

Clinical Ethics Consultation: First International Assessment Summit

**Cleveland Renaissance Hotel
Cleveland, Ohio, USA
April 4-6, 2003**

The growth of ethics committees and formal ethics consultation services has accelerated in North America and has spread to Europe and other parts of the world during the last two decades. Enthusiasm for ethics consultation is high. Along with this proliferation a set of controversies about the credentialing of ethics consultants has emerged. There is remarkably little data about the structure and types of services provided, training and education, or support for ethics consultation services and little consensus about best processes or practices.

Clinical Ethics Consultation: First International Assessment Summit is being organized to address these important developments and to provide a forum for practitioners and other interested parties to discuss problems involved in ethics consultation and to stimulate quality improvement efforts in the field.

This conference is co-organized by the Department of Bioethics at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Institut für Angewandte Ethik und Medizinethik at the University of Basel with co-sponsorship by national and international professional bioethics societies: American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Australasian Bioethics Society (pending), Canadian Bioethics Society, European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare, European Association of Centres of Medical Ethics, and Bioethics Education Network, International Association of Bioethics Education Network. An international advisory/scientific committee has been appointed to assure that the program broadly includes international concerns and is of the highest quality. A call for abstracts (attached) has been distributed through the sponsoring organizations and has been sent to wider mailing lists of bioethicists and clinical ethics consultants by regional consortia of ethics committees.

The organizers of this meeting envision a series of international meetings designed to provide a professional focus for clinical ethics work, to assure the widest and most efficient dispersal of best practices, and to discuss emerging issues and problems affecting this important mechanism for protecting the rights of patients. Discussions are currently underway for a second meeting to be held in Europe, possibly in Basel, Switzerland in 2004.

Scientific Committee
Ethics Consultation: First International Assessment Conference
April 4-6, 2003 Cleveland, Ohio

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