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## Editorial: Ethical Boundaries

Setting boundaries is a theme of the papers in this issue of the journal. In a growing number of countries circuses are no longer using live animals because of ethical concerns that the use of live animals harms them, and this theme is explored by Oana Iftime. Entertainment is a major business, but there are decreasing opportunities for children to see circuses. Many circus operators have found that without live animals fewer people come.

In a related case, SeaWorld in San Diego, California, has found that in the first year after cancellation of the Orca (killer whale) show the number of visitors fell by a quarter. Clearly the bioethical choice was not to keep the orcas in captivity, and to instead encourage people to go whale watching on boats in the ocean (if done sensitively). Many years ago human freak shows were attractions, and even Siamese twins were made famous

(and could generate an income) by being entertainers. Exploitation however is an easy boundary to cross, and setting boundaries and standards lessened the opportunity for blatant exploitation of the vulnerable that used to occur.

Tonmoy Biswas and Macer explore the attitudes of medical students in Bangladesh towards what are acceptable gifts from the representatives of pharmaceutical companies. This issue is of concern all around the world, but the results indicate that it is one which needs to be better discussed in medical ethics education. There are many avenues for education, but interestingly the students whose parents were physicians seemed to be more sensitive to the question, at least in their attitudes expressed in the survey. The paper includes an analysis of correlations with gender, academic year, exposure to pharmaceutical reps, and others factor in a lot of tables. International comparisons are made, and further research on this topic will be useful. It will be particularly interesting to see examples of correlation of attitude with specific teaching materials in the curriculum.

Saeideh Sayari et al. call for a broader examination of religious ethical principles in Muslim countries that impose very restrictive regulations on abortion. A broader concept of health of the mother will be useful for ethical judgment in many moral dilemmas. Abortion is clearly a contentious issue, but we need to consider the broader goals of love of life, and the health of the family.

Carol Rizkalla reviews some of the dilemmas of human germ-line editing. As someone who wrote about these issues in the 1990s, we can see that despite some moratoriums on germ-line genetic interventions, as some medical interventions such as mitochondrial donation have become safe, we have to reconsider the boundaries.

One of the concerns of the therapy-enhancement "divide" is boundaries. Should we simply allow law to determine what is ethical? How much do these boundaries change over time and place? Should we legislate and punish violators of some boundary between the legal and illegal? These are central questions of bioethics that allow us to move closer to promoting a "good-life" for all moral agents. Education is clearly critical for students, legislators, and all citizens to explore the underlying moral values.

- Darryl Macer

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For forthcoming conferences see:  
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**Bioethics, Law, and Society: Joint AUSN, Center for Ethics of Science and Technology, and Eubios Ethics Institute Conference** 24-26 June 2017 at the International Peace Park@kaeng Krachan, and Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. *Organizers: Center for Ethics of Science and Technology, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, American University of Sovereign Nations (AUSN), USA, the International Peace and Development Ethics Centre, and Eubios Ethics Institute.*

**Social Work, Human Security, Ethics and Human Ability**, 1 July 2017, UKM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *Organizers: UKM; American University of Sovereign Nations (AUSN), USA, Asia-Pacific Forum on Ethics.*

**Intensive courses on research ethics and bioethics in the Philippines:**

**Catanduanes State University, Virac, 6 July 2017**

**Bicol University, Legapzi, 7-8 July 2017**

**University of San Jose-Recoletos, Cebu, 10-12 July**

**Visions of Social and Ethical Change in ASEAN, and Beyond**, 17 July 2017 (9:00-17:00) Chulalongkorn University,

Bangkok, Thailand. *Organizers: Center for Ethics of Science and Technology, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, American University of Sovereign Nations (AUSN), USA, Youth's UNESCO Club, and Eubios Ethics Institute.*

**Joint AUSN-Bangladesh Society of Bioethics Intensive Bioethics Training Course**, 15-16 July 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**International Bioethics Roundtable: Bioethics Across and Between Continents and Peoples for the Betterment of All AUSN**, Arizona, USA, 2-5 September 2017

**Eighteenth Asian Bioethics Conference: The Future of Bioethics and Healthcare (ABC18)**, 25-28 October 2017 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, followed by a **Joint AUSN-Gangneung-Wonju National University Intensive Bioethics Workshop (ABA Satellite meeting)** 29-30 October 2017 in Gangneung, Korea.

**The Eleventh Kumamoto University International Bioethics Roundtable: Philosophy and practice of bioethics across and between cultures, 18-19 November 2017, Kumamoto University, Japan.**

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<b>Attitudes to Genetic Engineering: Japanese and International Comparisons (Bilingual)</b> by Darryl Macer, May 1992 330pp.	NZ\$40
<b>Human Genome Research &amp; Society</b> Eds: Norio Fujiki & Darryl R.J. Macer July 1992 ISBN 0-908897-03-0 (English), 230pp. ISBN 0-908897-04-9 (Japanese), 240pp.	NZ\$40
<b>Intractable Neurological Disorders, Human Genome Research and Society</b> Eds: N. Fujiki & D. Macer Feb. 1994 ISBN 0-908897-06-5 (English), 320pp. ISBN 0-908897-07-3 (Japanese), 340pp.	NZ\$40
<b>Bioethics for the People by the People</b> by Darryl Macer, ... May 1994 ISBN 0-908897-05-7, 460pp.	NZ\$50
<b>Bioethics in High Schools in Australia, Japan and New Zealand</b> , by D. Macer, Y. Asada, M. Tsuzuki, S. Akiyama, & N.Y. Macer March 1996, ISBN 0-908897-08-1, 200pp.(A4)	NZ\$50
<b>Protection of the Human Genome and Scientific Responsibility</b> (English and Japanese Bilingual) Editors: Michio Okamoto, Norio Fujiki & D.R.J. Macer, April 1996, ISBN 0-908897-09-X, 210pp.	NZ\$40
<b>Bioethics in India</b> Eds: Jayapaul Azariah, Hilda Azariah & Darryl R.J. Macer June 1998 ISBN 0-908897-10-3, (includes 115 papers) 403 pp. (Printed in India)	NZ\$60
<b>Bioethics is Love of Life: An alternative textbook</b> by Darryl Macer, July 1998 ISBN 0-908897-13-8, 152pp. (Note 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition published on iTunes Store as an iBook in 2015)	NZ\$40
<b>Bioethics in Asia</b> Eds: Norio Fujiki & Darryl R.J. Macer, (includes 118 papers from Nov.1997 conferences, ABC'97 Kobe and Fukui Satellite) June 1998 ISBN 0-908897-12-X, 478 pp. October 1999 ISBN 0-908897-14-6 (Japanese), 320pp.	NZ\$50
<b>Ethical Challenges as we approach the end of the Human Genome Project</b> Editor: Darryl Macer, April 2000 ISBN 0-908897-15-4, 124pp.	NZ\$40
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