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The opinions of hospitalized patients about exposed discrimination based on hospitals or health personnel

Jan 2015

 Oya Ögenler

 Gulcin Yapici · N. Bilgin

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of this paper is to determine whether age discrimination exists for hospitalized patients. Methods: This study was conducted on 298 hospitalized patients at the Mersin University Medical Faculty Hospital in Mersin, Turkey, in May 2012. The questionnaire consisted of 8 questions trying to determine patients' socio-demographic attitudes and consisted of 22 items prepared by the authors. Results: It was determined that 54.9% of the patients included in the study were male, 73.3% of them were married, 80.9% were subject to the social security system. A total of 87 participants reported that the physical conditions of the hospital were not appropriate. Approximately half of the patients mentioned that health care personnel explained what needed to be done to their relatives instead of the patients themselves. Conclusion: Patients were negatively affected by the physical characteristics of the hospital and were uncomfortable with some negative attitudes of the health staff.

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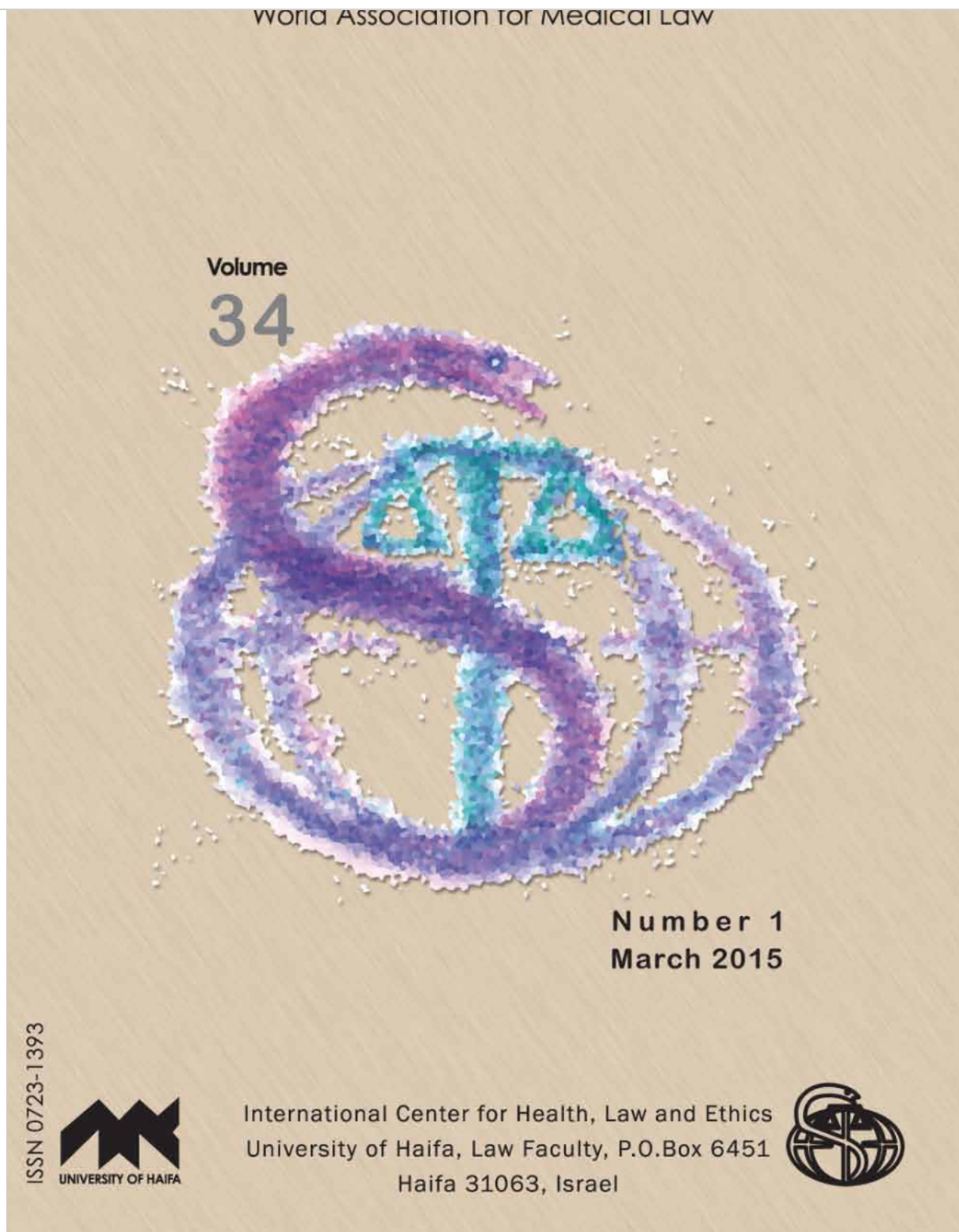
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MESSAGE FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

I am very pleased to present the present issue of *Medicine and Law*, a special issue on nursing, ethics and the law, with original research and review articles on nursing practice, education and research.

Dr. Ilya Kagan and Prof. Nili Tabak and colleagues' article engages the major issue of sexual harassment by patients. The aim of their article is to investigate the incidence of sexual harassment of women staff by male hospital patients, and how the experience of harassment differs between doctors, nurses and nurse aides. They found that sexual harassment by male patients is common in the sample, while findings point to the need for radical treatment of this problem and enacting proper legislation on patient rights, which would also deter patients from aggressive sexual acts against their care providers.

