



## 6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

[www.ethics2010.org](http://www.ethics2010.org)



---

### Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at [ethics@providence.org](mailto:ethics@providence.org) with any questions.

Name: Yen-Yuan Chen

Title/Degree: M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Institution: Department of Social Medicine, National Taiwan University College of Medicine

Country: Taiwan

Email: chenyenyuan@ntu.edu.tw

Phone including country code (<http://www.countrycallingcodes.com>): 886-932159686

---

Proposed title of paper: Does Western Ethics Consultation Work in East Asian Medical Encounters?

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Ethics consultation has been introduced to clinical medicine to help healthcare professionals and patients/family members resolve ethical conflicts in North America for decades. Due to the increasing number of ethical dilemmas and their complexity, more and more hospital authorities, healthcare professionals, and bioethicists in East Asia start to set up ethics consultation to help resolve ethical conflicts. Studies reported by La Puma and colleagues in 1988 and 1992 both showed that about 80% of clinical ethical conflicts are decision-making issues, e.g. decision-making regarding withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatments and interventions. As proposed by several respected East Asian scholars, Western clinical decision-making always demands self-determination, upholding the importance of individual independence, whereas clinical decision-making in East Asia usually requires family-determination, promoting the value of harmonious dependence. As such, before Western ethics consultation is applied to resolve ethical conflicts in East Asia, this service inevitably needs to convince different stakeholders that Western ethics consultation is also appropriate and feasible to resolve ethical conflicts in East Asian medical encounters, which usually value family-determination rather than self-determination. Arguments to support the appropriateness of using Western ethics consultation to help healthcare professionals and patients/family members resolve the ethical conflicts arising from East Asian medical encounters will be presented during the 30-minute time slot. The objectives of this presentation are to understand the difference between self-determination and family-determination, to understand how ethics consultation is carried out in Western medical encounters, and to justify the appropriateness of applying Western ethics consultation to East Asian medical encounters.

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

This paper is never published before.

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

Yes     No