



# VELNEWS

July 2017

Special Edition - Bioethics

Madurai

## Inauguration of ....

*A nodal centre of the International Network of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Haifa, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 at Velammal Medical College Hospital & Research Institute, Madurai.*



By Prof. Dr. S. Geethalakshmi, honorable Vice Chancellor of The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Presided over by Shri. M.V. Muthuramalingam, honorable Chairman, Velammal Educational Trust, in the presence of Dr. Russell D'Souza, Head, Asia Pacific Bioethics Division, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Haifa, Dean, Prof. Dr. RajaMuthiah and faculty members of Velammal Medical College Hospital & Research Institute, Madurai.

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**The inauguration of the  
Madurai Nodal Center of the UNESCO Chair In Bioethics - Haifa  
and “The 3T – IBHSc Training Course for Health Science Faculty”  
The Indian Program of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (Haifa): July 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### Introduction

"Bioethics" means the study of ethical issues arising from human involvement with life; it includes the concepts of balancing benefits and risks, the desire to do good and the need to avoid doing harm. It includes the idea of respecting autonomy, justice and sharing what we have which is distributive justice and fair use of technology in medical sciences.

There is a void or at the most a very meager knowledge of bioethics provided for in the medical curriculum at the undergraduate and post graduate levels in India. The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai, India under its able visionary, the honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. Geethalakshmi has envisioned a medical curriculum integrating bioethics to bring out the Indian Medical Graduate who will be competent to provide health care which is value based with equity and justice. We greatly appreciate the vision of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and welcome their initiative in bringing the knowledge of ethical medicine to all medical fraternity in various regions of the world.

### The Madurai Nodal Center

The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University Chennai India has nominated Velammal Medical College Hospital and Research Institute, Madurai to be one among UNESCOs prestigious nodal centers. Velammal Medical College is the first regional nodal center inaugurated in Tamil Nadu.

The Madurai nodal center for bioethics at Velammal will cater to three Government medical colleges, one private medical college and two private dental colleges at Madurai. (Government Medical College Madurai, Government Medical College Theni, Government Medical College Sivagangai, Velammal Medical College Hospital and Research Institute, Best Dental Science College and CSI College of Dental Sciences and Research).

The bioethics unit will train faculty from these institutions in the best ways to teach bioethics, particularly regarding objectives of such teaching, the teaching methods, the content of programs, the assessment of teaching efforts and analyze controversies regarding persistent problems, challenges, as well as areas of consensus in bioethics education.

### The Inauguration of the Madurai Nodal Center

Prof. Dr. RajaMuthiah, the respected Dean of Velammal Medical College Hospital extended a hearty welcome to the guests, resource personnel, participants, staff and students. The guests on the dias along with a few participant faculties from other medical colleges did the honor of lighting the lamp. The Madurai Nodal center for the UNESCO Bioethics Chair – Haifa was inaugurated on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 by the honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. Geethalakshmi. In the presidential address, she introduced the importance of bioethics in the practice of medicine and its integration into the MBBS curriculum. She expressed great confidence that Velammal Medical College will in the future champion the cause of bioethics. We were greatly privileged to listen to her oratorical dynamism, vision and leadership.

The honorable Chairman Shri M.V. Muthuramalingam of the Velammal Educational Trust, whose generosity and magnanimity made this program possible, graced the occasion. In his special address to the gathered faculty and students, he stressed the importance of value based education and depth in all aspects of the imparted medical education. He felicitated all the resource persons, the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics for Asia Pacific region Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza and the honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. Geethalakshmi.

Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza delivered the keynote address during which he educated the audience on the great work and vision of the UNESCO bioethics program. His eloquence in expressing the need for integrating Bioethics in medical curriculum and faculty training convinced the audience to do everything possible to bring to fruition the bioethics vision of the UNESCO. The UNESCO writ of appointment of the nodal center was ceremoniously handed over to the honorable Chairman Shri. M.V. Muthuramalingam by Dr. Russell D'Souza. Other writs were handed over similarly to Dr. John Rajpathy as the Head of Bioethics Unit, Dr. Raj Kishore as the Secretary, Dr. Mohanthy as the head of the Steering Committee. The members of the steering committee Dr. Ramanujam, Dr. Jhansi Charles, Dr. Rajarajeshwari, Dr. Ravi Raman, Dr. Samir Bele were also given the writs of appointment. Prof. Dr. Mohanty Vice Principal of the Velammal Medical college closed the ceremony with gracious words of thanks to all who contributed to the success of the program.



