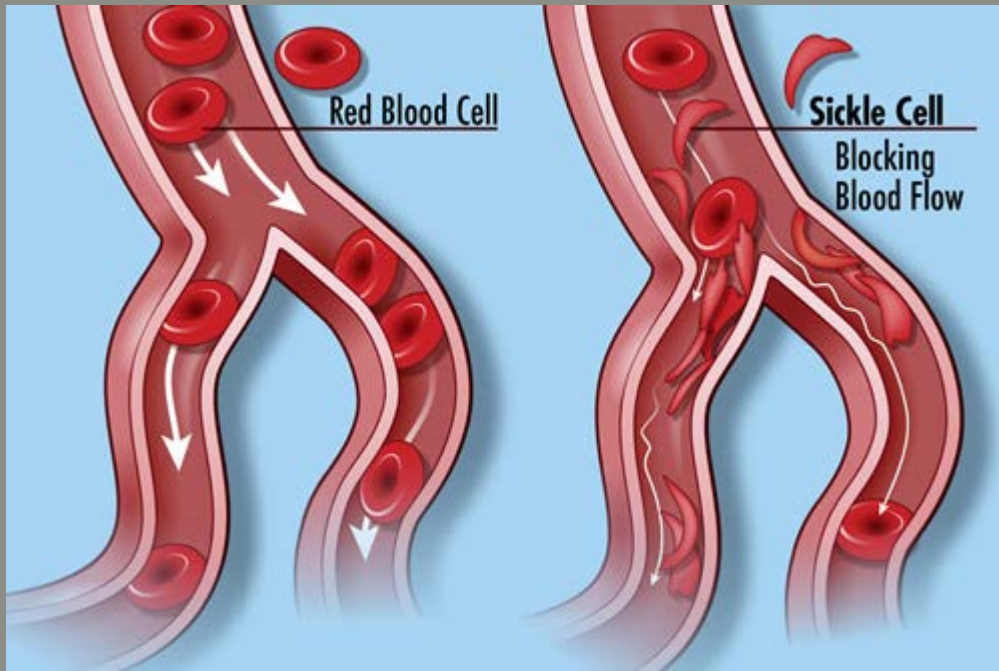




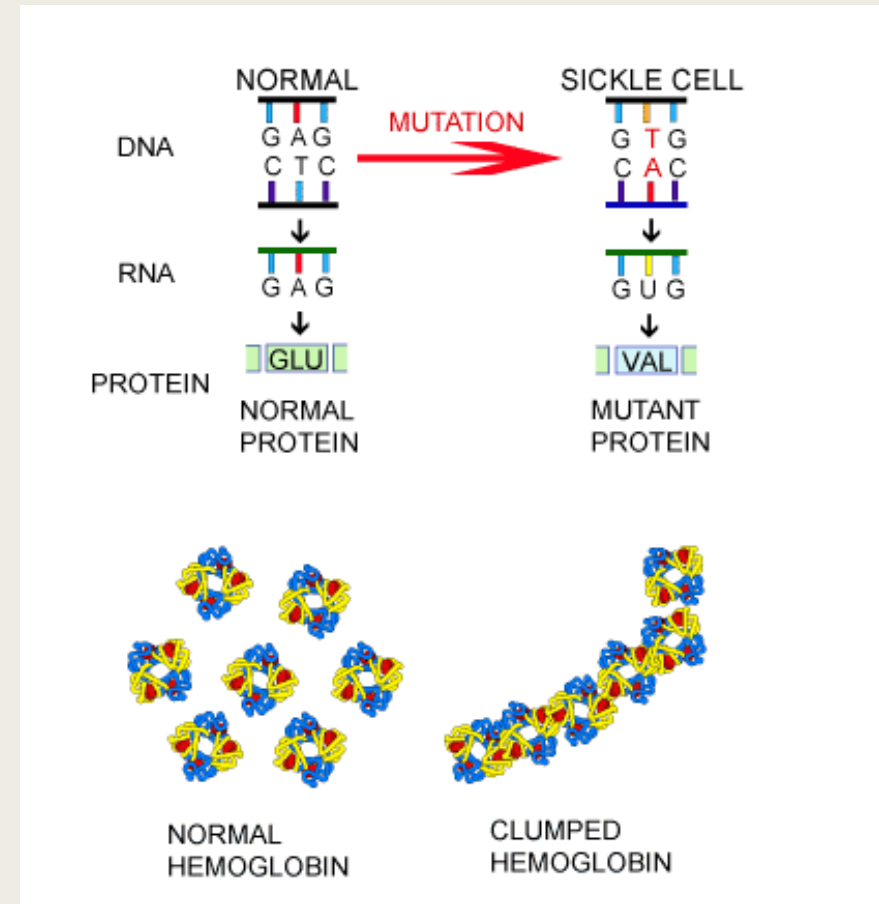
# CREATING AN INTERDISCIPLINARY INTRODUCTION TO BIOETHICS

Kerry O'Brien and Rachelle Sam  
St. Albans School  
IBSC 2017

# Why add bioethics?



**From:** National Human Genome Research Institute  
([www.genome.gov](http://www.genome.gov))



**From:** A case study of the effects of mutation: Sickle cell anemia.  
([Evolution.berkeley.edu](http://Evolution.berkeley.edu))

GeorgetownX  
Introduction to Bioethics

VERIFIED



Summer '14

- Shorb Fellowship Work



Fall '14

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bioethics Unit at STA



Summer' 15

- 4-day Intensive Bioethics Course

8

To date, we have run the unit with 8 classes of students

# What is *bioethics*?

In virtue of being embodied creatures, and the specific kind of biological creatures we are, we face particular kinds of moral challenges: we are vulnerable to disease; we give birth; we die. We are profoundly dependent on one another, and live in a world of profoundly limited resources. We are tool-users. We use technology—and culture—to shape our biology, to extend our life, to challenge our biological limits, manipulate our bodies and the our planet. All of these generate ethical questions, and the attempt to grapple with these questions is what we call ***bioethics***.

-Maggie Little, Director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics

Searching EthxWeb:

- Abortion, Legal Aspects
- Abortion, Moral and Religious Aspects
- Abortion, Social Aspects
- Advance Directives
- Allied Health
- Allowing to Die
- Alternative and Complementary Medicine
