

# Hippocratic Oath and Codes of Ethics

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# Aims and objectives

- **At the end of the lecture students should be able to:**
  - Understand the importance of codes of ethics
  - Know the differences of Hippocratic oath and the current international code of ethics
  - Know the ethical principles in International Code of Ethics
  - Know the procedure adapted by the SLMC with regards to oath in registering the medical practitioners



# Why codes of ethics are necessary in medicine?

- Doctors are dealing with lives of patients
- They have the power to cure as well as the power to kill.
- Ensure highest care to community
- Prevent doctors abusing trust and power

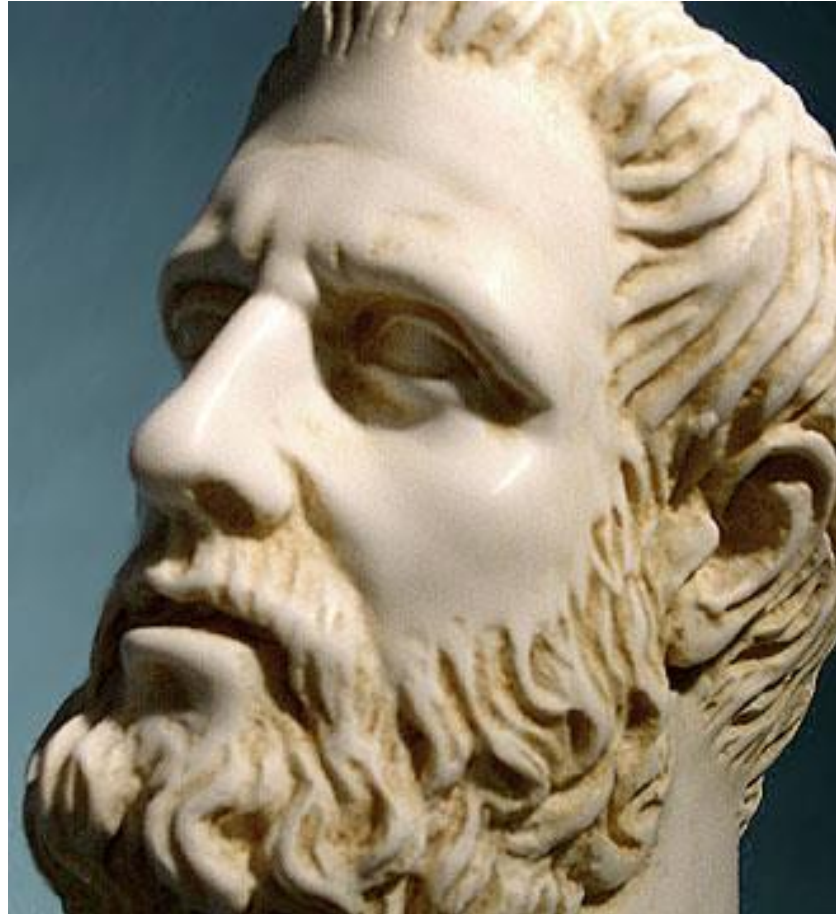


# What is Hippocratic Oath ?

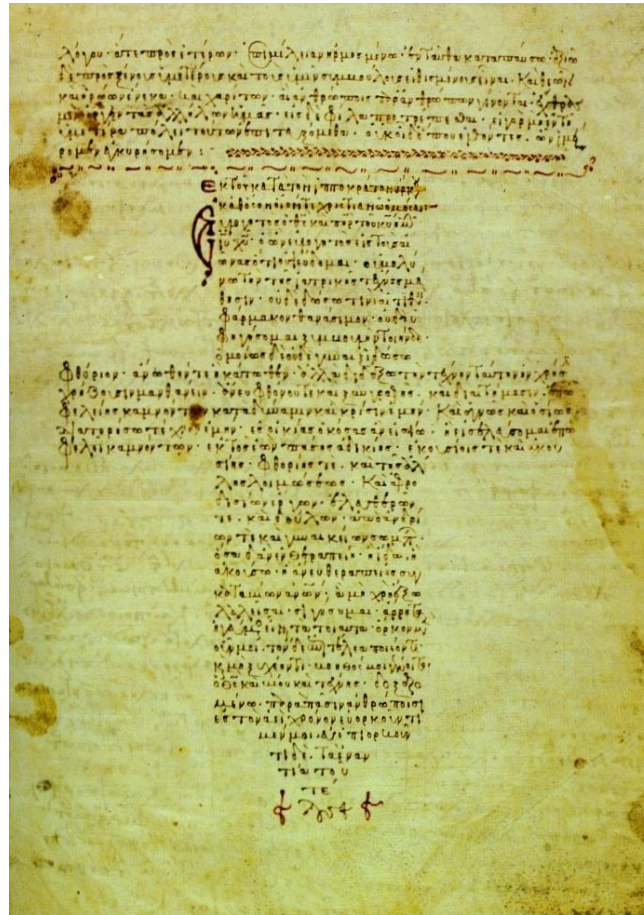
- Oath historically taken by doctors
- Swearing to practice medicine ethically.
- Believed to written by Hippocrates, the father of western medicine
- Another belief- written by followers of Pythagoras and Hippocrates
- Estimated to be written in the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E



