A GOOD DEATH: challenging law and medical ethics

Thursday 18 September 2008
5.45-7.30pm registration from 5.15pm
Sydney Law School
173-175 Phillip Street, Sydney

Keynote speaker

Dr Rodney Syme
Author, A Good Death: An Argument for Voluntary Euthanasia

With rejoinders from
Dr Roger Magnusson
Sydney Law School

Dr Bernadette Tobin
Director, Plunkett Centre for Ethics,
Australian Catholic University

Miriam Cosic
Literary Editor, The Australian

Chair
Dr Kristin Savell
Sydney Law School

ADMISSION IS FREE
Places are limited and registration is required

Information
www.law.usyd.edu.au
Tel: (02) 9351 0248
E: law.events@usyd.edu.au
The 2008 HGLE Oration is based on Dr Syme’s research and experience over a period of 30 years, helping patients to die. Dr Syme argues that the necessity to relieve suffering and to respect a patient’s autonomy places doctors in a unique and dangerous position in relation to the law. The law has not adapted to this situation, leaving a black hole of ignorance, fear, hypocrisy and occult unregulated practice. According to Dr Syme, lawmakers and prosecutorial authorities have conspired to avoid addressing this disastrous situation. As a consequence, the rule of law has been ignored, manipulated and abused.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr Rodney Syme  **Keynote speaker**
Dr Rodney Syme has been in medical practice for 45 years. He has been an advocate for medically assisted dying for nearly 20 years, and President of Dying With Dignity Victoria for 10 years. He is author of *A Good Death: An Argument for Voluntary Euthanasia* (Melbourne University Publishing).

Dr Roger Magnusson
Dr Roger Magnusson is Associate Professor at the Sydney Law School, where he teaches public health law within the Master of Health Law (MHL) program. He has written widely in the areas of health law and ethics, and in public health law, and in 2002 published *Angels of Death: Exploring the Euthanasia Underground* (Melbourne University Publishing).

Dr Bernadette Tobin
Dr Bernadette Tobin is Director of the Plunkett Centre for Ethics at St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney, and Reader in Philosophy at Australian Catholic University. She is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney, Associate Professor in the School of Medicine at the University of NSW, and Honorary Ethicsist at the Children’s Hospital, Westmead.

Miriam Cosic
Miriam Cosic is literary editor for The Australian, and author *The Right to Die? An Examination of the Euthanasia Debate* (New Holland Publishers).

Dr Kristin Savell  **Chair**
Dr Kristin Savell is Senior Lecturer at the Sydney Law School teaching criminal and health law. She is currently involved in projects in the areas of non-consensual medical treatment; pre-natal testing and abortion; and end-of-life decision making.

Centre for Health Governance, Law & Ethics Oration 2008

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