

# Teaching medical ethics : Master of Medical Ethics, Paris V

Pr I François-Purssell

<http://www.ethique.inserm.fr/>

# Laboratory of Medical Ethics and Forensic Medicine

- Founded 1992
- Director : Pr Christian Hervé
- EA 4569
- Centre universitaire des Saints pères
- 45 rue des Saints Pères
- 75006 PARIS

- Teaching medical ethics :
- Initial cursus (1st year of medical studies)
- Master M1 and M2
- PhD
- Continuous training

# What is ethics?

- Medical ethics is not an abstract subject.
- It is demonstrated by the attitudes, thought and behaviour of healthcare professionals
- Going beyond the legal and deontology framework as a base, the objective is to determine what theoretical referentials are applied in practice, and how these interrelate, potentially creating ethical tensions and conflicts.

- Medical ethics is a permanent exercise in thought. For every professional decision, it is a duty to be aware about what is due to scientific knowledge, beliefs, or experience. The ultimate aim being more to have a respectful attitude towards others rather than the application of medical knowledge, without renouncing values.

# What is taught?

- In the first year of medical training :
- 1 Multi-disciplinary approach of the human being : spiritual, physical, legal...
- 2 Philosophy of science and epistemology
- 3 History and sociology of health
- 4 Legal medicine, medical ethics and medical law (secret, responsibility, beginning of life, end of life)

- This programme has been introduced nationally since 2010. The objective is to increase medical students awareness to non scientific aspects of medical practice from the start of their training.

# Master M1 « mention éthique »

- UE 1 : Initiation to research methods in medical ethics.
- Objective: students must acquire the ability to:
- Understand the research objectives in medical ethics
- Obtain the tools necessary for conception of ethics research

## UE 2 : Ethics in biomedical research. Protection of persons involved in medical research

- Fundamental principles of biomedical research
- History of research, scientific, industrial and sociological issues, different aspects of protection of human beings in medical research
- Regulations, information, consent..

## UE 3 : Ethics of clinical practice and the patient-carer relationship

- Consent, autonomy
- Patient-carer relationship
- Care and institutions : the case of psychiatry
- Technological progress and the representation of the human body

## UE 4 : Ethics of clinical practice and the patient-carer relationship (2)

- In this second part, students are confronted with different types of situations and acquire a solid understanding how to use these concepts in extreme medical situations: violence, abortion, end of life, death...

## UE 5 : introduction to scientific integrity, ethical and scientific quality.

- Objectives : biomedical research study with respect to conflicts of interest, integrity, the influence of medical ethics to medical research :
- Integrity and science, integrity and intellectual property, falsification, errors, malpractice, ethical quality of publications

- The teaching is organised in several forms:
- Conferences
- Seminars with a chairman and discussions
- Research seminars : students present their own work followed by discussion with the teachers and other students.

# Master 1 : validation

- Written exams are used to evaluate each UE.
- Students must carry out their own research subject and produce a report (written and oral)

# Master M2 : research in medical ethics

- In depth analysis of ethical theories. Use of research tools in medical ethics.
- Many small group sessions to help students in the elaboration of their projects

# M2 : UE 1 Subjects in common

- Ethics and moral philosophy
- Sociology
- History and ethics
- Ethics and organisation
- Ethics, ethology and semiology

## M2 : UE 2 : ethics research; ethics and vulnerable populations

- Human body and vulnerability
- Exclusion and vulnerability
- Precariousness and vulnerability
- Mental disability, alzheimer's disease, vulnerability and emergency, dementia....old aged persons

## M2 : UE 3 : ethics and new biotechnologies

- Students study new biotechnologies to enable them to understand the issues in terms of the benefit they can bring and also the questions of individual freedom, safety and protection of persons in medical and research practice.
- Medically assisted procreation, predictive genetics, research using human body parts and products, organ transplantation..

# M2 : UE 4 : ethics and medical networks

- Now organization of the health care system implies new questions, new practice.
- The interaction between hospital and non-hospital practitioners
- Consequences regarding access to care
- Different types of networks are presented and studied.

M2 : UE 5 : relationship between the Justice and medicine; ethics and forensic medical examination, ethics and compensation.

- In forensic medicine, the Justice and medicine are concerned with the same population, but with different aims. Understanding the different points of view is necessary. But being aware of all the issues of such a confrontation is even more necessary. Subjects treated in this UE are : deontology and ethics; violence and medicine, medical responsibility, medical accidents and compensation

# M2 UE 6 : genetic counseling

- Decision making, the context of increasing demand for prediction, the notion of normality, the risk of eugenism, the social issues of genetic prediction.

