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Send papers to the editor in electronic form if possible. *Please use numbered reference style, do not use automatic footnotes or endnotes. Papers are peer reviewed.*

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Editorial

This issue of *EJAIB* focuses on medical ethics with several papers examining the basis of health care access policies. Currently there are debates and bills being discussed in USA and other countries regarding the building of national health care systems. The Paper by Boyd and Nejati examines the US situation, and the paper by Selvanayagam and Xavier examines the Indian situation. As two of the world's largest democracies they are in need of better safety nets for medical care.

Miyasaka examines the history of exclusion of leprosy sufferers in Japan, and calls upon the government and legal-medical system to address some unanswered questions. Saniotis examines the surge in use of caesarian sections in Australia. He questions the justifications for this, and also points out the rates are significantly higher in patients with private medical insurance. The definition of disease is examined in the paper by Chakraborti and Chakraborty, while Verma examines evolution in humankind.

Siti Nor reports from a workshop held in Malaysia in June 2009 that was organized by several government departments in cooperation with UNESCO on the establishment of a National Bioethics Committee there. At the COMEST session the Malaysian Minister of Science, technology and Innovation announced that such a committee will be established by the end of the year. In July at a UNESCO workshop in Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Bioethics Association was founded, and the Minister of Education also expressed his support to establish a National Bioethics Committee there,

The next issue of *EJAIB* will focus on the Ethics of Energy Technologies in Asia and the Pacific (EETAP) Project of UNESCO Bangkok, with a growing number of papers open for consultation and peer review on the website.

-Darryl Macer