CBEC Launches Two New Bioethics Teaching Videos

As a WHO Collaborative Centre for Bioethics, CBEC has developed three bioethics related teaching videos in the past two years. The first of these, "Between Hope and Despair," centred on ethical challenges following the outbreak of an epidemic and was reported in CBEC’s December 2017 newsletter. Since then, CBEC has launched two new teaching videos, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place," and "Pushing Boundaries."

"Between a Rock and a Hard Place" depicts the interaction between a family with a brain dead relative on a ventilator and a transplant coordinator who seeks permission for obtaining the brain dead kin’s organs. The film was used successfully in a two day conference for training potential transplant coordinators, held at CBEC in collaboration with WHO in June 2019.

The production "Pushing Boundaries," highlights the social and cultural factors surrounding reproduction and the stigma of childlessness in married women in the context of Pakistan. As in CBEC’s previous ventures, both films used the acting talents of faculty, alumni and friends.

“The HIV Epidemic: Time for Introspection,” June 29, 2019 - In the wake of the HIV epidemic that hit Ratodero, Sindh in May 2019, Dr. Asma Nasim, infectious diseases specialist at SIUT, Karachi and CBEC PGD alumnus, led a CBEC Forum on the science and ethics of HIV. In her session, she focused on sociocultural reasons that led to the epidemic. The event was attended by a large audience of nurses, physicians and people from non-medical backgrounds.

“Looking for Ahmed Faraz,” November 30, 2019 - Dr. Syed Nomanul Haq, an internationally renowned scholar led a CBEC Forum on iconic Pakistani poet, Ahmed Faraz. Dr. Nomanul Haq argued that Faraz’s poetry was romantic in essence and it was a mistake to think of him as a revolutionary poet. He also presented reasons for the disappearance of Faraz’s poetry from public view. The audience was captivated by his reading of Faraz’s poetry which he compared to the work of other important Urdu poets.
“DUHS Bioethics Course”
Dow University of Health Sciences
December 5, 2019, Karachi

Seated from left to right: Dr. Akram, Dr. Aamir Jafarey, Dr. Nazli Hossain and Dr. Ammarah. Standing at the back are residents from Surgery, Medicine, Pediatrics and Obstetrics/Gynecology who attended the course.

Dr. Aamir Jafarey was the guest speaker at the concluding session of the Second Course of Bioethics for postgraduates at Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS). The course is run by Dr. Nazli Hossain, CBEC MBE alumnus and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at DUHS, as a series of monthly bioethics lectures. Its third cycle will begin in 2020.

In his talk, entitled “Bioethics in Clinical Practice,” Dr. Jafarey spoke about his bioethics journey over the years. He ended by describing the trajectory which the discipline of bioethics is taking in Pakistan.
CBEC’s 9th Ethics Workshop for Karachi Schools
October 26, 2019

CBEC's annual ethics workshop for schools was held on October 26, 2019. Teachers and senior administrators of diverse schools attended the one day round-table event with the central theme of “Language and ethics.”

The workshop began with a discussion on the links between language and power in society and ended with a session in which participants reflected on the importance of language as a medium for teaching values. Both sessions used moral games, video clips and discussion as tools for examining the ethical aspects of language.

The highlight of the workshop was an interactive and thought-provoking session with well-known journalist and author, Ms. Zubeida Mustafa, in which she discussed the importance of the mother tongue as a medium for primary education, based on her journalistic research and writings on the topic.