IN THE LITERATURE

Culture and Ethnicity in Clinical Care
Faith Lagay, PhD

Articles and books on bioethics continue to expand in both number and the range of topics discussed: between 1989 and 1998, more than 4000 articles alone were published in MEDLINE-cited journals. Some of the major topics examined are the patient-physician relationship, end-of-life care, reproductive medicine, genetics, and the allocation of scarce medical resources. From these publications, we will be selecting a handful of articles and chapters, some of which reflect issues of perennial concern to physicians, others reflect more recent quandries resulting from advances in biomedical technology.

A new article or book chapter will be featured every month, accompanied by questions intended to guide readers along the path of ethical reasoning and to promote discussion.

November Article

Questions for Berger Article
Some patients from non-Western cultures have difficulty trusting Western physicians.

- What would be a way of cultivating trust between physicians and patients from these cultures?
- What ethical and cultural issues should a physician consider when treating a patient from a certain ethnic group or culture who insists on using alternative forms of medicine?

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