



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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Abstract Submission Form – Major Papers

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Proposed title of paper: Clinical Ethics - Art and Science

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Clinical ethics was born of a mixed marriage. On the one side, clinical care, life may or may not be long but need is urgent, and dichotomous outcomes (like mortality) imminent. On the other, ethical reflection, conflicts of autonomy, obligation and responsibility lent themselves neither to snap judgments nor to yes-no decisions. In the second half of the 20th century, these two traditions, at first cohabiting, gradually legitimized their union. The outcome was clinical ethics. In the second decade of a new century, healthcare is confronting demands for objective guidelines and measurable accountability. It is less easy to leave unacknowledged the mixed parentage of clinical ethics. The ensuing tensions must be managed. The contrasting roles of instruction, inspiration, and exhortation and of a systems approach, with definable goals, objectives, and assessment must be acknowledged, and resolved. In this presentation, the relationship between the directive and the constructionist traditions in clinical ethics will be presented, as well as their implications for relationships to authority structures, the consultant's role, and the fields of knowledge the consultant examines. Participants will learn:

how contrasting are the two traditions from which clinical ethics arose

how these contrasting traditions create challenges in contemporary healthcare;

how they can be resolved.

What significant contribution to the field of clinical ethics consultation does this presentation make?
(250 words)

This presentation will clarify tensions within clinical ethics consultation: the often-confusing relationships of clinical ethics consultation to existing power structures (within and outside healthcare

institutions); the ways that consultants use their role; the domains of knowledge they draw on; and the corresponding actions that can be taken.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

A shorter version of this presentation was given at the ICCEC Congress in Taiwan in March 09.

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your major paper?

Yes No