# Father of Western Medicine



# A manuscript of the Oath in the form of a cross- 12<sup>th</sup> century



# Original version in English

- “ I swear by Apollo, the healer, Asclepius, Hygieia, and Panacea, and I take to witness all the gods, all the goddesses, to keep according to my ability and my judgment, the following Oath and agreement:



# Original version in English

- To consider dear to me, as my parents, him who taught me this art; to live in common with him and, if necessary, to share my goods with him; To look upon his children as my own brothers, to teach them this art.
  - (respect teachers, colleagues)
- I will prescribe regimens for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone.
  - (never harm patients)

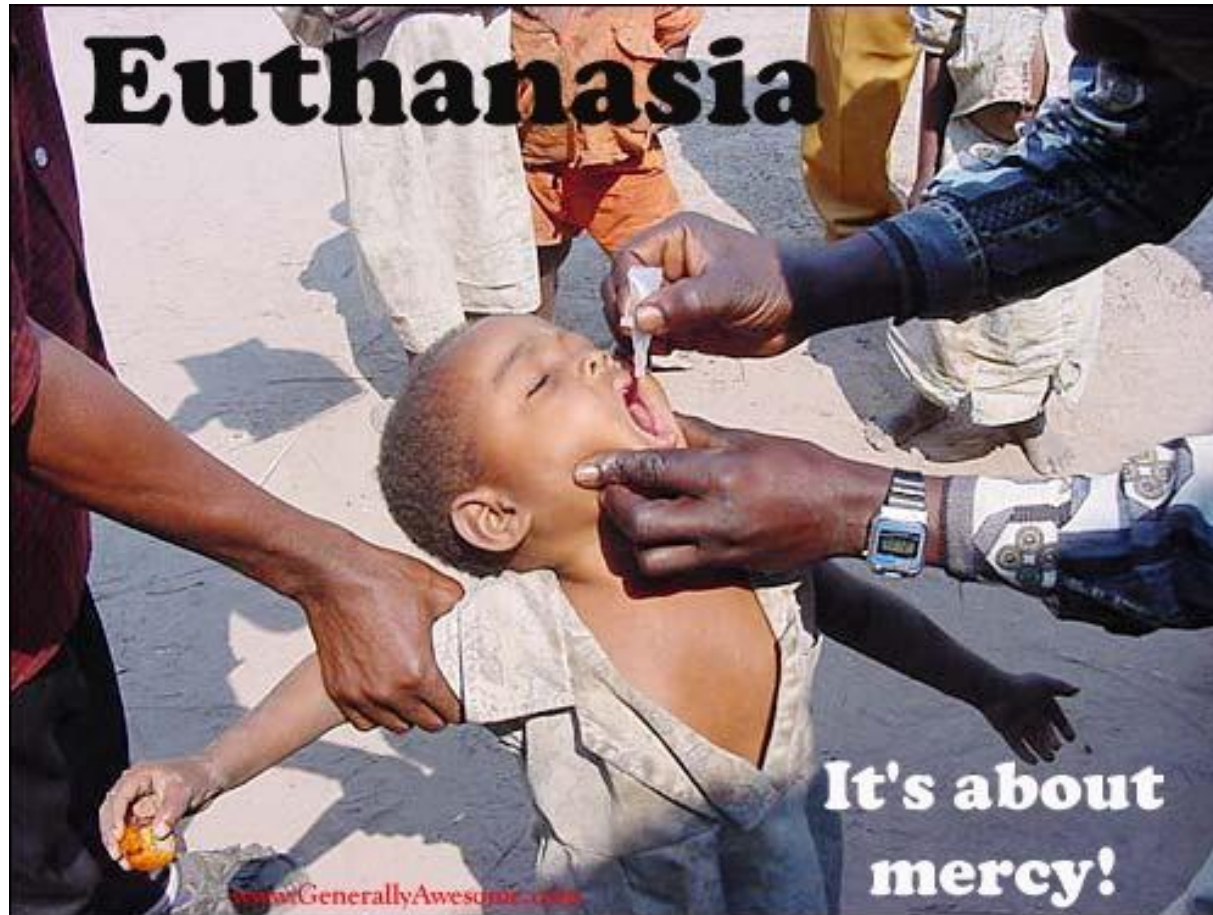




# Original version in English

- I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan; and similarly I will not give a woman a pessary to cause an abortion.
- (not kill anybody/nor do abortion)





# Original version in English

- But I will preserve the purity of my life and my arts.
- I will not cut persons labouring under the stone, I will leave this operation to be performed by practitioners, specialists in this art
  - (say don't know when it is not your expertise)



# Say don't know???

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## Original version in English

- In every house where I come I will enter only for the good of my patients, keeping myself far from all intentional ill-doing and all seduction and especially from the pleasures of love with women or with men, be they free or slaves.
- (no undue association)



# No undue association



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# Original version in English

- All that may come to my knowledge in the exercise of my profession or in daily commerce with men, which ought not to be spread abroad, I will keep secret and will never reveal.
- (Keep secrets)





# Keep secret



## Original version in English

- If I keep this oath faithfully, may I enjoy my life and practice my art, respected by all men and in all times; but if I swerve from it or violate it, may the reverse be my lot.



# How was it practised?

- It is pledged by new doctors at graduation
- Rite (Ceremony) of passage for practitioners of medicine
- Over the centuries, it has been rewritten often in order to suit the values of different cultures



# Development

- During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war
  - Gross misbehavior of Medical ethics
    - Biomedical experiments on prisoners and mentally subnormal (radiation, infections etc)
    - Medical torture
  - In 1949 World Medical Association restated the oath in modern style
  - Declaration of Geneva
