Reviewed

Rough points for BMJ PPT: (about 20 screens)

**Suggested Outline:**

1. Goals/History (4 Screens)
2. Milestones (5 screens)
3. Current status (7 screens)
4. Future objectives (4 screens)
5. **Goals/History**
6. To set up an independent peer-reviewed ethics journal of an international standard.
7. To create a forum for debate on health policies, healthcare facilities public and private, and human rights issues regarding gender, caste and class to be kept alive
8. To provide a wider platform (NBC) for discussion and sharing of new ideas, research, ethical problems and experiences in order to bring about policy changes and implementation

**History:**

The 1980s saw some turmoil in healthcare, with protests against commercialization of medical education, the rise of corporate hospitals, medical malpractices and violations of ethics.

We as a group of doctors and health activists decided to focus on the least talked about field of healthcare ethics.

We decided to enter the “politics” of the medical profession by contesting the Maharashtra Medical Council elections, which led us to approach the Courts.

In the ‘80s, there was no formal bioethics education in India, barring a few faith-based medical institutions teaching ethics. With no formal bioethics training, our first task was to self-educate.

We began with weekly meetings of half a dozen doctors and activists for collective self-education in bioethics by reading papers, viewing videos and debating issues; then began monthly study circles on medical ethics.

With help from a philanthropic organization we printed several hundred copies of the journal for free distribution among medical students and others.

The mainstream national newspapers covered our Medical Council election programme on the issue of corruption and the subsequent Public Interest Litigation regularly. Patients affected by unethical practices started approaching us. We intervened in debates on medical negligence, sex selection practices, cut-practices (fee sharing), hysterectomies on mentally challenged women, etc.

In five years, we generated support among silently practicing ethical doctors; and people at large. Every step thereafter, many of them helped in organization building and financially to sustain our activities.

We involved ourselves in drafting ethics guidelines (e.g. hysterectomies on mentally challenged women) and/or in participating in such exercises (e.g. ICMR and CEHAT ethics guidelines on biomedical and social science research), work on regulatory challenges in organ transplantation, drug trials, assisted reproduction and surrogacy, mental health issues, hospital ethics and so on. In brief, our methodology is action, reflection, education and back to action.

Independence:

Owner and publisher: **Forum for Medical Ethics Society** (FMES), a registered (1995) non-profit Society, with a national membership of close to 60.

The FMES is constituted of healthcare professionals, social scientists, legal experts and health activists committed to working together to ensure equitable and good quality healthcare for all.

Financial independence has been ensured by avoiding advertising and funding from the medical industry,

The journal’s editorial decision-making is independent of the publisher. The main tasks of the FMES are to ensure the regular print and online publication of the journal, elect the Editor and raise funds for the journal.

Editorial policy is decided by consensus after discussion by a group of Working Editors, Cocu=sulting Editor, Editor and editorial staff.

Value of the journal to its readers:

1. Bioethics is a multidisciplinary field, and the *IJME* has readers from across a range of disciplines – medical sciences, the social sciences, law and the humanities.
2. The journal is of importance to readers for having catered to – in-depth and from across perspectives – issues and debates in bioethics, medical ethics and research ethics, and the medical humanities.
3. The journal is a platform in itself for debating, discussing and exchanging ideas on the said areas.
4. By keeping all its issues and material free access, *IJME* has encouraged students and lay readers to participate in the discussions and contribute to developing bioethics India.
5. IJME has been a useful resource for medical colleges in ethics classes and discussions, and for the mainstream press covering healthcare and human rights issues.

