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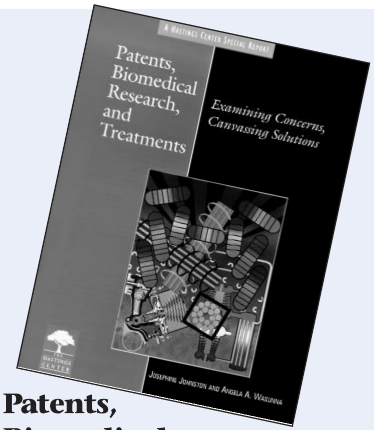
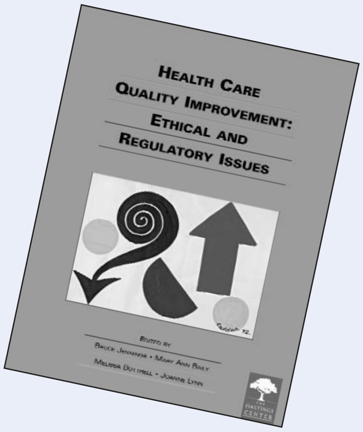


Patents, Biomedical Research, and Treatments: Examining Concerns, Canvassing Solutions

January/February 2007

This report examines the debates over patenting biomedical research and treatments, focusing on how those debates play out in the patenting of inventions involving genes and stem cells and the patenting of drugs for HIV/AIDS. It concludes with a comprehensive review of laws, policies, and practices that aim to preserve or create incentives for innovation in biomedicine, promote further research, and provide access to treatments.



The Ethics of Using QI Methods to Improve Health Care Quality & Safety

July-August 2006

This report explores the ethical dimensions of efforts to make health care safer and better through continuous improvements in patient care. It offers practical recommendations for ensuring that QI meets ethical requirements, proposes a cooperative effort by public and private entities to develop clearer guidance on the relationship between ethical oversight of QI and human subjects research regulations, and makes other policy recommendations aimed at promoting safety and quality in health care through the ethical conduct of QI.

Improving End of Life Care: Why Has It Been So Difficult?

November/December 2005

This report contains 10 essays that present a synoptic overview of the most important developments in end-of-life decisionmaking and take stock of their successes or failures. The essays also provide ideas for a new strategy to improve care for the dying, and examples of ways to reevaluate and improve advance directives and surrogate decisionmaking.

Genetic Differences and Human Identities: On Why Talking About Behavioral Genetics Is Important and Difficult

January/February 2004

This report provides a fair account of what behavioral geneticists have and have not discovered about how genetic variations are related to observed or "phenotypic" differences. It also addresses what those findings might mean for how we think about who we are—about our "identities." The report is written for those with a fundamental knowledge of basic genetics, but with no knowledge of behavioral genetics.

Access to Hospice Care: Expanding Boundaries, Overcoming Barriers

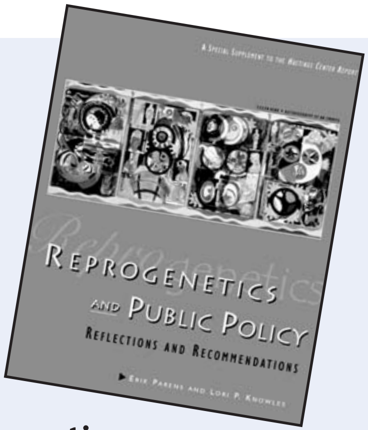
March/April 2003

This study, conducted jointly with the National Hospice Work Group and in association with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Group, addresses the specific problems with access to and delivery of end-of-life care. As it examines these problems from the perspectives of social justice and fairness, it also recommends ways to expand care to more patients for longer periods.

Reprogenetics and Public Policy: Reflections and Recommendations

July/August 2003

This report explores the ethical questions raised by the new techniques for manipulating gametes and embryos. The product of a two-year research project, the report not only illuminates the complexities and possible consequences of reprogenetics, but offers policy recommendations for the oversight and regulation of this relatively new science.



Promoting Patient Safety: An Ethical Basis for Policy Deliberation

September/October 2003

Written in response to the Institute of Medicine's 2000 report on patient safety, this report promotes a clear and better-informed discussion of the ethical concerns integral to the development of effective policies that would address the problem of medical error. (Supplies are limited.)

Ethics and Trusteeship for Health Care: Hospital Board Service in Turbulent Times

July-August 2002

Serving on a hospital's board of trustees requires confronting a variety of difficult ethical problems that are almost never discussed and rarely recognized even by trustees themselves. This report presents trustees' own views of their work and develops a framework for doing that work well.

A Global Profession: Medical Values in China and the United States

July-August 2000

This report presents a cross-cultural dialogue about the fundamental professional values of medicine that shape medical practice, teaching, and research in China and the United States. Articles by Chinese and American scholars who participated in a 1998 Beijing conference explore the ethical traditions of these two very different cultures.

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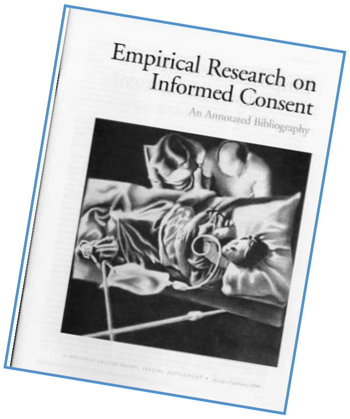

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