  - International Code of Medical Ethics was based on it



# Declaration of Geneva

- At the time of being admitted as a Member of the medical profession: I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the service of humanity
- I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due;
- I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity;



# Declaration of Geneva

- The health and life of my patient will be my first consideration;
- I will respect the secrets which are confided in me;
- I will maintain by all means in my power, the honour and the noble traditions of the medical profession;
- My colleagues will be my brothers



# Declaration of Geneva

- I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;
- I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the time of its conception, even under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity;
- I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honour.



# International Code of Medical Ethics

## Duties of Doctors in General

- A doctor must always maintain the highest standards of professional conduct.
- A doctor must practice his profession uninfluenced by motives of profit





# No motives of profit .....

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"I'm going to prescribe something that works like aspirin but costs much, much more."



# International Code of Medical Ethics

- **The following practices are deemed unethical:**
  - Any self advertisement except such as is expressly authorized by the national code of medical ethics;
  - Collaborate in any form of medical service in which the doctor does not have professional independence;
  - Receiving any money in connection with services rendered to a patient other than a proper professional fee, even with the knowledge of the patient.



# International Code of Medical Ethics

- Any act, or advice which could weaken physical or mental resistance of a human being may be used only in his interest.
- A doctor is advised to use great caution in divulging discoveries or new techniques of treatment.
- A doctor should certify or testify only to that which he has personally verified.



# New discoveries for the benefit of society





*"It's fine to discover cures, but, remember, chronic conditions are our bread and butter."*



# International Code of Medical Ethics

- **Duties of Doctors to the Sick**
  - A doctor must always bear in mind the obligation of preserving human life from conception. Therapeutic abortion may only be performed if the conscience of the doctors and the national laws permit.
  - A doctor owes to his patient complete loyalty and all the resources of his science. Whenever an examination or treatment is beyond his capacity he should summon another doctor who has the necessary ability.



