

The Editor,
Indian Journal of Medical Ethics,
Cehat Survey 2804-5, Aram Society Road, Vakola, Santacruz (E),
Mumbai - 400 055

Dear Editor,

Re: Manuscript for IJME: **Martis-Communication conflict**

I wish to submit a research article 'Breaking bad news when a family's requests undermine the patient's right for truth: The experiences and practices of physicians in India' for IJME. It illustrates the ways of managing the ethical conflicts that obstruct clinical communication and patients' right for health information, when family caregivers urge clinicians to hide hard truth or bad news from patients. I have published other articles on the topic 'breaking bad news' but they do not contain the information/findings of the current article.

I very much appreciate that you have not specified word limit, which is very helpful for qualitative research reports, which tend to be a bit longer, as they contain participant quotes and thick description. I request you to review this article and advise me about modifying it to fit the journal.

As per your guidelines, I have not included the author information in the main article but have given it below. However, I would like to point out that the article mentions St. John's Medical College Research review board as one of the ethics reviewers. You might want to block that information from the article reviewers. If you decide to send the article for blind reviews, please do not assign to anyone at St. John's Academy of Health Sciences in Bangalore, which was one of the study sites, where I did my year-long research fellowship. I am saying this as I do not want to influence the review process and want to adhere to publication ethics. I look forward to hear from you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Martis

17 October 2016

Author: Lawrence Martis, PhD

Affiliation: Researcher, CAN- SOLVE CKD Research Network, Canada.

Mailing Address: 3 Lyman Street, St Catherines, Ontario, Canada, L2R 5M8.

Tel: 416-875-3884

Email: lawrence.martis@utoronto.ca

Statement of Authorship: I declare that this article is conceived and written by me in its entirety and does not violate the rights of other individuals or institutions.