



## ICS Ethics Committee Teleconference 6/28/19 - Minutes

**Attendees:** Nina Davis (Chair), Heidi Moosdorff, Martha Spencer, Tamara Dickinson, Anne Suskind (incoming member), Antonella Giannantoni (incoming member), Kimberley Leblanc (incoming member)

1. Welcome to new members:

Antonella, Giannantoni Urologist in Sienna, Italy; primary interest neurourology/functional urology

Kimberly LeBlanc, PhD (Allied Health) Ottawa, Canada; advance practice nurse specialist in wound, ostomy and continence

Anne Suskind, San Francisco (US), urologist and scientist with subspecialty in female pelvic medicine; research focus = frailty in older adults

2. ND is unable to attend the upcoming meeting in Sweden due to family commitments, so will need a surrogate to carry out her duties at the meeting. She will prepare all of the relevant materials. A volunteer was requested, but no offers were forthcoming. **This will be revisited via the EC Forum**

MS also mentions that she will be unable to attend.

3. The group reviewed the 2 abstracts submitted in the ethics category. Both were felt to have suitable subject matter for study, but the actual research question(s), rationale and outcomes to be assessed were unclear. In short, it was felt that these were poorly executed studies. As a result, it was unanimously agreed that neither merited an award. Therefore **no Ethics Award will be presented this year. ND to notify Dr. Stewart, Scientific Committee Chair.**

**A decision will also need to be made at the EC meeting in Sweden as to whether or not the Ethics Award is to continue to be offered.**

4. Needs Assessment was carried out earlier this year – “Five Questions in Five Minutes”. 125 members responded. PDF summaries of the answers were prepared and reviewed in general terms. **The data will need to be placed on the forum** for further discussion and to be used as a guide to future programs.

The five questions were as follows (Most were 2-part questions. A yes or no question and an explanation of the answer including recommendations.)

1. *Do you believe the Ethics Committee is of value to the ICS? Briefly explain your answer.*
2. *Do you know of other organisations that have an Ethics Committee? If so, please name the organisation and the Ethics Committee’s activities for that organisation.*
3. *Have you attended any programmes sponsored by the ICS Ethics Committee? If so, how many?*
4. *If you have attended any programmes conducted by the ICS Ethics Committee, did you benefit from the programmes? Please briefly explain why you did or did not benefit.*
5. *What type of programmes, activities or content should the Ethics Committee be providing to best serve the needs of the ICS membership?*



There was insufficient time before the meeting for dissemination and digestion of the results, so ND summarised some of the topics that were suggested for future programmes:

- the ethics of adopting medications or devices not adequately tested or proven to be effective or safe. [Thought for a programme, “From Snake Oil to Mesh-Ethical Discussion of Physician Adoption of New Medications and Technologies”]
- Transgender issues
- Research Ethics
- Basic course on biomedical ethics

The results have been converted to PDF form for ease of review and **will be posted on the forum** shortly. **A review by members is requested in preparation for in-depth discussion at the meeting in Goteborg.**

5. Regarding activities for this year, a video on frailty assessment prior to surgery was written and filmed by ND in Bristol in November. In conjunction with this, MS expressed a desire to proceed with a **white paper on frailty in the elderly** which was previously put forward. There was unanimous enthusiasm for this proposal. Given that oncoming member, AS, is both our scientific member and a geriatric urologist, she will help lead this effort. She proposed that there be further **teleconferences for planning, and ND suggested that these start soon (after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday) so that a proposal can be put forth to the trustees, etc. for approval at or before the Annual Meeting. MS pointed out that the potential subject matter is broad, so she and AS will work on determining the areas upon which to focus the white paper. They will then solicit assistance from the EC members.**

6. New Business. Oncoming member, AG, asked if the EC would be interested in reviewing a recent programme she presented at her facility relating to pain as a potential basis for a future programme. **AG was encouraged to send the PowerPoint, etc. to ND for inclusion in the forum and for discussion at the Goteborg meeting.**

NOTE: Action items are bolded.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Moosdorff

Nina Davis



White paper not started. Martha will make an outline for a whitepaper. We will try to arrange a meeting before the end of July.

Nothing from the ethics committee in Sweden because nobody offered.

Antonella...**didn't hear it very well**. Antonella will present XX to the committee in Sweden. Send presentation or summary.