Dignitaries on the dias from left to right. Head of Bioethics unit, Prof. Dr. John Rajpathy, Vice Principal Prof Dr. P.K. Mohanty, Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. Geethalakshmi, Honorable Chairman Shri . M.V. Muthuramalingam , Head Bioethics Asia Pacific division for UNESCO Prof. Dr. Russell D’Souza and Dean Prof. Dr. R. M. RajaMuthiah



The Gathering at the Inauguration of Velammal Bioethics unit



Dean Prof. Dr. R. M. RajaMuthiah welcoming the gathering



Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. Geethalakshmi initiating the lamp lighting ceremony



Honorable Chairman Shri . M.V. Muthuramalingam delivering the special address



Honorable Chairman Shri . M.V. Muthuramalingam felicitating the honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. Geethalakshmi



Honorable Chairman Shri . M.V. Muthuramalingam felicitating the Head Bioethics Asia Pacific division for UNESCO Prof. Dr. Russell D’Souza



Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. Geethalakshmi delivering the presidential address



Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza delivering the keynote addresses



Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza handing over the UNESCO Writ of appointment to honorable Chairman Shri. M.V. Muthuramalingam recognizing Velammal Medical College as the Regional Nodal Center for Bioethics



Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza handing over the UNESCO Writ of appointment to honorable Chairman Shri . M.V. Muthuramalingam



Vice Principal Prof Dr. P.K. Mohanty closing the ceremony with vote of thanks



Dignitaries with resource personnel, Steering committee members and 3T training participants

## The Inauguration of the student's wing of the Madurai Nodal Center

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017 the students wing of the UNESCO Bioethics division was inaugurated. Following Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza's invigorating and inspiring speech there was an overwhelming response from the students to join the UNESCO World Student's Bioethics Fraternity. Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza handed over the writ of appoint to Mr. Venkatesh (Student - pre final year) as President. Mr. Dinesh (Student - pre final year) was appointed as the secretary along with a twenty member committee.

### The 3T – IBHSc Training Course – 3 days' workshop

The 3T – IBHSc training course for health science faculty began at 9:00 am in very ambient college boardroom. Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza, Dr. Derek D'Souza, Dr. Mini Jacob, Dr. Princy Pallatty, Dr. Santosh Salagre and Dr. Peter were exceptional as resource persons. Each did their discourse in a very professional and enjoyable way. Much admiration was expressed by the participants for the easy to understand communication emanating from each person's expertise. The energizers were a super hit with the participants dancing to the local famous movie and folk tunes. The first day was a bit congested with the inauguration ceremonies scheduled in-between, however the second and the third day's program were on time and smooth.

Morning tea, lunch and evening tea was provided from the Velammal multicuisine restaurant. Both vegetarian and non vegetarian food was served along with Madurai's famous drink Jigrithandaa. The department of information technology and the administrative staff helped put this program together for which enough thanks cannot be articulated.

### The Valedictory Function

The participants were a mixed group of the young and the old from the clinical discipline of Medicine, Surgery, OBG, Psychiatry, Anesthesia, Community Medicine, Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Microbiology, Pathology, Dentistry and Nursing. A total of 34 persons were awarded the 3T – IBHSc completion certificates. During the valedictory function Dr. Mohanty the Vice Principal along with Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza gave the certificates.

During the valedictory function the participants expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the privilege, smooth conduct of the program, and the exceptional, quality and variety of food. The ceremony closed with the entire participating faculty vowing to impart to their colleagues and students in their respective institutions all the knowledge gleaned from the workshop and also to acquire an advanced education from the online courses in bioethics.

## The accredited 3T-IBHSC Bioethics Training Program was held at Velammal Medical College Hospital and Research Institute - Madurai from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The accredited 3T-IBHSc bioethics training program has been designed to introduce medical, dental and health science teaching faculty of universities and colleges to teach the modern vertically integrated bioethics curriculum based on the core curriculum, which reflects the 15 principals enshrined in the UNESCO's universal declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005). It was developed by experts under the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Haifa. The 3T-IBHSc program is built to Train Teach and Transfer (Bioethics and Human Rights Knowledge) Integrated Bioethics in Health Sciences.

This course has successfully trained over 1270 senior medical, dental and allied health science teaching faculty of various universities of health sciences in India. The course evaluation and outcomes have been extremely positive as assessed from post-course evaluation and feedback evaluation. The trained faculty are expected to return to train their respective departments and introduce the teaching integrated bioethics curriculum at their respective medical, dental and health science colleges. The course has also been extended to medical teaching faculty at universities at Malaysia and Indonesia.

