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Our worldviews

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Deadline for the May 2008 issue is **1 May, 2008**.

Editorial: Our worldviews

This issue of the journal commences with a survey of the attitudes of medical ethics teachers across Japanese medical and nursing schools towards a case of decision making for life-sustaining treatment. While the findings show diversity, an interesting question is whether personal attitudes towards bioethics dilemmas will lead to differing styles of ethics education. Will the attitudes of medical professionals taught by a teacher favouring withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment be different to those taught by a teacher who does not? Should they? According to the UNESCO Regional Action Plan for Bioethics Education in Asia and the Pacific (Now available in multiple languages on www.unescobkk.org/rushsap), the views of the teacher should not especially influence the diversity of views of the students. However, one could expect some effects if different reference materials were included and cited.

Further papers in this issue examine the perspectives of monotheistic religions on embryo status and use of ES cell lines for research if created by embryo sacrifice. Saniotis makes a detailed analysis of the biocosmology papers of Konstantin S. Khroutski, who has often published in *EJAIB* in the past. We look forward to the response. The arguments discuss a world view that could be said to encompass different religious viewpoints, and make a different approach. The final paper in this issue is a critique of libertarian bioethics, to discuss a further view that could be taken as a basis for bioethics. Garvey and Boyd described how global health concerns for public good have shaped our concern about AIDS, no matter what our religious world view. All of these different viewpoints should be part of the theoretical background of ethics education.

Pinto examines the debates on how ethics should affect ethical codes, especially in the Portuguese context. Patel and Rajput describe some issues of genetic screening in South Asia with the advent of growing rates of use of genetic diagnosis. Comments are welcome on all these papers. -D.M.