

Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for

BIOETHICS



PROGRESS REPORT 2017–2018

Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Bioethics: progress report 2017-2018

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COLLABORATING CENTRES

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The Asian Institute of Bioethics and Health Law, Department of Medical Law and Ethics, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea	AIBHL	Western Pacific	So Yoon Kim

BACKGROUND

The Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Bioethics (hereafter referred to as the "Network") was established in 2009 to "support the WHO-HQ Global Health Ethics Unit (Geneva) to implement its mandated work in the field of ethics and health, including:

- "articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options' (WHO core function);
- advancing ethics- and rights-based approaches to health promoted within WHO and at national and global levels; and
- increasing capacity to assess and act upon ethical issues in public health at country, regional and global levels and within the Organization."¹

The Network augments the contributions of individual WHO collaborating centres for bioethics by fostering "connections and synergies ... to achieve enhanced results, to facilitate resource mobilization, and to strengthen (institutional) capacity, in particular at regional level" with respect to public health ethics, research ethics, and clinical ethics.¹

As of December 2018, the Network comprised of 11 WHO collaborating centres in five regions.

During the reporting period, the members of the Network collaborated multilaterally on a number of major projects initiated by the WHO Health Ethics and Governance team (HEG). In the past years, these collaborative projects have focused on public health surveillance, infectious disease outbreak, vector-borne diseases and big data.

Many additional projects were undertaken by single institutions at the request of HEG.

This report of activities covers both Network projects as well as individual collaborations between collaborating centres and HEG.

¹ Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Bioethics Terms of Reference (May 2010). Geneva: World Health Organization. Available at:

www.who.int/ethics/partnerships/global_network_terms_of_r eference.pdf



Image 1: Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Bioethics

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

NEW MEMBERS

Over the past year, one new collaborating centre for bioethics was added to the Network:

 The Asian Institute of Bioethics and Health Law (AIBHL), Seoul, was designated on 20 February 2018.

This brings the total number of member institutions in the Network to 11.

The Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture (CBEC), Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, Karachi, Pakistan was designated a collaborating centre in 2017. The inaugural ceremony for the designation of the centre was held on 25 April 2018 in Karachi.

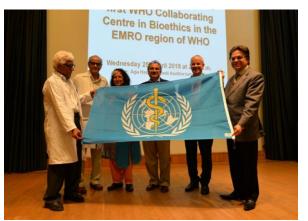


Image 2: Commemoration ceremony of CBEC's designation as a collaborating centre, 25 April 2018

Topics discussed included transparency in clinical research and data sharing, managing epidemic outbreaks, vector-borne diseases, big data and Al, ageing, antimicrobial resistance, and biobanking.

The 10th annual meeting is scheduled for 8 December 2018, Bangalore. This coincides with the 14th IAB World Congress of Bioethics.

OTHER MEETINGS

UM, JCB, FLACSO, NUS and HEG collaborated in developing a panel session for the forthcoming 14th World Congress of Bioethics in Bengaluru, India. The theme of the congress is 'Health for all in an unequal world: Obligations of global bioethics'.

The 13th International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation was hosted by NUS from the 24–27 May 2017. This was attended by several network members.

NUS (Prof Roy Joseph) served as an expert consultant at the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of National Ethics/Bioethics Committees, which was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 24–25 October 2017.

Dr Johann Roduit (IBME) presented his research 'Digitalization of Homo Sapiens – Ethical Reflections' at a WHO lunchtime seminar in April 2018.

CAS-UDD organized a meeting of the five Chilean

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