The Course Director, Professor Dr. Russell D'Souza, Head & Chair Asia Pacific Division UNESCO Chair in Bioethics Haifa and is currently the Executive Director Global, Dean and Professor of Psychological Medicine International Institute of Organizational Psychological Medicine, based in Melbourne, Australia. In 2011, he was appointed the Head & Chair Asia Pacific Bioethics Division for Education Science and Technology, mandated to establishing UNESCO Bioethics units in universities and centres in UNESCO Australia, the Pacific and Asia, that will respond to emerging trends in bioethics generated by the UNESCO as expressed in its Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights of October 2005. He established, leads and coordinates the UNESCO Bioethics units in reputed universities in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia. He is ably supported by a dedicated team of experienced faculty who are committed to the spread of bioethics training in India and internationally.

The course uses the methodology of a group of 'Co-Learners' where training faculty and participant teaching faculty are co-learners, using the process of 'Learning through osmosis.' Osmosis is the art of unconscious learning. It goes beyond mere studying of course material and instead starts to absorb them. This is an analogy for natural, organic and indirect way of learning and is ideally suited to adult learning.

### The 3 day course has 3 components

#### Part A: Bioethics Principles

History, Principles, Codes & Guidelines of Ethics, Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, Autonomy, Privacy Confidentiality, Informed Consent requirements, Beneficence, Non- Maleficence, Justice, Equality and Equity, Human Rights, Human Dignity, Vulnerability, Gender disparity and Environmental Ethics and Biosafety.

#### Part B: Bioethics Knowledge Transfer Technology

Impact of neuro cognition on teaching competencies, Ethical decision making, Case Based Teaching, Communication, Use of Emotional Intelligence in Teaching bioethics, Ethical deliberation, Innovative teaching methods and Assessment technology.

#### Part C: Integrated Bioethics

Teaching and assessing of bioethics curriculum integrated into undergraduate Medical, Dental and Allied Health Science subjects. The application of Bioethics in clinical teaching methodology in health sciences education in clinics. The result is the ability to identify bioethical issues, applying the bioethical principles and the use of bioethical deliberation in resolving ethical dilemmas. This curriculum is taught and assessed formatively and with summative assessments alongside with every subject of the undergraduate training curriculum in the medical and dental education program.

The accredited bioethics course is delivered in a workshop model using a cafeteria setting, with interactive and innovative knowledge transfer methodology. The course will introduce the modern bioethics knowledge transfer technology which includes the underpinnings of neuro-cognition sciences on teaching competencies, emotional intelligence in teaching methodology for medical, dental and allied health science teaching faculty. The use of innovative teaching methodology will be demonstrated, with workshopping of a fully evaluated case-based teaching methodology, to be further used in the teaching and training in undergraduate medical education program.

The simulated teaching module and assessment at the end of the course, will offer dynamic feedback on teaching skills and knowledge transfer technology demonstrated. The successful completion with certification, offers credentials in competencies to teach bioethics in their respective, medical and dental discipline. The added requirements of post-graduate qualifications in the discipline and teaching experience are required as a pre- condition for admission for the accredited 3T - IBHSc bioethics course. The certification offers eligibility for admission and registration with the international forum of teachers of Bioethics of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics based at Sophia University.

This course is made available to all the Government health science universities and private health sciences universities hosting a nodal centre under the association of Indian Health Science Universities – UNESCO Chair in Bioethics National Program.

The successful completion of this course for teaching faculty makes them eligible for admission to International Forum of Teachers of Bioethics Europe and offers credentialing in the ability to teach integrated bioethics in their speciality. This will accomplish the introduction of bioethics curriculum in medical dental and allied health science courses.

### 15 Principles of Bioethics (Based on the Bioethics Declaration of UNESCO)

1. Article 3 – Human dignity and human rights
2. Article 4 – Benefit and harm
3. Article 5 – Autonomy and individual responsibility
4. Article 6 – Consent
5. Article 7 – Persons without the capacity to consent
6. Article 8 – Respect for human vulnerability and personal integrity
7. Article 9 – Privacy and confidentiality
8. Article 10 – Equality, justice and equity
9. Article 11 – Non-discrimination and non-stigmatization
10. Article 12 – Respect for cultural diversity and pluralism
11. Article 13 – Solidarity and cooperation
12. Article 14 – Social responsibility and health
13. Article 15 – Sharing of benefits
14. Article 16 – Protecting future generations
15. Article 17 – Protection of the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity

### Vision and Mission Statement of the Velammal Bioethics Unit

#### Vision

Velammal Medical College Hospital and Research Institute will strive for excellence in field of bioethics guided by the global standards set by UNESCO.

#### Mission

- Educate and inspire health professionals to incorporate the values and principles of bioethics in their daily practice.
- Introduction of structured bioethics syllabus in the medical and allied health sciences curriculum during their early years.
- Educate and train faculty in the field of bioethics and introduce virtual and physical systems for exchange of knowledge regarding moral issues related to bioethics with other institutions.
- Encourage research on the ethical moral issues related to health and diseases and ethical norms in scientific research and experimentations.
- Introduce and develop a forum consisting of researchers and administrators who will draw on their expertise to guide ethical consideration regarding resource allocation, cooperation among physicians, healthcare delivery and management.

