

THE JOURNAL OF
**LAW, MEDICINE
& ETHICS**

VOLUME 35:2 • SUMMER 2007

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue of the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, we present the symposium “Reflections on Emerging Technologies at the Centennial of Organ Transplantation,” guest edited by Robert M. Sade of the Medical University of South Carolina. In the 100 years since Alexis Carrel and Charles Guthrie performed the first experimental organ transplantation in Chicago, the medical and scientific communities have made great strides in making transplantation an almost routine medical procedure, which has saved many lives and improved the quality of life for countless others. As readers of this symposium will note, however, 100 years of experience in performing transplantations by no means signifies that we have exhausted the questions surrounding transplantation or the questions that will follow the inevitable developments in transplantation science as we progress onward.

The symposium covers a wide range of topics intrinsic to the development and execution of transplantation surgery. Author Albert Jonsen, for example, writes how early organ recipients were selected for the procedures. Gary Francione, meanwhile, discusses animal rights and experimentation, an important topic especially because the first successful organ transplant involved animal experimentation. H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. discusses questions of fairness in organ transplant committees, while Robert Truog addresses the important topic of brain death. This small cross-section of topics for this symposium suggests that while questions directly related to transplantation are complex enough, it is when we address the broader topics surrounding the issue that a truly diverse, multidisciplinary perspective is warranted, a perspective best employed by *JLME*.

This diverse approach is also present in our collection of independent articles for this issue; we feature a public health-related piece on population research, an article on genetic discrimination, a study of the use of forensic DNA evidence in prosecutors' offices, and a discussion of the laws related to commercial surrogacy. Each of these articles represents just a small part of the broad set of questions that *JLME* asks with every issue, and taken together with our symposium, they represent the kind of questions and answers that can be discovered with a multidisciplinary approach. It is a journey taken with every issue by *JLME*, and it is our pleasure to take that journey with you.

Ted Hutchinson
Editor

Editorial Office

Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 765 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 1634, Boston, MA 02215 USA
Phone: 617-262-4990; Fax: 617-437-7596
E-mail: thutchinson@aslme.org

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The *Journal* is indexed in: Medline, Index to Legal Periodicals, Legal Resource Index, Current Contents/Social and Behavioral Sciences, Social Sciences Citation Index, Research Alert, Social Scisearch, Current Law Index, CINAHL: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, Hospital Literature Index, SSRN Health Law & Policy, and Sociological Abstracts. A cumulative index and a subject index for all *Journal* issues published from 1990 to the present are available at the publisher's website at <http://www.aslme.org/publications/journal_indexes.php>.

Online and Microform Services

The *Journal* is available electronically or in microform from Blackwell Synergy, Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis, Highwire, EBSCO, Information Access, MedWebPlus, University Microfilms.

ISSN No. 1073-1105

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THE JOURNAL OF LAW, MEDICINE & ETHICS

VOLUME 35:2 • SUMMER 2007

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