# International Code of Medical Ethics

- A doctor shall preserve absolute secrecy on all he knows about his patient because of the confidence entrusted in him.
- A doctor must give emergency care as a humanitarian duty unless he is assured that others are willing and able to give such care.



# International Code of Medical Ethics

- **Duties of Doctors to Each Other**
  - A doctor ought to behave to his colleagues as he would have them behave to him.
  - A doctor must not entice patients from his colleagues.
  - A doctor must observe the principles of the declaration of Geneva approved by The World Medical Association





# Guidelines laid down by oath

- Implies the need for coordinated instructions and registration of doctors
- States that the doctor is there for the benefit of the patient
- Euthanasia and abortion are prohibited
- Outlined the nature of the doctor patient relationship
- Express the doctrine of medical confidentiality



# Other developments

## Declaration of Helsinki

- In 1964
- Embark on experimental scheme of treatment

## Declaration of Tokyo

- In 1975
- To forbid participation in cruel, inhuman or degrading procedures





middle east

## Saudi doctor accused of killing and dismembering journalist 'trained in Australia'

A SAUDI doctor suspected of killing and dismembering a prominent journalist honed his craft in Australia, it has been revealed.

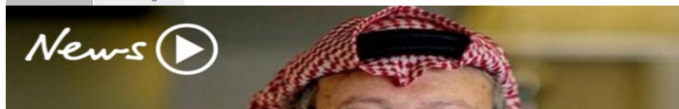


Marnie O'Neill [@marnieoneill7](#)



OCTOBER 18, 2018 3:25PM

Video Image



# Helsinki declaration Seventh revision (2013)

## Basic principles

- respect for the individual
- right of the participants to self-determination
- right to make informed decisions

(regarding participation in research, both initially and during the course of the research.)



# Investigator's duty

- Solely to the participant
- Subject's welfare must always take precedence over the interests of science and society
- Ethical considerations must always take precedence over laws and regulations



# Belmont Report

- A report created by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research.
- Prompted in part by problems arising from the Tuskegee Syphilis Study (1932-1972) to observe the natural progression of untreated syphilis in rural African



# What happened ?

Recruited 600  
399 with syphilis 201 no  
syphilis



Given free medical care,  
meals, and free burial  
insurance for participating



No treatment given even  
after penicillin was  
proven as the drug of  
choice in 1940



Told going to last six months  
but it actually lasted 40 years



# Three core principles

- Respect for persons- protecting the autonomy
- Beneficence -"Do no harm" while maximizing benefits
- Justice -ensuring reasonable, non-exploitative, and well-considered procedures





# To ensure the rights of the participants

1. Ensure the study is approved by an ERC
2. Get informed consent from the participants
3. Ensure clear knowledge to participant
4. NO coercion/Pressurization
5. Be careful of other non mentioned effects of the clinical trial
6. Support the privacy and ensure the rights to join or refuse
7. Ensure minimal care needed



# What happens after the graduation of a Sri Lankan doctor

- At the time of registration at SLMC
- Applicant is given a copy of the declaration by the registrar SLMC
- Applicant should read and abide by it.



# Declaration for Sri Lankan doctor Medical Practitioner's Oath

- I Dr ----- of (Address)----- at the time of being admitted as a medical profession,
- Solemnly pledge myself to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;
- The health of my patients will be my primary consideration and I will not use my profession for exploitation and abuse of my patient
- I will practise my profession with conscience, dignity , integrity and honesty;



# Declaration for Sri Lankan doctor

- I will respect the secrets which are confided in me, even after the patient has died;
- I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude, which is their due;
- I will maintain by all means in my power, the honour and noble traditions of the medical profession;
- I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics, caste or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;



# Declaration for Sri Lankan doctor

- I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from its beginning even under threat and I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity;
- I make the promise solemnly, freely and upon my honour



# No euthanasia



# Who administer the oath?

- Registrar/ assistant registrar SLMC
- President SLMC
- Vice president
- Designated member of the Sri Lanka medical council



# Summary

- Hippocratic Oath is an oath historically taken by doctors
- Ensure highest care to community
- Over the years it had developed to suit values of different cultures
- Currently in Sri Lanka there is Medical Practitioners Oath which is pledge at the registration





**THANK YOU!**