# M2 : UE 7 : decision making and end of life

- This is a very sensitive topic;
- In this UE : relevance of Advance Directives, multi-disciplinary college for decision of end of care; therapeutic obstinacy; place of death in medical practice...

## M2 : UE 8 : ethics, information, and media, ethics and scientific communication

- The aim is the sharing of knowledge. It is necessary to have a critical attitude towards publications, communications, different means of conveying information, critical analysis of the impact and effect of publications;
- Programs of vulgarisation, use of web sites in doctor-patient relationship.

# M2 UE9 Ethics and environment: Environment and human beings

- Relevance of environmental studies on health
- The role of the Principle of precaution
- Principle of responsibility according to Hans Jonas

# The methods

- Inspired by human sciences
- Participative or neutral observation
- Interviews,
- Case Files,
- Literature , analysis of texts.

# End of M2

- By this stage, each student is able to define a field of research and, with help, to determine which method he will use to carry out his research.
- The evaluation : written exams for each UE, dissertation with viva, and submission of an article.

# Ph.D Thesis

- Research work during 3 years.

# The research in the laboratory

- Two major themes, 4 axes :

Deux themes :

1 Regulations and decision

2 Human being, the human body, society

# Research

- Axis 1 : use of products and elements of human bodies
- Axis 2 : decision making at the beginning and end of life
- Axis 3 : evolution of patient-carer relationships, patients' rights
- Axis 4 : evolution of medical research regulation

# Some examples

- Doctor's role in cases of domestic violence
- Informed consent for people involved in a palliative care network and at home
- Ethical aspects of forensic autopsy
- Medical response to transsexualism

# Some publications

- **Année 2011**
- - [Stenting as a bridge to surgery for colorectal cancer.](#)  
BRIDOUX V, KIANIFARD B, MOUDEL G, HERVÉ C, TUECH JJ.  
Lancet Oncol. 2011;12(7):621.
  - [Mortality meetings: ethical considerations and adherence to evidence-based practice from 6 years of experience in a mixed cardiac department.](#)  
LARRAZET F, FOLLIGUET T, LABORDE F, BACHET J, HERVE C.  
Eur J Cardiothorac Surg. 2011 Mar 28.[Epub ahead of print]
  - [Des premières réimplantations aux premières transplantations totales de la face : l'histoire de prouesses chirurgicales.](#)  
[From the first face replants operations to the first total face transplant: The history of surgical prowess].  
PIRNAY P, HERVE C, MENINGAUD JP.  
Rev Stomatol Chir Maxillofac. 2011 Mar 23. [Epub ahead of print]
  - 
  - [Place des soins palliatifs en salle de naissance dans la prise en charge des prématurés de moins de 24 semaines d'aménorrhée. Expérience de 2 maternités.](#)  
[Palliative care in delivery room for preterm infants less than 24 weeks of gestation. Analysis of two different behaviors.]  
PIERRE M, PLU I, HERVE C, BETREMIEUX P.  
Arch Pediatr. 2011 Mar 11. [Epub ahead of print]
- - [Return home at the end of life: Patients' vulnerability and risk factors.](#)  
VASSAL P, LE COZ P, HERVE C, MATILLON Y, CHAPUIS F.  
Palliat Med. 2011;25(2):139-147.
- - [Le patient peut-il et doit-il participer à la gestion des risques en radiothérapie ?](#)  
[Can or must the patient participate to risk management in radiotherapy?]  
MOLLO V, PERNET A, MOUDEL G, DUCHANGE N, GIRAUD P.  
Cancer Radiother. 2011; 15(3):176-181.
- [Post mortem scientific sampling and the search for causes of death in intensive care: what information should be given and what consent should be obtained?](#)  
RIGAUD JP, QUENOT JP, BOREL M, PLU I, HERVE C, MOUDEL G.  
J Med Ethics. 2011;37(3):132-136.
- [La carie dentaire comme maladie chronique, vers une nouvelle approche clinique.](#)  
[Dental carie as chronic disease, a new therapeutic approach.]  
TRENTESAUX T, SANDRIN-BERTHON B, STUCKENS C, HAMEL O, HERVÉ C.  
Presse Med. 2011;40(2):162-6.