2. **Milestones:**

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| **Key points in the journal’s development**  1989: Forum for Medical Ethics Society(FMES) set up informally; |
| 1992: FMES intervened in elections of Maharashtra Medical Council to fight blatant rigging; |
| 1993: Journal first published by FMES as a newsletter, *Medical Ethics*; |
| 1995: Published as journal with title changed to *Issues in Medical Ethics;* |
| 2001: Peer review established; |
| 2000: Website set up; |
| 2004: First published as *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* |
| 2005: Indexed retrospectively in Pubmed |
| 2014: Online First publication started. |
| 2015: Indexed in TPI |
| **2016: ????** |

**Editors of *IJME***

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| **Editors** | **Period served** | **Biodata** |
| Dr Sunil K Pandya | 1993-99 | Founder editor, Neurosurgeon, formerly with KEM Hospital, Mumbai. |
| Dr Arun Bal | 2000-02 | Surgeon and founder president, Diabetic Foot Society of India. |
| Dr Samirun Nundy | 2003-04 | Gastrointestinal surgeon at Gangaram Hospital, Delhi |
| Dr Sanjay A Pai  (Acting editor) | 2005 | Pathologist and member, working committee, *National Medical Journal* |
| Dr George Thomas | 2005-11 | Head of orthopaedics, St Isabel’s Hospital, Chennai |
| Dr Amar Jesani | 2012 – current | Independent bioethics consultant and visiting professor, Centre for Ethics, Yenepoya University, Mangalore |

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1. **Current status:**

* **Editor-in-Chief**: Amar Jesani
* **Number of full-time staff**: One (editorial)
* **Number of part-time staff**: One (administrative), one (editorial)
* **Primary audience**: Clinicians, medical and Social Science researchers, students, health activists and policy makers
* **Primary topics**: Ethics in medical practice, research and public health; ethics, law and healthcare; ethics in social science research on health; health and human rights;
* **Type of content**: Original research, reviews, commentaries, case studies, narratives, discussions.
* **Required reporting guidelines**: ICMJE
* **Annual budget**: INR 14,50,000
* **Frequency of publication**: Quarterly (print issue)(plus online first publication every week)
* **Access model**: Open access
* **Copyright policy**: Author transfers copyright to publisher
* **Business model**, Subscription, individual donations and grants from non-medical corporate entities.
* **Indexed by**: PubMed, Google Scholar, The Philosophers Index, Scopus,(from now in all products of Elsevier)

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**FMES/ *IJME* have organised five National Bioethics Conferences so far and the 6th will be in January 2017**

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| **NBC** | **YEAR** | **THEME** | **VENUE** | **No. of collaborating institutions** | **No. of participants** |
| 1 | 2005 | Ethical challenges in biomedical and social science research | YMCA,  Mumbai | 20 | 317 |
| 2 | 2007 | Moral and ethical imperatives of healthcare technologies | NIMHANS  Bengaluru | 38 | 500 |
| 3 | 2010 | Governance in healthcare | AIIMS  Delhi | 38 | 350 |
| 4 | 2012 | Ethics and regulatory challenges in health research | University of Hyderabad  Hyderabad | 03 | 370 |
| 5. | 2014 | Integrity in healthcare and research | St John’s Academy of Health Sciences  Bengaluru | 03 | 695 |
| 6. | 2016 | Healing and dying with dignity: ethical issues in palliative care, end-of-life care and euthanasia | To be announced | -- | -- |

**Table: Affiliations of authors in 2015/16**

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| **Month** | **Clnicians** | **Medical**  **Instns** | **Other Acad instns** | **Health NGOs** | **Students** | **Govt Officials** | **Research Instns** | **Law** | **Eths Instns** | **IJME**  **Or Jnls** | **Journalists** | **Total** |
| April-June 2015 | 2 | 16 | 1 | 4 | 1 | -- | 12 | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 37 |
| Jul-Sept 2015 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 1 | -- | -- | 3 | -- | -- | -- | 23 |
| Oct-Dec 2015 | 3 | 20 | 2 | -- | 8 | -- | 7 | -- | 2 | 2 | -- | 44 |
| Jan-March 2016 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | -- | 6 | 1 | 32 |
| Total | 16 | 54 | 07 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 21 | 4 | 2 | 09 | 01 | 136 |

Website usage chart for 2014 to 2016

with brief analysis

**4) Future goals:**

As an organisation: to become financially self sustaining, and grow, especially among young clinicians, social science researchers, journalists, lawyers.

As a movement; Our next challenge is twofold. To ensure that India transition to universal ethical healthcare and the discipline of bioethics become integral part of professional and general education