PANDEMICS
1430-1515 (45 minutes)	<p>Chair: Dr. K.V. Kishore Kumar, Director, The Banyan and The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health, Kovalam, Chennai, India</p> <p>Introduction to speakers</p> <p>Special Talk: Prof Dr Sunita Simon, Department of Psychiatry and Head, Department of Medical Ethics, St John's Medical College Hospital, Bangalore, India [Ethical mental healthcare in the pandemic]</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Closing remarks by Chairs</p>
	SWITCH TO THE DAY 4 8TH NBC SESSION 10
	Day 4 8th NBC Session 10 HEALTH CARE HUMANITIES AND COVID-19
1515-1645 (90 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The panel is intended to highlight efforts of the medical community to develop various forms of creative and inclusive approaches to aid patients, providers, caregivers, marginalized communities, individuals with disability and students, to cope with the pandemic.• It will locate existing health disparities in India and reflect on some of the innovative disability-inclusive approach adopted by different countries.• It will demonstrate how the Humanities Division at St John's worked with students to understand distresses of the pandemic.• Finally, it will elaborate how providers, patients, and caregivers used poetry and creative writing to navigate through challenges posed by the pandemic. <p>Chair 1: Dr Lopa Mehta, Advisor, Dr Manu V. L. Kothari Chair of Medical Humanities, Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai Chair 2: Dr Jagriti Gangopadhyay, Assistant Professor, Manipal Centre for Humanities, Manipal, Karnataka, India</p> <p>Dr Satendra Singh, Associate Professor, Dept of Physiology, and Founding Member, Health Humanities Group, University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, India [Recover better: Building towards inclusive & resilient post-COVID world]</p> <p>Dr Manjulika Vaz, Health and Humanities, St John's Research Institute, Koramangala, Bengaluru, India [Perspectives of the Pandemic from Medical Students: empathy, frustration and helplessness]</p> <p>Dr Upreet Dhaliwal, Former Professor, University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, India; and Editor in Chief, RHiME [Deconstructing the pandemic through poetry: fear, fortitude and fury]</p> <p>Discussion Closing remarks by Chairs</p>
	SWITCH TO THE DAY 4 8TH NBC SESSION 11
	Day 4 8th NBC Session 11 ETHICAL CHALLENGES FOR THE MEDIA REPORTING ON THE PANDEMIC
1645-1800 (75 minutes)	<p>Ethical challenges for the media reporting on the pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting responsibly against a deadline• When did the media get it wrong, and why?• The war metaphor and covid-19• Giving people a voice without putting reporters at risk• Conflicts of interest in covid-19 reporting <p>Moderators: Sandhya Srinivasan, Consulting Editor, <i>Indian Journal of Medical Ethics</i> Padma Priya, Co-founder and editor of Suno India</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Kavitha Iyer, Freelance journalist, Mumbai Rema Nagarajan, Editor-Research, The Times of India, Delhi. Saradha, Principal Correspondent, TV 18, Tamil Nadu Tabassum Barnagarwalla, Senior Correspondent, The Indian Express Newspaper, Mumbai</p> <p>Discussion Closing remarks by Moderator</p>
	SWITCH TO THE DAY 4 8TH NBC SESSION 12

	<p>Day 4 8th NBC Session 12 VELEDICTORY</p> <p>REIMAGINING THE POST PANDEMIC WORLD: STEERING TOWARDS JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABILIT</p>
<p>1800-1930 (90 minutes)</p>	<p>Chair 1: Dr K Sujatha Rao, Former Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India</p> <p>Chair 2: Prof Vivekanand Jha, President, International Society of Nephrology; and Executive Director, The George Institute for Global Health, India</p> <p>Conference reporting by Rapporteurs Committee</p> <p>Valedictory Address 1: Prof Jayaprakash Muliyil, Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee, National Institute of Epidemiology and Former Principal, Christian Medical College, Vellore [Learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic]</p> <p>Valedictory address 2: P Sainath, Journalist and Magsaysay Awardee [Is there a vaccine for inequity?]</p> <p>Closing remarks Chairs Closing remarks Vote of thanks by the 8th NBC Organisers</p>
	<p>END OF THE MAIN CONFERENCE</p>
	<p>POST-CONGRESS WEBINARS AND SATELLITE MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JAN 15, 2020</p>