Guest Editors’ Editorial

On behalf of the International Society for Clinical Bioethics (ISCB) we thank the Editorial Board of Jahr for this special part dedicated to the XV Annual Conference held in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain on September 20 and 21, 2018, and organized in conjunction with the Borja Institute of Bioethics-Ramon Llull University, the Institut de Recerca Sant Joan de Déu and the Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona Children’s Hospital.

Annual meetings of ISCB are dedicated to various bioethical topics which bring ethical questions in everyday life and practice. Our meetings bring together different professionals and scientists to discuss and try to solve various bioethical dilemmas from different perspectives. The ISCB dedicated their deliberation to the children last year. Unfortunately, we witness that children in 21st century are victims of transition, migration and other social circumstances in the whole world. Because of that, we try to bring the issue of violated children rights to the table of various professionals and scientists.

The conference topic was Bioethics and Pediatrics: Future Development and Challenges, and as a result of the conference the Barcelona Declaration for Protection of Children’s Dignity and Rights in the Context of New Global Challenges and Increased Vulnerabilities was approved, translated into different languages, and finally published in the last issue of Jahr (2018, 9/2), with a Scientific Meeting Review lead by Dr Farida Nezhmetdinova, President of the International Society for Clinical Bioethics.

Some of the topics addressed in the plenary and parallel sessions at the XV Annual Conference were issues related to the bios and the increased responsibility, ethics in pediatrics, informed consent and decision-making for children in health care and clinical research, or issues appearing in migrations, and the rights and protection of internally displaced children.

This special issue offers a total of four preliminary communications and one review article as a result of selected and peerreviewed papers presented at the XV Annual Conference.

The contribution of Julija Erhardt and Ivana Zagorac opens the special issue with their work entitled “Neuroenhancement and Vulnerability in Adolescence”. The authors address whether adolescents who would wish to use neuroenhancement procedures should be considered as vulnerable group and if so on what grounds.
Michael Cheng-tek Tai’s contribution is his reflection on “Children’s Autonomy in Medical Decision-Making”: “as children get older their individual views deserve our attention even though they are still regarded as children for being under the legal adulthood”. The third contribution is a full text of the plenary session presented by Hans-Martin Sass entitled “Bios and Ethics in Our Complex Adaptable Systems. Responsibilities towards our Children and Our Globe”, calling for a Bioethical Imperative for the protection of the complex and interdependent bios in nature and agriculture and in our human, social, economic, cultural, and political bodies for the benefit of our children and ourselves. Lastly, Roser Porta and her team at the Hospital Quiron Dexeus, and the Hospital Teknon from Barcelona present results of their observational research entitled “Is the Privacy of Information Protected in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit?”. Their work demonstrates that patient personal data in Intensive Care Units (ICU) is often exposed due to ICU architectural design, and socio-cultural issues. This special issue closes with a review article of Elena Grebenschchikova entitled “Digital Medicine: Bioethical Assessment of Challenges and Opportunities” focused on mHealth technologies, artificial intelligence, and their impact on patient autonomy.

The International Society for Clinical Bioethics hopes that this special issue will contribute to the protection of children’s dignity and rights in the new bios with global challenges and increased vulnerabilities.

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