- Animal Experimentation
- Assisted Suicide/Right to Die
- Artificial Insemination and Surrogacy
- Attitudes Toward Death
- Behavior Modification
- Behavioral Genetics
- Behavioral Research
- Bioethics
- Bioethics Commissions
- Bioethics Education and Programs
- Bioethics History
- Biotechnology
- Blood Transfusion
- Brain Death
- Chemical and Biological Warfare
- Cloning
- Codes of Ethics
- Enhancement Technologies
- Environmental Ethics
- Ethics Committees and Consultation
- Eugenics
- Euthanasia
- Gene Therapy
- Genetic Counseling
- Genetic Research
- Genetic Research and Biohazards
- Genetic Screening and Genetic Testing
- Genetics, General
- Genetics and Human Ancestry
- Genome Mapping / Human Genome Project
- Human Experimentation
- In Vitro Fertilization
- Informed Consent (in treatment)
- Informed Consent (in research)
- Involuntary Civil Commitment
- Law and Bioethics
- Media and Bioethics
- Medical Ethics
- Medical Tourism
- Mental Health Therapies
- Nanotechnology
- Neuroethics
- Pain
- Palliative Care
- Parental Consent
- Patenting Life Forms
- Patient Relationships
- Personhood
- Psychosurgery
- Psychotherapy
- Public Health Ethics
- Religion and Bioethics
- Reproductive Technologies
- Research Ethics Committees
- Resource Allocation
- Right to Health Care
- Scientific Misconduct
- Sociobiology
- Stem Cell Research
- Sterilization
- Telemedicine
- Terminal Care
- Torture and Genocide
- Transgenic Animals
- Treatment Refusal
- Truth Disclosure
- Value of Life
- Veterinary Ethics
- Xenotransplantation

## Bioethics Survey Spring 2017

Please answer all of the following questions! Note: You are NOT being graded on this!

