



Dr. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake *MBBS (Colombo), PhD (Nottingham)*

Secretary, Ethical Review Committee

Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Research Ethics and Ethical Review Committees in Sri Lanka



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Editorial

Ethics in Human Research

Ceylon Medical Journal, 1988, 33, 77-80

Medical research has a long and impressive history; its pages are replete with famous names. To a biologist, those of Pasteur, Ehrlich, and Henry Dale and Otto Loewi, who jointly won the Nobel prize for medicine in 1936, and Claude Bernard, come easily

patients. For example, during the latter part of the last century, an eminent British surgeon embarked on removing the major part of the colon of his patients with various complaints on the surmise that the colon was a cesspool of toxins which when absor-

National Ethics Committees

MEDICAL ETHICS

29 NOVEMBER 1992

*Natural Resources Energy & Science Authority
(NARESA)
47/5 Maitland Place
Colombo 07*

Institution**Committee
Name, Year Established****Main Activities/Outputs**

Sri Lanka Medical Association
(SLMA)
<http://www.slma.lk>

Ethics Committee, 1992

Information available on the website.

Sri Lanka Association for the
Advancement of Science
(SLAAS)
<http://www.nsf.ac.lk/slaas>

Ethics Committee, 1996

Information available on the website.

Ministry of Health
<http://www.health.gov.lk>

National Health Research Council
(NHRC)
Functioning under the Education,
Research and Training Division,
2000

One of the functions of the NHRC is to
promote research ethics.

National Science and
Technology Commission
(NASTEC)
<http://www.nastec.lk>

Study Group IX, 2000 to 2003

Publication of “New genetics and assisted
reproductive technologies in Sri Lanka – A
draft national policy on biomedical ethics.”

National Science Foundation of
Sri Lanka (NSF)
<http://www.nsf.ac.lk>

National Bioethics Committee
(NBC), 2002

Information available on the website.

Sri Lanka Medical Council
(SLMC)
<http://www.slmedc.lk>

Assisted Reproductive
Technologies Guidelines
Committee, 2004

Publication of a “Provisional code of
practice for associated reproductive
technologies.”

| Institution | Committee Name, Year Established | Main Activities/Outputs |
|---|--|---|
| Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) http://www.slma.lk | Ethics Committee, 1992 | Information available on the website. |
| Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) http://www.nsf.ac.lk/slaas | Ethics Committee, 1996 | Information available on the website. |
| Ministry of Health http://www.health.gov.lk | National Health Research Council (NHRC) Functioning under the Education, Research and Training Division, 2000 | One of the functions of the NHRC is to promote research ethics. |
| National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) http://www.nastec.lk | Study Group IX, 2000 to 2003 | Publication of “New genetics and assisted reproductive technologies in Sri Lanka – A draft national policy on biomedical ethics.” |
| National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (NSF) http://www.nsf.ac.lk | National Bioethics Committee (NBC), 2002 | Information available on the website. |
| Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) http://www.slmedc.lk | Assisted Reproductive Technologies Guidelines Committee, 2004 | Publication of a “Provisional code of practice for associated reproductive technologies.” |

Institutional Ethics Committees

Letters

Ethical aspects of *CMJ* articles

Ceylon Medical Journal, 1997; 42: 103

To the Editors:

We are writing to comment on two articles published in the *CMJ* 42 March 1997

1. Fetal gender determination using ultrasound scanning *CMJ* 1997; 42: 21-23

The authors of this paper fail to justify why prenatal sexing is required or the reason for its assessment in this study: the availability of a technique or demonstration of ultrasonographic skills is inadequate justification. We feel that the authors should have made explicit their agenda

woman. They fail to explain the rationale for examining these individuals, the information given to them prior to the test and whether informed consent was obtained in divulging the results in a medical journal.

In the case of other adult onset neurological disorders like Huntington's disease, the consensus of opinion is that presymptomatic testing should be offered to at risk adults who have requested this information and only after they have been fully informed of the consequences of the test (1).

