

Moving Forward on New Themes

In this issue of the Journal of Ethics in Mental Health (JEMH) you will witness a continuing commitment to a diversity of articles that brings new ethical mental health issues to the forefront and that adds important international perspectives. Throughout, the voices of those who have experienced mental health challenges, and the voices of those who work on the frontlines as service providers or in supportive roles to those receiving treatment, are a key feature. Balanced with peer-reviewed academic and research oriented articles, this reinforces the values that are fundamental to the Journal of Ethics in Mental Health, now and in the future. We encourage prospective authors to submit their experiences in the form of an article, case report or analysis. Whether a letter to the editor or a comment on an article or case, we welcome debate and dialogue on issues published in the Journal. In our view, this promotes and fosters a healthy presentation of critical ethical issues in mental health in an international context.

Although JEMH is a relatively young journal, we are confident that we have introduced a new and innovative forum to the mental health field, a forum that will impact practice and education and bring ethical issues into clear focus. In this the fourth issue of JEMH, it is my pleasure to report on other developments related to the Journal of Ethics in Mental Health.

First, on behalf of the Editorial Committee of the Journal of Ethics in Mental Health I am very pleased to announce the “Bernard Dickens Student Award for Writing in Mental Health Ethics” to be awarded each year to a deserving student whose article demonstrates qualities of writing exemplifying the focus of the Journal. The recipient of this first award is Lindsay Webb who has written “Above These Badlands: Delusions, Autonomy and Individual Beliefs in Right to Refuse Psychotropic Medication Cases”, published in this issue.

Second, I am also pleased to announce that an upcoming theme for the April 2009 issue of the Journal will be ethical issues and the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Richard Warner, Professor of Psychiatry and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado will be the guest editor. The special issue will examine key ethical issues that are raised by the role, structure and business practices of the pharmaceutical industry and will identify strategies that speak to the challenges facing mental health practitioners, policy makers, consumers and families. Expect further details in our next issue in November.

Third, we believe it is important to bring individuals and groups interested in mental health ethical issues together to discuss experiences and focus on education and training pertaining mental health ethics. In this regard, JEMH has sponsored two conferences and is planning another. Details of the conference, to be held this year, will be announced in the near future. As well, JEMH actively promotes the dissemination of articles published in JEMH. At the present time, JEMH is indexed in: Philosophers’ Index; CINAHL; and Sociological Abstracts. We anticipate that this list will expand in the near future with the addition of MedLine and others.

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