

IME NATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE:

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS *in the Pursuit of Perfection*

The IME National Student Conference was held at the University of Leeds on 8th February 2020. This year's theme was the Pursuit of Perfection. A huge thank you to all those involved in the day and congratulations to IME council members Alex Flach and Charlotte Galvin for running such a successful conference.



The day kicked off with the keynote speech from Ms Georgia Testa titled "Perfection, what is it good for?". She explored themes of philosophy and ethics of individual values and the problems with trying to pursue perfection within medicine.

Keynote speaker Ms Testa with council members Alex and Charlotte

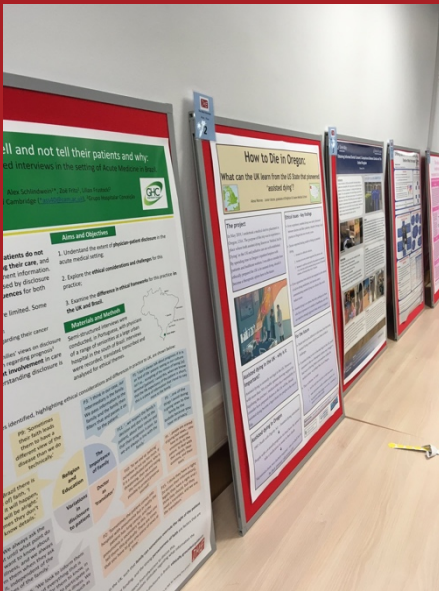
This year the final of the IME Student Debate competition was also held at the conference. After making it through a competitive field in the preliminary rounds, the teams from Sheffield and Leeds made it to the final to debate, "The Perfect Healthcare System: is it fair to force junior doctors to relocate to certain areas of the UK to provide equitable levels of care?" After an intense debate, with some difficult questions from the audience, Leeds won the debate by audience vote. A huge congratulations to both teams for an engaging and thought-provoking debate.



The Sheffield and Leeds Medical Schools' Debate teams

Kate Hamilton and Sophie Golda Reginald were the two student speakers selected to present their research at the conference. Kate gave a fascinating talk, raising awareness for ambiguous genitalia and taking us through her research into the ethics of cosmetic genital surgery in infants. Next, Sophie discussed implicit bias in healthcare. She outlined how these biases can lead to direct physical, social and psychological harm and argued that doctors have a responsibility to be aware of and address their implicit biases. After an engaging talk, she even gave us some practical tips to help address these issues.

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The IME has committed to being meat-free to reduce their impact on the environment. While the delegates enjoyed a huge vegetarian spread, the poster presentations and judging took place. The standard was incredibly high this year with many impressive and interesting submissions. Alex Schlindwein won the Elective Bursary Student Poster prize, Sophie Latta took the prize for the IME Intercalation Scholarship student poster prize and Katie Berwick won IME Student Committee's poster prize.

During the afternoon we had an exciting set of workshops following the theme of the Pursuit of Perfection. Dr Janet Holt lead a workshop on “The Perfect Death”, emphasising issues around assisted dying. Dr Vivekananda-Schmidt ran “The Perfect Healthcare Professional” workshop, pushing us to think about the behaviours and values that make a professional ‘perfect’. Miss Lorraine Corfield led an excellent interactive workshop on “The Perfect Patient Care” and how our expectations compare to the realities of this. Finally, Dr Rhonda Bratt lead an engaging workshop on “Perfection in Medical Research”.



Dr Janet Holt

We look forward to seeing you all at the IME National Student Conference in 2021!