**Review of Ethical Review
Committees in Sri Lanka**

Editorial Committee

Prof. Nalaka Mendis
Dr. R. Lanerolle
Dr. K. C. Abeysuriya

Ethical Review Committee
Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

2004 - 2005

Institution**Year
Established**

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Colombo. | 1981 |
| Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya | early 1980s* |
| Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Galle. | 1984 |
| Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, Jaffna | 1985 |
| Postgraduate Medical Centre, Kandy | 1992 |
| Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda. | 1994 |
| Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Ragama | 1995 |
| Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya. | 1995 |
| Sri Lanka Medical Association | 1999 |
| Medical Research Institute, Colombo | 2000 |
| Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Colombo | 2002 |
| Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians | 2002 |
| Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Nugegoda | 2003 |
| National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo | 2004 |
| Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila | 2004 |



Operational Guidelines of the Ethical Review Committee

Real challenge is practicing Ethics in conditions of ignorance and poverty



Faculty of Medicine,
University of Colombo
Sri Lanka

Bioethics Education



Estd. 1870

Teaching of medical ethics in Sri Lanka

C. J. BABAPULLE

Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Summary. Medical ethics as taught by members of the Department of Forensic Medicine in three of five medical colleges in Sri Lanka is a 'rule ethic' ('normative ethic') based on 'traditional' or 'classical' ethics. Instruction includes the teaching of moral principles, illustrated with examples. Also included are

serious professional misconduct; association with unqualified persons; abuse of a doctor's privileges (e.g. with drugs); advertising; adultery arising in a professional relationship; criminal abortion; and alcoholism. Also taught are the doctor-patient relationship and professional responsibility; medical negligence or malpractice;

Contemplating choice: attitudes towards intervening in human reproduction in Sri Lanka

B. SIMPSON*, V.H.W. DISSANAYAKE[†] & R.W. JAYASEKARA[‡]

**Department of Anthropology, University of Durham, UK*

†,‡Human Genetics Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

ABSTRACT *To date, relatively little is known about the ethical, legal and social responses to recent advances in reproductive and genetic technology outside of Europe and North America. This article reports on a survey carried out among doctors (n = 278) and medical students (n = 1256) in Sri Lanka to find out more about their responses to novel interventions in human reproduction such as In-Vitro Fertilization, Pre-Implantation Genetic Diagnosis and genetic engineering. In the first part of the paper comparisons are drawn between this survey*

Bioethics Legislation/Guidelines

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[1999](#) | [2000](#) | [2001](#) | [2002](#) | [2003](#)

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| Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy Act | 47 |
| Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (Incorporation) Act | 46 |
| Superior Courts Complex Board of Management Act | 50 |
| Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution | |
| Tourist Development (Amendment) Act | 2 |
| <u>Transplantation of Human Tissues Act</u> | 48 |
| Turnover Tax (Amendment) Act | 9 |

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JSS

NSF was established in 1996 (by Act No. 11 of 1994) as the successor to the Natural Resources Energy & Science Authority of Sri Lanka (NARESA) established in 1981 and the National Science Council set up in 1968.

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A PROVISIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE

