

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### MEDICAL ETHICS IN MILITARY MEDICAL SETUPS

Regarding the editorial by Brigadier Tariq Mahmood Ahmad on 'Role of Medical Ethics in Developing Caring Health Professionals' (PAFMJ Vol. 67, No. 6, December 2017), there is no second opinion on importance of medical ethics in modern practice of medicine. The students and practitioners of medicine at all levels should know - at least - the ethical parameters of their interactions with patients. The introduction to certain topics like sanctity of life, informed consent, privacy & confidentiality, pharmaceutical interactions and therapeutic misconception etc. cannot be over-emphasized<sup>1</sup>. It's a fact that ethical perspectives from west cannot be used en-block because of vast ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic difference and concept of right and wrong have different grounds. To be away from a class-rooms & to be effective in practical life, we need to indigenize them<sup>2</sup>. To do so, the availability of trained local workforce in this field is needed & that will be able to play a role, to better integrate the subject in academic sense and build the capacity of health care providers at all levels; undergraduate as well as post-graduate<sup>3</sup>.

My experience, while getting educated in Biomedical Ethics in Pakistan, suggests that there

are certain fundamentals of the subject which are as such universally applicable and can be taught by taking a cue from Guidelines and Teachers handbook on the subject by the Healthcare Ethics Committee of National Bioethics Committee of Pakistan<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, a recent interaction with physicians of Paediatrics Department of Military Hospital on 'Ethical Issues in Termination of Pregnancy' suggests that medical ethics education is a missing link and capacity building is needed. Our hospitals direly need ethical consultation committees to be able to make ethical & informed decisions.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This author has declared no of conflict of interest.

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