#### The objectives of Velammal UNESCO bioethics Unit

It will

1. Bring about a conceptual change among the medical faculty.
2. Develop and introduce bioethics into the current curriculum.
3. Training of trainers in the instruction of ethics.
4. Develop new education tools and materials in teaching and learning of bioethics.

### The Velammal Bioethics Unit Structure

**Head of Bioethics :** **Dr. John Rajpathy**  
Prof of Physiology

**Secretary :** **Dr. Rajkishore Mahato**  
Prof & HOD Pharmacology

Chair of Bioethics : -

**Steering committee**

**Head :** **Dr. P.K. Mohanty**  
Prof & HOD of Biochemistry

**Members :** **Dr. Jhansi Charles**  
Prof & HOD of Microbiology

**Dr. Ramanujam**  
Prof & HOD of Psychiatry

**Dr. Rajarajeshwari**  
Prof & HOD of OBG

**Dr. Raviraman**  
Prof & HOD of Orthopedics

**Dr. Samir Bele**  
Prof & HOD of Com. Medicine

### The Velammal Bioethics Students Wing

**President :** **Mr. Venkatesh**  
Student Pre-final year

**Secretary :** **Mr. Dinesh**  
Student Pre-final year

**Student Members:** **Miss. Ishwaryalakshmi G**  
**Miss. Haritha K**  
**Mr. Khadharfarzihussain G**  
**Mr. Suryakumar S**  
**Miss. Shivani R**  
**Mr. Prasannavenkatesh N**  
**Miss. Harshithakonanki**  
**Miss. Krithikalakshmi S M**  
**Miss. Rajalakshmi S**  
**Miss. Yogitha P**  
**Miss. Adhithya N**  
**Miss. Abiramimanivannan**  
**Miss. Bawapoorni K**  
**Miss. Dhivya T**  
**Mr. Kabilan @ vetrivel T**  
**Miss. Krishnika R**  
**Mr. Nareshkumar J**  
**Miss. Rekhasree S**  
**Miss. Sowmiya A**

### Proposed future activity framework of the unit

1.	Advancement of bioethics lectures, courses and seminars
2.	Holding lectures and courses for various professional communities or for public at large
3.	Holding local, regional, international conferences
4.	Research
5.	Building a website
6.	Editing a news letter
7.	Editing a journal
8.	Building a data base
9.	Editing a book
10.	Translating UNESCO's books and documents.

### Bioethics Students' Wings, Indian Program of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Haifa

As for any reform to actually take place, we always have to start from those who are going to be the future of the country. Considering the same, the Indian program of UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Haifa set up the Bioethics Students' Wings.

There are more than 60 such established units. ETHOS 2017 at MGIMS, Sevagram (Wardha), Maharashtra from 24th to 26th February 2017 was entirely a student's initiative to sensitize the medics in the field of Bioethics. It was the first student conference which had themed events entirely based on Bioethics. It also marked the start of a nationwide appeal in the field of bioethics for students by having the global leaders in the field of bioethics under the same roof.

The Bioethics Students' Wings function under the able guidance of Dr. Russell D'Souza who is the Head, Asia Pacific Network, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Haifa and Dr. Mary Mathew who heads the Indian program.

Presently, the focus is on the integration of all the Bioethics Students' Units across the country. The First National General Assembly of all the units will happen at ETHOS 2018 which will be hosted by D.Y. Patil University, Kolhapur. The General Assembly of this sort would be the first such gathering of students and faculties where the entire agenda would solely be Bioethics and its importance in the current medical practice and research.

The Students' Bioethics Units intend to empower the individuals with the right wisdom and rationale behind their decisions so that we can have a better functioning and a high value – based healthcare system in the country.

**Dr. John Rajpathy,**

Head Bioethics Unit,

Velammal Medical College Hospital & Research Institute,

Madurai-09.

### 3T IBHSc Training Workshop



Resource Person Prof. Dr. Princy Louis Palaty during a session of the 3T IBHSc training workshop



Participants of the 3T IBHSc training workshop



Resource persons Prof. Dr. Derek D'Souza and Prof. Dr. Princy Louis Palaty engaging the participants during the energizing sessions of the 3T IBHSc training workshop



Participants of the 3T IBHSc training workshop receiving completion certificates

### Inauguration of the student's wing of the Madurai Nodal Center



Trainees who completed the 3T IBHSc training workshop along with the resource personnel



Mr. Venkatesh, president of the students' wing of the Bioethics Unit receiving the writ of appointment from Prof. Dr. Russell D'Souza