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2005

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NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
 MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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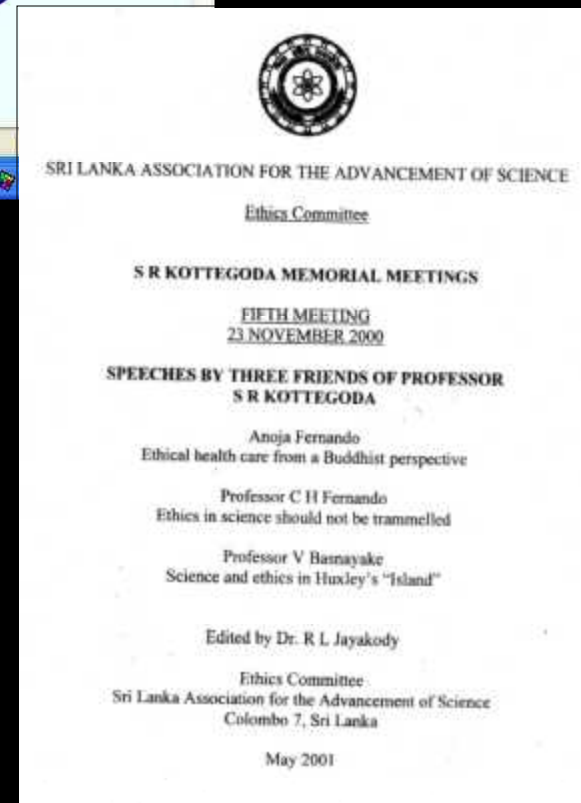
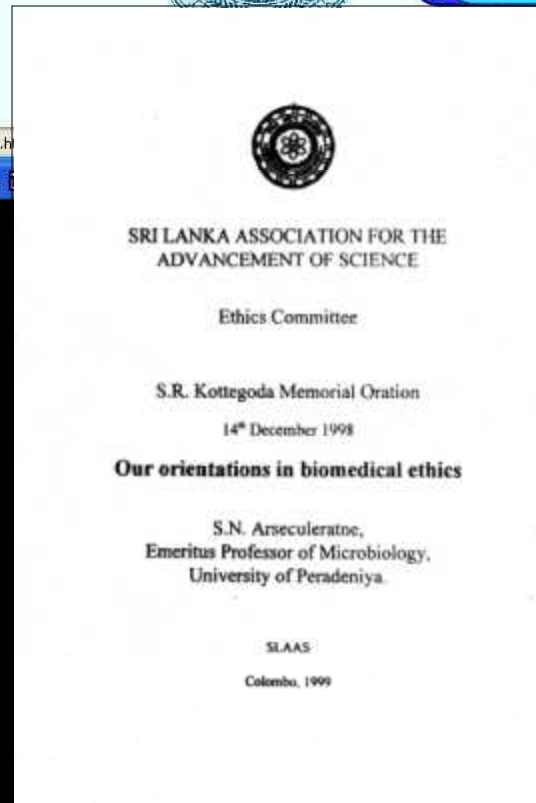
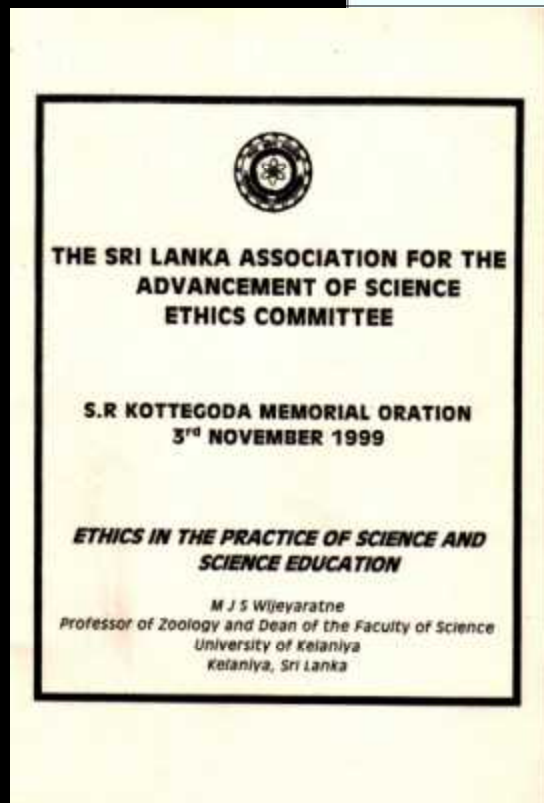
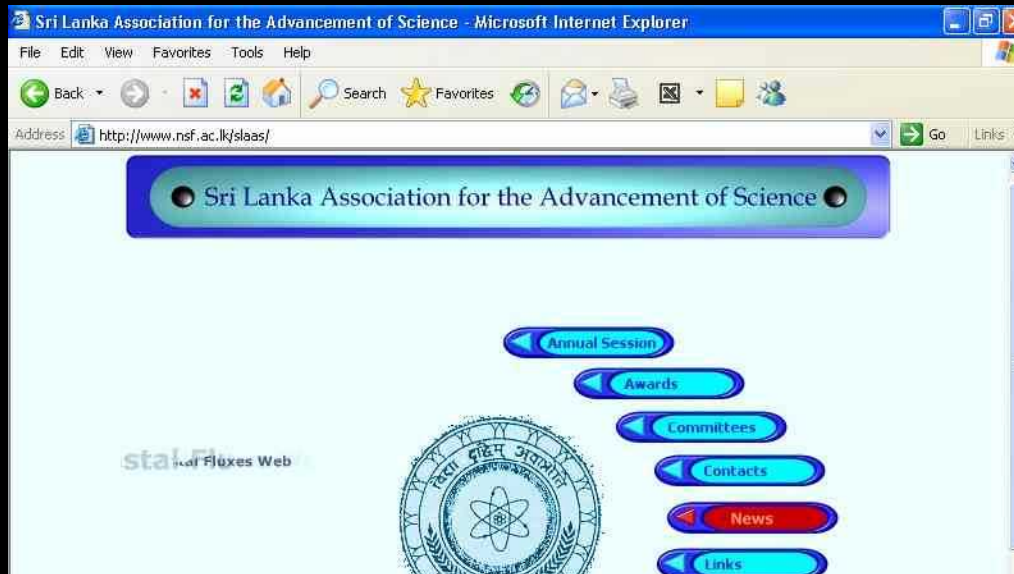
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T.B. Jayah
Colombo 10
Contact Tel