A nurse returned to the United States last year after treating Ebola patients in Sierra Leone and was quarantined in a tent outside a hospital in New Jersey for four days despite showing no symptoms before being driven to her home in Maine. Was it ethical to quarantine the nurse? \*

- Yes, the quarantine was ethical
- No, it was unethical to quarantine her

⋮

Gender Selection--choosing the sex of your "child-to-be" --is legal in the United States BUT not legal in most other countries (including Canada). Do you think gender selection should be legal? \*

- Yes, gender selection should be legal
- ⋮  No, gender selection should be illegal

QUESTIONS

RESPONSES

27

27 responses



SUMMARY

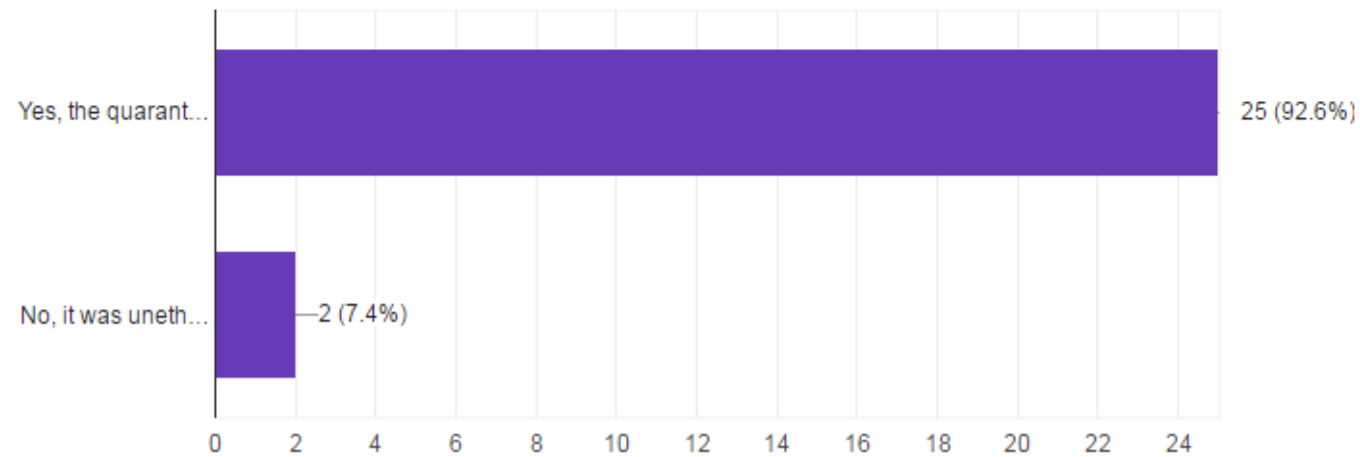
INDIVIDUAL

Accepting responses



A nurse returned to the United States last year after treating Ebola patients in Sierra Leone and was quarantined in a tent outside a hospital in New Jersey for four days despite showing no symptoms before being driven to her home in Maine. Was it ethical to quarantine the nurse?

27 responses



# Sample Case Study

## 2. Selecting for Deafness

Andre and Leslie want to have a child. They decide to use a process called preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). In a 2006 story, the *New York Times* explained PGD as a process whereby “embryos are created in a test tube and their DNA is analyzed before being transferred to a woman’s uterus. In this manner, embryos destined to have, for example, cystic fibrosis or Huntington’s disease can be excluded, and only healthy embryos implanted.”<sup>1</sup> Andre and Leslie, however, wish to use PGD to select *for* a disability: Andre and Leslie are deaf and want to have a child who will grow up immersed in Deaf culture, who understands the experience of Deafness, and who communicates via sign language.

Some of their friends strongly object to their plan but find it hard to articulate exactly what is so wrong about selecting for deafness. Others argue that Andre and Leslie are compromising their child’s future by trying to engineer their deafness and that knowingly and willingly bringing someone into the world under these conditions is wrong. But Andre and Leslie respond that no child is born with an uncompromised future, and yet very few people think that having children is wrong in general. Many children are born into families whose circumstances are not considered optimal and in which opportunities may be limited, yet few would claim that these parents acted immorally by having children.

In fact, Andre and Leslie argue that their child would have a *better* life if born deaf because they would be in a better position to parent this child, and because the family would experience the world in similar ways. Andre and Leslie also explain that they are not harming anyone by creating a deaf child. After all, since they are choosing which of multiple frozen embryos to bring to term, a different person will come into existence depending on which choice they make. How could they harming their deaf child when the alternative is that embryo remains frozen and that child is never born at all?

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/05/health/05essa.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/05/health/05essa.html?_r=0)



# Principles of Bioethics

Autonomy

Non-maleficence

Beneficence

Justice



# THANK YOU!

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