The article by Oya Ogenler, Gulcin Yapici, and Nursel Bilgin examines "The Opinions of Hospitalized Patients about Exposed Discrimination Based on Hospitals or Health Personnel in Turkey." The authors found that patients are negatively affected by the hospital's infrastructure physical characteristics and are uncomfortable with some negative attitudes expressed by the healthcare staff. Conclusions indicate how necessary it is to increase ethics education and sensitivity training for the healthcare staff, to reinforce existing positive properties and remove any age, gender, race and education related negative aspects.

Another research from Turkey by Şükran Sevimli, Recep Dursun, and Sevdegül Karadas, explores the health professionals' opinions who work in the emergency medical services in Turkey about the application of basic attitudes like triage, ethics, legal rules to popularize problems experienced during healthcare delivery following natural disasters (such as earthquakes). Results show that triage and legal regulations play an essential role in resource allocation and medical service presentation, while ethical principles are less considered in medical services after natural disasters. Their results suggest including ethical training in medicine and nursing education during natural disasters.

A different topic is addressed by Amira Daher, Yaakov Rosenfeld, and Lital Keinan-Boker, who have researched "Adoption Law, Dilemmas, Attitudes and Barriers to Adoption among Infertility Patients in Israel." Findings show that the percentage of Muslim couples who adopt or contact adoption authorities in Israel is lower than among Jewish adoptive parents. The major conclusion is that certain contradictions between the religious laws of Islam and laws of the

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land constitute a certain barrier to adoption among Muslim couples receiving fertility treatment over an extended period of time.

The article by Dr. Salam Hadid and Dr. Mohammad Khatib discusses "The Public's Perception of the Status and Image of the Nursing Profession." Their study examines the existing knowledge among the general population regarding the nursing profession. The results show that the existing knowledge among the general public regarding the nursing profession is flawed and lacking. Most consider it a care profession based mainly on the performance of skilled and basic techniques. They suggest different steps that should be taken to improve the image of the roles of registered nurses on several levels and on various fronts, such as by distinguishing it from "nursing care," which is a general concept; the academization of nurses; and the proposed Nurse's Law, which would make nurses into more independent professionals.

Dr. Rabia Khalaila's article engages in an important issue in nursing education: academic dishonesty. The worrying results show that academic dishonesty is prevalent among undergraduate nursing students in this Israeli sample. This issue should be of very high concern for nursing educators, and the thought that students do not consider copying, cheating, or plagiarism unethical behavior is a source of profound disquiet. The author suggests that early socialization into the profession of nursing, such as values of nursing practice, ethics of caring, integrity, respect, and responsibility, are critical components of nursing education and a responsibility of all nurse educators.

Isabel Amélia Costa Mendes and her coauthors from Brazil present an "Analysis of Research Ethics Committees of Nursing Projects in Brazil." This research presents a general view of nurses and the nursing profession's demand for research ethics committees in nursing institutions. The results demonstrate that nurse researchers in Brazil increasingly submit their projects to Research Ethics Committees for evaluation. The study reveals the importance nursing attributes to the ethical analysis of projects involving human beings, in compliance with the principles of respect for human dignity that support this science and its practice.

Tal Ilsar discusses the definition of DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) held by the medical and nursing staff in Internal Medicine wards in a leading hospital in Israel. Findings show a lack of uniformity in various staff members' understanding of the concept, and which nursing procedures may be performed and which should not. Consequently, she proposes structuring a uniform protocol and guidelines for all health professionals referring to DNR.

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In addition to the research articles, the Special Issue proposes two surveys of the literature clinical spheres associated with end-of-life issues. The first is Dr. Dorit Rubinstein's article on the meanings and differences between "End-of- Life" options including euthanasia, DNR (Do Not Resuscitate), and AND (Allowing Natural Death), and the implications of these decisions on the nurses' role.

A second article by Dr. Rabia Khalaila with Dr. Zipi Avraham discusses ethical and professional considerations for patient family presence during resuscitation (FPDR). The literature shows an increasing worldwide trend of allowing close family members to be present during resuscitation of their loved one, according to the wishes of the patients and their families, but at present is far from being implemented in Israel because of various ethical, cultural and professional issues discussed in the article.

I sincerely hope, and firmly believe, that the current issue will contribute to the discourse and stimulate further discussion of the issues among the general public, nursing professionals and policymakers.

The wide variety of articles in this Special Issue reflects the broad spectrum of mutual relations between the world of law and ethics and the nursing profession.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend deepest thanks to Dr. Mohammed S. Wattad, Editor-in-Chief, and to Ava Van Dam, Executive Assistant to the Editor, *Medicine and Law*, for their devoted labors and continued support for producing this Special Issue. Thanks, as well, to all authors and coauthors, from Israel and abroad, for their efforts and willingness to publish their research as part of this Special Issue.

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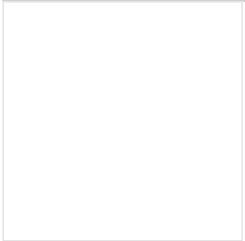
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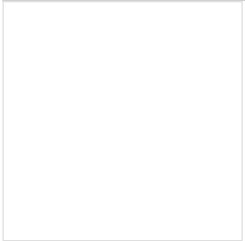
Life Science Journal


 Ibrahim Bashayreh ·  Ahmad Saifan ·  Abdul-Monim Batiha ·  Mohannad Aburuz

Differing views regarding family-witnessed resuscitation (FWR) have been debated. There is a growing body of research that clearly highlights the benefits of allowing FWR. However, the process of active medical resuscitation in the presence of family members remains an ethical, moral, and legal dilemma to healthcare professionals. An emotional debate has arisen among healthcare providers concerning...

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