We are CMEL! Welcome to the fourteenth issue of the CMEL Newsletter! This publication aims to update you on the latest news and information in the biomedical world. We will also share information about upcoming events, so stay tuned! Find out more about CMEL. We also have a Facebook page, you can follow us here.

Top stories in this newsletter

CMEL April Events

CMEL had a very eventful April this year, with the introduction of our Continuing Medical Education series, our twin symposiums on 'Policy and Regulatory Responses to New Genomic and Reproductive Technologies' and 'Privacy, Data Protection and Data-Sharing in Biomedical Research', and lectures by Dr Jeff Skopek and Mr James Badenoch QC. A very big thank you to all our speakers, panelists and to all our participants for your support. Please stay tuned for a conference report on what was discussed at the symposiums.

In the News:

Liver Transplant Patient Infected with Hepatitis C

In a first-of-its-kind incident, a liver transplant patient was infected with hepatitis C via a reusable blood collection tool. According to Professor Yuen Kwok-yung, who was responsible for leading the investigation of the incident, the source of the virus was a drug addict who was at the hospital at the same time. The virus had been transmitted through small droplets of blood on a reusable plastic blood tube holder. He argued that this should not be considered medical negligence, however, given that WHO does not prohibit the reusing of this tool. Read more here.

In Commentary:

Intellectual Disabilities and End-of-Life Care

This commentary piece explores whether and how it is more difficult for those with intellectual disabilities to make decisions about end-of-life care. While laws often prevent legal guardians from being able to decline life-sustaining treatment on behalf of their wards, the author argues that the downside of such laws is that it is very difficult for such individuals to avoid unwanted care. This piece explores how a legalistic approach to end-of-life decisions may be problematic for both the patients and their legal guardians. Read more here.

Feature:

A resting place for miscarried fetuses

This piece explores the ordeal that parents of miscarried fetuses face in their attempt to locate a final resting place for their child. This is a problem because the Hospital Authority only recognizes and certifies miscarried fetuses beyond 24 weeks as stillbirths, and the burial of an uncertified stillborn child is a criminal offence. This piece explores the stories of several such parents, as well as initiatives of religious institutions to create burial grounds for these miscarried fetuses. Read more here.

In Entertainment:

Raw Water

The rise of the ‘raw water’ trend has many public health experts gravely concerned. In this video from The Daily Show, Desi Lydic talks to Live Water founder Mukhande Singh and food safety expert Marion Nestle about the issue. Watch the video here. For more background on raw water and Mukhande Singh, read more here.