



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

FACULTY OF MEDICINE UiTM

MED BULL

NO.4/2023



eISSN 2805-4628



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UICCE 2023: ADVANCING CLINICAL ETHICS IN MALAYSIAN HEALTHCARE

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The Department of Medical Ethics and Law at UiTM is delighted to present the report on the inaugural UiTM International Conference on Clinical Ethics (UICCE) 2023.

The UICCE 2023 was designed with a range of key objectives in mind. Its primary aim was to introduce participants to the diverse spectrum of clinical ethical dilemmas encountered in various medical specialties while providing them with a solid foundational understanding of clinical ethical theories and their practical applications. Additionally, the conference served as a platform for in-depth discussions on the challenges faced by healthcare practitioners in Malaysia, taking into account the latest research findings. A pivotal objective was to ignite interest among medical students and conference participants, encouraging their active engagement and participation in the

dynamic field of clinical ethics. By engaging medical students, we hope to foster a culture of awareness and appreciation for sound medical practices, contributing to our nation's ongoing evolution of healthcare.

The keynote address, delivered by Prof. Dr. Julian Savulescu, focused on "The Evolution of Patient Autonomy in Clinical Practice." This was followed by a comprehensive examination of the "Timeline of Clinical Ethics," accompanied by an exploration of the technicalities and practicalities of the Clinical Ethics Committee and its relevance within the Malaysian context. A lunch talk, generously sponsored by the Medical Protection Society Ltd., centered on "Ethical Issues in Psychiatry."

The afternoon session of Day 1 brought a series of oral presentations covering a broad spectrum of clinical ethics, including ethics in public hospital consultations, challenges faced by parents, ethical considerations involving inmates, and regulatory ethics within private healthcare facilities and services. The day concluded with an exploration of ethics at the end of life, as we discussed "Common Ethical Dilemmas in Palliative Care," followed by a lecture on "Ethical Issues related to Advance Directives in Malaysia."

The second day ushered in insightful discussions, with A/Prof Dr Michael Dunn delivering a keynote lecture on "Utilizing Tools in Clinical Ethics." This was followed by valuable insights from senior clinicians who explored critical care ethics, addressing issues like resource allocation and triage in the ICU, as well as ethical considerations in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Two additional oral presentations delved into nursing ethics and the ethical challenges encountered during triage. The conference then focused on ethical issues in Obstetrics and Gynaecology care, delving into ethical issues associated with maternal-fetal medicine and conscientious objection in clinical practice. Following this was a lunch talk on case studies on Medicolegal and Ethical Perspectives of Care in the ITU, again generously sponsored by MPS.

We then had a lecture on Ethical Issues Related to Patients with HIV and a talk on Overcoming Ableism and Discrimination in Clinical Practice, which was certainly an eye-opener. The conference reached its zenith with a panel discussion where experts deliberated on "The Future of Clinical Ethics in Malaysia." This significant session underscored the importance of collaborative efforts and ethical considerations in the ever-evolving healthcare landscape.

As the UICCE 2023 comes to a close, we hope that it has successfully accomplished its mission of providing a valuable platform for addressing pressing ethical issues in Malaysian clinical practice. We anticipate that the UICCE has ignited interest, awareness, and appreciation for clinical ethics, ensuring that the next generation of physicians will carry the torch of ethical medical practices.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants, speakers, and sponsors for their invaluable contributions to the success of the UICCE 2023. With renewed enthusiasm, we eagerly anticipate the continued growth and development of clinical ethics in Malaysia.