

# Incapacity and Care

## Moral Problems in Healthcare and Research

An international conference to  
celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the Linacre Centre's foundation

**St Mary's University College**  
Strawberry Hill (near London Heathrow)

**5-7 July 2007**

**ORGANISED BY**  
**Linacre Centre**  
**for Healthcare Ethics**  
**London, UK**

**WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM**  
**Ave Maria School of Law**  
**Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA**

In a society which lays particular stress on autonomy, what are the moral and legal rights of those incapable of consenting to medical treatment - or to other, perhaps more harmful ways of managing their care? If they were previously capable, or if their capacity fluctuates, what force should their prior wishes have? Alternatively, if they were never capable of consenting - for example, due to a congenital impairment - how can we best protect their interests in being treated with respect?

There are some choices, such as euthanasia, which always fail to respect the patient's interests; other choices, such as non-therapeutic research, may be more difficult to classify. Again, some interventions, such as sterilisation, are a form of mutilation - but how are we to care for those incapable of marriage or of bringing up a child? Or in the case of a bona fide treatment which would produce a good clinical result, what are the constraints on how the patient may be influenced, in terms of deception or restraint, in order that the treatment be provided?

The Conference has a dual focus. Some sessions will focus on patients who are currently or permanently unable to consent to treatment or other procedures/activities calling for consent due to a congenital impairment and/or mental illness. Other sessions will focus on the wider range of patients whose inability to give or withhold consent is due to dementia and/or physical illness or injury and is the prime concern of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The Conference will conclude with two papers, followed by a panel discussion, on the Mental Capacity Act: its meaning, the risks it poses, and how these risks might be addressed when the Act with its Code of Practice comes into force.

## speakers

- Archbishop Mario Conti • Fr Benedict Groeschel • Dr David Jones • Dr Bill Sullivan
- Dr Wendy Hiscox • Professor Desmond O'Neill • Dr Helen Watt • Dr Aaron Kheriaty
- Anthony McCarthy • Dr Philip Howard • Professor John Finnis.

**The Conference opens at 5.00 pm on Thursday 5 July, and closes with lunch on Saturday 7 July.**

## venue

Strawberry Hill was originally a small cottage by the River Thames. Horace Walpole, son of Robert Walpole, rented the cottage in 1717 and subsequently bought it; he then set about enlarging the house and adding to the land. Walpole did not follow the eighteenth-century fashion of classical building, but sought his inspiration in medieval styles. Some of his contemporaries imitated his design, and so this house and the idea it embodied take their place in the history of architecture as Strawberry Hill Gothic. The site is now owned by St Mary's University College, a degree-awarding Catholic college, and a centre for bioethics teaching and research. It is readily accessible from Heathrow Airport.

## accommodation

Reservations have been made for 170 Conference participants to be accommodated in the College. Early booking is therefore strongly recommended. Meals can be provided for non-residential participants. There are a limited number of single rooms with ensuite bathrooms, and also a limited number of standard single rooms (couples and families are invited to book adjacent single rooms). It may be possible for overseas participants to stay at the College the nights before and after the Conference - please contact the Conference Organiser, Lauren Dykes.

## how to register

Provisional bookings may be made by telephone **+44 (0)20 72667410**, by fax **+44 (0)20 7266 5424**, or by e-mail **admin@linacre.org**. Bookings should be confirmed by sending us the completed booking form and full payment. Provisional bookings can only be held for six weeks. If payment has not been received within that period, the booking will be automatically cancelled.

Some participants may wish to attend the prior meeting of the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists, which runs from 1-5 July at the same site (separate booking required – contact [secretariat@iacbweb.org](mailto:secretariat@iacbweb.org)). Please let us know if you have reserved accommodation).

## cancellations

There will be a full refund of cancellations notified before 1 June 2007. No refunds will be given on cancellations notified after 1 June 2007, although those needing to make such late cancellations may nominate another person to take up their booking.

Queries to the Conference Organiser, Lauren Dykes, at the Linacre Centre, who will be very happy to help you.

## payment

- Payment can be made by credit card (Mastercard/Visa), debit card (Switch, Delta), by cheque, or by bank transfer.
- Payments by credit card may be made by telephone **+44 (0)20 72667410** or by filling in the appropriate part of the booking form.
- Cheques should be made payable to **The Linacre Centre** and sent to us with your booking form.
- Bank transfers should be sent to **CAF Bank, P.O. Box 289, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA**, Account No. **00011261**, Sort Code **40-52-40**. Please use your own name as the reference so that we can identify your payment, and send us your completed booking form.

ALL COMPLETED BOOKING FORMS MUST BE SENT TO:  
**Lauren Dykes, The Linacre Centre, 38 Circus Road**  
**London NW8 9SE, United Kingdom**

# booking form

## for residents *(please indicate no. of rooms requested)*

I wish to book accommodation and full board (all meals including banquet on Friday night) at St Mary's College

		<i>per person</i>	<i>subtotal</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> single room(s) with ensuite bathroom	£190	£	£
<input type="checkbox"/> single standard room(s)	£155	£	£

## for non-residents *(please indicate type / no. of bookings requested)*

I wish to book midday lunches and interval refreshments (tea/coffee) only

£59

£

£

I wish to book midday lunches, interval refreshments and dinners, including banquet

£115

£

£

**add registration fee** *(payable by every participant)*

£95

£

£

**TOTAL**

£



**St Mary's  
University  
College**

Name

Occupation

Address

Telephone

Fax

Email address

### FOR CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS: Mastercard / Visa / Switch / Delta accepted

Card No.

Name as it appears on the card

Expiry Date

Issue No. (for debit cards)

Signature