We are CMEL! Welcome to the thirteenth 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

In the News: 15-year-old girl paralysed after alleged medical negligence

A 15-year-old girl was paralysed after a procedure last November at United Christian Hospital that was meant to treat her acute transverse myelitis. In a press conference held recently, the girl’s family accused hospital staff of committing a series of medical errors, including the wrongful damaging of the girl’s artery while inserting a catheter into the vein, causing the girl to suffer a stroke. Read more here.

In Commentary: Stephen Hawking and the NHS

In memory of inspirational theoretical physicist and author Stephen Hawking, read this commentary about Hawking’s compelling moral authority and his fight to save the NHS.

In Entertainment: Also Human

A book published this month, entitled ‘Also Human: The Inner Lives of Doctors’, explores the pressures of a doctor’s life from the perspective of a psychologist who specialises in helping doctors. Drawing on her twenty years of work, author Caroline Elton presents a ‘provocative, perceptive and deeply human examination of the modern medical profession’. Read more here.

Feature: CQC report on Mental Health Act

The Care Quality Commission’s annual report on the Mental Health Act 1983 in the UK has been released this month. The findings reveal limited or no improvement in the key areas that were highlighted in previous years, including lack of patient involvement, lack of consideration of patients’ needs, lack of evidence demonstrating patients’ views, lack of consideration of the least restrictive options for care and lack of discharge planning. Read the report here, and a commentary piece on the report and particular areas of concern here.

Criminalising non-medical circumcision of infants

This commentary piece discusses the recent Icelandic bill to make it a crime for infant boys to be circumcised for non-medical reasons. In particular, the author explores the controversial question of whether there are public health mandates for children that can override the religious freedom of parents not to conform to these mandates. Read more here.

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