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Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift
‘The moral landscape of pediatric oncology’

1. A Reflective Equilibrium approach which uses third person moral experiences reduces the risk of self-justification, prejudiced judgments and bias by the ‘thinker’, and subsequently increases the credibility of the equilibrium reached (this thesis).

2. Informed consent for research is only truly obtained when the patient or his or her parents are fully aware of the fact that the information they receive about a trial is incomplete and indefinite, since it is based only on a-priori knowledge. Only after the completion of a trial one genuinely knows whether or not participants were exposed to extra risks and burdens (this thesis).

3. Our pluralistic beliefs about child-rearing and child welfare do not lead to a uniform interpretation of what is in the best interests of a child. Eventually, the shared intention to do good to children should be guided by a standard that understands best interests as a matter that comes about through consultation (this thesis).

4. In pediatric practice, parents have substantial discretion to act on personal views and values when deciding what is best for their child, as long as their decisions do not fall below a certain threshold of acceptable care (this thesis).

5. Despite various guidelines that stipulate the importance of involving children in medical decision-making, parents and physicians often determine the ways to encounter the child, whether to involve the child in the decision-making process and the information given to the child (this thesis).

6. It is often stated that children are not just small or incomplete adults, but what they are is a philosophical question that is not asked often enough.


8. This study shows again that bioethics as a discipline is more the child of research ethics than clinical ethics.

9. History, if viewed as a repository for more than anecdote or chronology, could produce a decisive transformation in the image of science by which we are now possessed (Thomas S. Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolution, 1962).

10. Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety (Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania, 1759).

11. Eloquent vocal skeptics can do a lot of harm by being wrong (Aubrey de Grey).

12. Someone who never shouts at his or her children doesn’t see them often enough.

Martine de Vries, 28 november 2012