

APACPH Collaboration Initiative on Public Health Law & Ethics

2017 Activities for Asian Institute for Bioethics and Health Law
(WHO Collaborating Center for Health Law & Bioethics)

1. WHO related activities

A. Projects as a WHO Collaborating Centre

a. Development of Online Country Report System on AIBHL's WHO CC Website

In order to collect and disseminate medical and health-related literature to respond to the information requirements of the researchers, online country report system is being developed. As for now, most of the Member States and territories of WHO/WPRO have been uploaded to the website database and the final procedure is in progress. (2014.06.11-present)

b. Project on Patient Safety

Together with Patient Safety Law that has been enacted in Korea to avoid preventable medical malpractice, the importance of analysing previous medical malpractice has arisen. Funded by Yonsei University, this project aims to prevent recurrence of medical malpractice and develop guidelines of possible causes by identifying incident occurrence stage and cause of occurrence by analysing medical dispute sentencing. Analysing medical dispute sentencing due to anaesthesia is done last year and we are currently in the process of analysing medical malpractice due to plastic surgery. (2016.10.01-2017.09.30)

As a result of this project, to improve patient safety and increase the public interest, research team published 'Analysis of Medical Cases for Patient Safety Series' by medical division. So far published 5 books, that is, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine (Cardiology), Obgyn (Obstetrics), Orthopaedics, and Neurosurgery. Additionally research team aims to publish 3 more books during second half of 2017, that is, Surgery, Anaesthesia and Plastic Surgery.

B. Activities with WHO/WPRO

a. Health Law and Bioethics workshop in APACPH

AIBHL has been holding annual meeting with WHO/WPRO during APACPH Conference. Each time, experts from other countries are invited and the meeting deals with issues related to public health law and bioethics in each of the countries. Health Law and Bioethics workshop – Legislation and the Changing Role of Government in Achieving UHC and the SDGs will be held during the 49th APACPH Conference that will be held in Songdo, South Korea. (2017.08.16)

b. The 3rd Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health

Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health is an association of national parliamentary health committees. Founded in 2015, the 1st and 2nd Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health was held in Seoul, Korea to provide platform for parliamentarians, along with partners, to exchange ideas, build political support, strengthen capacities and foster collaboration in prioritizing health agendas and driving sustainable action for health. Yonsei University has been provided administrative support to the forum on the 1st and 2nd forum. This year, the 3rd Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health will be held in Japan. (2017.08.24-25)

2. Other projects

A. Genomic ELSI (Ethical, Legal and Social Implications) Research Centre

a. Centre for ELSI Research on Genomics

As human genomic research has grown rapidly, the importance of ethical, legal and social implications on human genomic research has arisen as well. Thus, the project on ELSI aims to encourage ELSI study and human genomic research in Korea, to raise social understanding level about human genomic research and to suggest ethical, legal and political considerations. After the Guideline ELSI project, next project on ELSI is being carried on with the title 'Centre for ELSI (Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications) Research on Genomics.' This project aims to draw academic performance to solve the problems of genomic research areas, ethical, legal, social issues and social diffusion. Also, through the research, we would like to reason out the ethical, legal, and social problems in preventing misuse and abuse applied to clinical trial of genetic technology and genome data. (2016.12.07-2017.12.31)

b. Research on the Social and Ethical Basis for 'Precision Medicine Research Resource Development Project'

Since 2015, the former U.S. President Barack Obama announced Precision Medicine Initiative, and in worldwide, 'Precision Medicine' became primary issue in biotechnology area. While preparing 'Precision Medicine Research in Korea' Korea's Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) order a basic research for 'Precision Medicine Research Resource Development Project'. Therefore Genomic ELSI Research Centre will conduct basic research for Korea's Precision Medicine especially regarding social and ethical aspects. (2017.08–Present)

B. Public Health Educational Capacity Development of University of Health & Allied Sciences in Ghana

Followed by the previous project on maternal child health of Volta Region in Ghana, 'Project for Strengthening Health Care and University Capacity Building of Volta Region in Ghana' is conducted from April 2017. It is a 4-year project and aims to strengthen primary health care with the help of community health workers and by strengthening the capacity of university. (2017.04.01-2018.03.31)

C. Other conferences

- a. The 18th Asian Bioethics Conference: ABC has been established in order to effectively respond to current bioethics issues. The 18th ABC will be held in Seoul, Korea from 25 to 28 October, 2017.
- b. The 1st Meeting in ELSI Genomic in Kyoto: The 1st Meeting in ELSI Genomic in Kyoto will provide a platform for participants to discuss the Genomic ELSI Research. Researchers of Yonsei University will participate in the 1st Meeting in ELSI Genomic in Kyoto scheduled from 13 to 16 November, 2017.