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***New Genetics and Assisted Reproductive
Technologies in Sri Lanka
A draft National Policy
on Biomedical Ethics***

*Report of an Expert Study Group appointed
by the National Science and Technology Commission
of the Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology*

Bioethics Activities





Sri Lanka Medical Association

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SLMA



The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) is the premier professional medical association in Sri Lanka, which brings together medical practitioners of all grades and all branches of

The CMJ

The SLMA Declaration on Health

Ethical Review

2,423

**PROCEEDINGS OF
“THE RESEARCH FORUM”**
An Open Forum on Research Ethics and Methodology
2004

**Ethical Review Committee
Faculty Of Medicine, University Of Colombo**

Networking and Future Directions

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify common issues faced by ERCs in Sri Lanka.
2. To identify solutions for those problems which could be sorted out by dialog and communication or by consensus between ERCs.
3. To make recommendations to the Ministries of Science and Technology, Health, and Higher Education on issues which require national direction and/or policy planning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The establishment of a central ERC by an Act of Parliament.
2. The amalgamation of University ERCs with the ERCs of their affiliated Teaching Hospitals.
3. To encourage wider representation of both medical and non-medical personnel in ERCs.

FUNCTION OF THE CENTRAL ERC

1. Develop general as well as certain institution specific guidelines for composition of institutional ERCs, training requirements and/or experience of potential institutional ERC nominees.
2. Accredite institutional ERCs that confirm to guidelines stipulated in (a) above.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL ERC

3. Develop guidelines for use by ERCs on matters of frontier research and issues where a national policy is required and in the following areas which are of special significance:
 - research in reproductive medicine and genetic medicine.
 - research where genetic material/resource is transferred overseas.
 - research involving patient and intellectual property rights.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL ERC

4. Foster development of ERCs and their resource persons by organising regular training workshops and training programmes for new members and committees.
5. Act as an appeals body for submissions rejected by other ERCs.
6. Review involving multilateral/multicentre research and research involving foreign collaboration and monitor progress of such research after the approval process is complete.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRAL ERC

7. Maintain a database of all projects received by all local ERCs.
8. Encourage dialog between ERCs.
9. Maintain a website.

