

most personal and intimate interests of persons who are profoundly mentally disabled.

The population of concern in this book is specified as those “people whose cognitive functioning places them in the bottom of the ranges applicable to the mentally retarded.” How best to make medical decisions for persons who are profoundly mentally disabled has long been perceived as something of an intractable problem. In part, this problem has been intensified because in the United States today, respect for a patient’s autonomy has become the paramount value; we live in a culture where we give the highest priority to personal choice. Yet Cantor has developed a framework — a road map — that, in effect, serves to liberate even those who are so mentally impaired that they may not be able to make any medical decisions for themselves. Cantor’s carefully crafted framework is based on critically reasoned moral arguments, examination of established policies and procedures, and a discerning appraisal of U.S. constitutional law.

Cantor does not shy away from examining sensitive issues relevant to sterilization, abortion, organ and tissue donation, and participation in research protocols that will not benefit the research subject. He recounts the historical context of these issues and reexamines and clarifies their contemporary meaning for the purposes of improving the lives of profoundly mentally disabled persons. This book is both sensible and compassionate.

A few months ago, I heard the American philosopher Martha Nussbaum on National Public Radio responding to the question “What is ethics?” with the following words: “Ethics is about what matters, and how we should behave.” In this book, Cantor has elucidated what matters and has developed a carefully reasoned methodology that serves to guide us as to how we should behave.

Patricia Backlar

Portland State University
Portland, OR 97207
backlar@pdx.edu

Book Reviews Copyright © 2006 Massachusetts Medical Society.

THE JOURNAL’S WEB AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

For letters to the Editor: authors.nejm.org

For information about the status of a submitted manuscript:
authors.nejm.org

To submit a meeting notice: meetingnotices@nejm.org

The Journal’s Web pages: www.nejm.org

CORRECTIONS

A Predominantly Clonal Multi-Institutional Outbreak of *Clostridium difficile*-Associated Diarrhea with High Morbidity and Mortality (December 8, 2005;353:2442-9). In Table 3 on page 2446, for the category “Any exposure to antibiotics,” the number (and percentage) of case patients should have read 223 (94.1) and the number (and percentage) of controls should have read 159 (67.1), rather than 188 (79.3) for case patients and 141 (59.5) for controls, as printed. On the same page, line 8 of the left-hand column should have read “94.1 percent vs. 67.1 percent,” rather than “79.3 percent vs. 59.3 percent,” as printed. The P value for this comparison ($P < 0.001$) remains unchanged.

Infliximab for Induction and Maintenance Therapy for Ulcerative Colitis (December 8, 2005;353:2462-76). On page 2473 in Table 4, the percentage of patients in Active Ulcerative Colitis Trial (ACT) 2 receiving 10 mg of infliximab who had antibodies against double-stranded DNA should have read 6.0, rather than 60.0, as printed. We regret the error.

A Comparison of Letrozole and Tamoxifen in Postmenopausal Women with Early Breast Cancer (December 29, 2005;353:2747-57). On page 2747, in the list of members of the Writing Committee, the last name of Andrew Wardley was misspelled. We regret the error.

NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal’s Web site (www.nejm.org/meetings). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

AMERICAN HEADACHE SOCIETY

The following meetings will be held: “48th Annual Scientific Meeting” (Los Angeles, June 22–25) and “2006 Scottsdale Headache Symposium” (Scottsdale, Ariz., Nov. 10–12).

Contact American Headache Society, 19 Mantua Rd., Mount Royal, NJ 08061; or call (856) 423-0043; or fax (856) 423-3420; or e-mail ahsmtgs@talley.com.

PRIMARY CARE NETWORK MEDICAL MEETINGS

The Primary Care Network will present “Best Practices in Primary Care” in the following locations: Springfield, Mo. (June 2 and 3); San Francisco (June 2 and 3); Miami (June 9 and 10); Long Island, N.Y. (June 23 and 24); and Baltimore (June 23 and 24).

Contact Primary Care Network, 3805 S. Kansas Expr., Springfield, MO 65807; or call (800) 769-7565 (natl.) or (417) 886-2026 (Mo.); or fax (417) 883-7476; or see <http://primarycarenetwork.org>; or e-mail primarycarenetwork@primarycarenetwork.org.

BERND TERSTEEGEN AWARD 2006

The German Society of Nephrologists in Private Practice will present the award at their annual meeting in Mannheim, Germany, on Nov. 11. Deadline for submissions is July 15.

Contact German Society of Nephrologists in Private Practice, Postfach 132304, 42050 Wuppertal, Germany; or call 49 (0) 202 248450; or fax 49 (0) 248 4560; or see <http://www.dnev.de>; or e-mail info@dnev.de.