

A New Stage in the Development of Clinical Bioethics

Information about the XV Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Bioethics (ISCB), Barcelona, 20-21 September 2018

The XV Conference of the International Society for Clinical Bioethics (ISCB) “Bioethics and Pediatrics: future development and challenges” was held on the 20th and 21st September 2018 in the city of Barcelona in Catalonia (Spain). The XV Annual Conference ISCB was organized in collaboration with the Borja Institute of Bioethics-Ramon Llull University, the Institut de Recerca Sant Joan de Déu, and the Sant Joan de Déu Barcelona Children’s Hospital. This conference was an anniversary in two senses: 15 years have passed since the establishment of the ISCB as the first international conference that brought together the experts in the field of bioethics.

The ISCB was founded in June 2003 in the town of Veli Lošinj, Croatia. ISCB is registered in Croatia (city of Opatija), its headquarters is located in Rijeka. The first President of ISCB was Ivan Šegota (Croatia), and his deputies - representatives of different countries: Tai Michael Cheng-Tek (Taiwan), Tsuyoshi Awaya (Japan), Boris Yudin (Russia) and George Agich (USA), Christian Byk (France), Bigel Bedolla (USA), Ivan Kalchev (Bulgaria) and Jovan Maric (Serbia, Montenegro) joined the Board of Directors. This global body represented the international focus of ISCB, strivings to bring together professionals from different countries to discuss the clinical aspects of bioethics and to consolidate efforts in research and education in the field of clinical bioethics and related fields. Currently, ISCB brings together representatives of the scientific community from 18 countries: Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Taiwan, and the USA. These are doctors, philosophers, biologists, sociologists, psychologists, and representatives of other sciences. All of

them are united by the idea of promoting universal principles in the modern Life Sciences.

The XV international conference of ISCB was dedicated to the theme “Bioethics and Pediatrics: future development and challenges”. The theme was chosen due to the relevance of bioethical problems of Pediatrics. Childhood is considered to be an age of vulnerability, and children need to be protected from global challenges, such as scientific and technological progress, global migration, the rise of military conflicts and economic inequality, but excessive protection can lead to deprotection. Some areas of ethics related to clinical research involving children (good clinical practice, risk-based approach, etc.) or clinical practice (oncology, transplantation, robotics, nanotechnology, etc.) require a special approach, so at this XV conference plenary lectures were presented by experts, who are acknowledged scientists and practitioners.

The plenary session opened a report “The Voice of patients and young children in decision-making process” and was presented by Joanna Claverol, master of clinical research monitoring (UAB) and pharmaceutical marketing (Pompeu Fabra University). Also, the great interest aroused another plenary lecture: “Pediatric and clinical research: a clinician’s view of participant centredness and the clinical trials regulation” presented by Professor Mark A. Turner, world-renowned neonatologist, who obtained a PhD in Medicine with a study on placental physiology. A plenary presentation by Professor Hans-Martin Sass on the theme: “BIOS and Ethics in Complex Adaptable Systems (CAD’s): Responsibilities towards our Children and our Globe” was also listened with great attention. Hans-Martin Sass is a bioethicist, Senior Research Scholar Emeritus at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA, Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at the Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany, and Honorary Professor at the Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China. Professor Hans-Martin Sass also held a memorial speech related to the death of the outstanding bioethicist H. Tristram Engelhardt in 2018, stressing his great contribution to the development of the theory and practice of bioethics on a global level.

Esquerda Montserrat’s plenary report was entitled “Bioethics and clinical pediatrics: filling the gaps”. Montse Esquerda is a General Director of the Borja Institute of Bioethics-Ramon Llull University, and works as a pediatric psychiatrist at Sant Joan de Déu child and adolescent mental health center in Lleida (Catalonia, Spain). During another plenary session, Professor Luka Tomašević (Croatia), President of ISCB, paid special attention to Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Boris Grigorievich Yudin, who passed away in August 2017. Professor Luka Tomašević stressed Boris Yudin’s great contribution to the world of bioethics and ethics of

science, the philosophy of humanitarian expertise and “advanced” knowledge, emphasizing the nature of bioethics.

In a number of parallel sessions the following topics were discussed: global bioethics; Bios and increasing responsibility; ethics of clinical research in pediatrics; qualitative clinical practice of risk-based approach, as well as ethics in Pediatrics; pediatric oncology and pediatric radical surgery (for example, sex change surgery, transplantation); new technologies, robotics and nanotechnology in pediatrics; pediatric research in Europe: anthropological and social aspects; the impact of overloads of professional sports on the health of young athletes; problems in child euthanasia (shifting the responsibility for the decision on child euthanasia towards the state); migration and the rights and protection of internally displaced children; information technology, data collection and data protection in pediatrics; informed consent and decision-making for children and adolescents in health care and clinical research.

As remarks, representatives from America, Europe, and Asia Pacific attended the conference. Professor Farida Nezhmetdinova, Head of the Department of Philosophy and Law of Kazan State Agrarian University (Russia), was chosen as the new President of the ISCB, and at the annual conference, the ISCB adopted the Barcelona Declaration on the Rights of Children, which will be translated and published in different languages.

Farida Nezhmetdinova

Hans-Martin Sass

Gordana Pelčić

Salvador Ribas

Marina Guryleva