



GFBR-SECRETARIAT NEWSLETTER

2007 - No 2

LOOKING BACK AT THE 8TH GLOBAL FORUM ON BIOETHICS IN RESEARCH

With the completion of the Eighth Global Forum on Bioethics in Research in Lithuania in June, it is a good time to reflect on the results and achievements of the meeting. The GFBR8 brought together 130 participants from around the world to discuss the main obstacles and challenges to creating and fostering a research ethics infrastructure in the developing world and transition societies. Many positive responses were received from participants. On behalf of the organizers, we would like to thank all those who participated in and supported the GFBR8.



It was a great pleasure to host the Forum. We look forward to working closely with our colleagues in New Zealand for the organisation of the 9th Forum, planned for Auckland.

On behalf of the organisers,
Eugenijus Gefenas and Indra Giraite

HIGHLIGHTS

FORUM 8: Fostering Research Ethics Infrastructure in the Developing World and Transition Societies

The GFBR Secretariat is compiling the report of the 8th Global Forum meeting, which will be circulated in the coming weeks. A number of key findings are emerging:

- ❖ Issues faced by research ethics committees can no longer be divided into those of the 'developed' and 'developing' worlds. The specific needs of transition societies should also be considered.
- ❖ Research Ethics Committees need to evolve from being *established* to being *optimized* in their work.
- ❖ More precise data on research ethics capacity is needed for countries to determine areas that need development.
- ❖ Communication needs to be improved - among Research Ethics Committees and between all stakeholders of research in society.
- ❖ At the same time, all countries share some common issues, such as: the need for review capacity in specific areas (e.g. mental health research).

Browse the PowerPoint presentations from the meeting at: http://www.gfbronline.com/Eighth_Program.htm

UPDATES

FORUM 7 REPORT:

The research report of the 7th Global Forum on Bioethics is now ready. It is jointly authored by Arshi Farooqui and Zulfiqar A Bhutta, of Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. With the support from Joseph Millum, Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA.

Please click on: http://www.gfbronline.com/seventh_report.htm

FORUM 9 DATES:

The date of the 9th Global Forum on Bioethics in Research has been changed to **3-5 December 2008**. This allows time for the call for applications to be circulated as widely as possible.

The preference of the New Zealand partners is to hold the forum in the summer (December in the southern hemisphere!). The call for applications will be circulated shortly. If you have queries about the meeting, please contact: GFBR9@hrc.govt.nz

Participants at GFBR8 expressed interest in the Bioethics Conference, *Well-being and Technology*, at University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, on 1-3 February 2008. For information on this conference, please contact: conference.bioethics@otago.ac.nz



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ACTIVITIES

❖ GLOBAL MINISTERIAL FORUM ON RESEARCH FOR HEALTH BAMAKO, MALI, 17-20 NOVEMBER 2008

It was agreed at the 8th GFBR meeting in Lithuania that the key interested partners in health research ethics should 'put their heads together' to propose ways of putting research ethics on the Agenda of the Bamako meeting. In August, a follow-up meeting was held in Geneva with Abha Saxena (WHO), Carel Ijsselmuiden (COHRED), Jan Helge Solbakk (UNESCO) and Marie-Charlotte Bouésseau (WHO). The group agreed to compile a background document presenting the work activities that each institution (WHO/UNESCO/COHRED) is doing in the field of health research ethics, and provide evidence to document the activities described.

❖ CHINESE DELEGATES VISIT GFBR-SECRETARIAT

A delegation of Chinese ethics and health professionals of The Swiss Bioethics Summer Academy 2007 visited GFBR and COHRED in early September. Sandra Realpe (GFBR) and Michael Devlin (COHRED) have presentations to the group.

Sandra presented an overview of the Forum's current activities and led a discussion with the group, with Chinese translation by Xiuqin Wang. During the meeting, Chinese delegates expressed interest in attending GFBR9 in New Zealand, and hope to keep more closed contact with GFBR with Xiuqin as the bridge.



Professor Yu Xiucheng former director of the Medical Science, Technology and Education Department in the Ministry of Health from the P.R China and Sandra

FAREWELL, DANNY, GOOD LUCK!

Between April and July this year, Danny Edward worked as an intern in the Ethics and Health unit of the World Health Organization, at the same time he assisted the Secretariat of the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research. His main achievements were doing desk researching and recording the history of the GFBR, designing and helping produce a newsletter, and helping compile the report of GFBR8 in Vilnius after that meeting.

Danny's time in Geneva is completed and he has returned London to finish his Master of Bioethics degree at Queen Mary's College in London, under the supervision of Dr. Richard Ashcroft. Danny considered attending GFBR8 an intellectually stimulating experience and he hopes to attend the GFBR9 in his homeland of New Zealand!

SWISS BIOETHICS SUMMER ACADEMY 2007

The Swiss Bioethics Summer Academy 2007 was organized in August and mid September on behalf of the World Health Organization by the Unit for Ethics in the Bioscience, University of Basel. This project was led by Professor Christoph Rehmann-Sutter, president of the Swiss National Advisory Commission on Biomedical Ethics (NEK-CNE). This four-week Summer Academy provided insight into cases, issues, topics, methods and theories in bioethics, with a special focus on the diverse bioethical research practices in Europe. Participants of this exchange were eleven Chinese Fellows.

Xiuqin attended the meeting and supported the Chinese visitors with Chinese-English translation during this part of their visit.

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