

## **Clinical ethics: some development and reflection from a Taiwanese perspective**

Daniel Fu-Chang Tsai MD, PhD.

Associate professor, National Taiwan University College of Medicine,  
and National Taiwan University Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan.

e-mail: fctsai@ntu.edu.tw

Medical ethics has undergone remarkable transformation in the past half a century since the Nuremberg Tribunal in 1945. Some fundamental conceptions of medical ethics such as informed consent, confidentiality, autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice have been delineated, defined (or redefined), developed, and applied in the discourses and practice of modern Western bioethics especially in the past 3 decades. Through the steps of modernization and globalization, the moral values of human rights and democracy as well as the principles and rules of modern bioethics from the Western societies have transmitted and influenced many Asian countries including Taiwan. In this presentation, the author will indicate some basic characteristics and conceptions of modern bioethics and compare them to the principles of ancient Chinese medical ethics. Some development of medical ethics in clinical practice and research including “clinical ethics committee (or hospital ethics committee)”, “research ethics committee (or Institutional review board)”, “the genomic medicine ethics”, and “organ transplantation ethics” in the past 10 years in Taiwan will be introduced and their derivative problems discussed. Certain national strategies on enhancing medical professionalism after the SARS epidemics in 2003 in Taiwan will also be introduced and reflected.