



**Professor Richard Huxtable**  
**L.L.B.(Nott.), M.A.(Sheff.), Ph.D.(Bristol)**

Professor of Medical Ethics and Law

**Area of research**

Ethics in Medicine

Office G.04b  
Canyng Hall,  
39 Whatley Road, Bristol BS8 2PS  
([See a map](#))

+44 (0) 117 928 7236  
+44 (0) 117 3314512  
[r.huxtable@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:r.huxtable@bristol.ac.uk)

**Summary**

Richard's research primarily concerns legal and ethical issues in end-of-life decision-making, surgery and paediatrics. He is the author of *Law, Ethics and Compromise at the Limits of Life: To Treat or Not to Treat?* (Routledge-Cavendish, 2012), *Euthanasia, Ethics and the Law: From Conflict to Compromise* (Routledge-Cavendish, 2007) and (with Dickenson & Parker) *The Cambridge Medical Ethics Workbook* (CUP, 2nd edn, 2010), plus numerous articles and chapters. His research has been funded by organisations including the Wellcome Trust and the European Commission and he has given invited presentations at the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal College of Surgeons, as well as conferences worldwide.

**Biography**

Richard Huxtable is Professor of Medical Ethics and Law and Director of the Centre for Ethics in Medicine, in the Medical School at the University of Bristol. Richard edits the Ethics in Clinical Practice section of *BMC Medical Ethics*. He is a member of:

- The Ethics Committee of the British Medical Association
- The Ethics Committee of the Royal College of General Practitioners
- The ALSPAC Law and Ethics Committee
- The Research Committee of the Institute of Medical Ethics
- Bristol's Clinical Ethics Advisory Group
- The UK Clinical Ethics Network Board of Trustees.

Richard is PI on a major Wellcome Trust collaborative project, Balancing Best Interests in Healthcare, Ethics and Law (BABEL). He has held visiting positions at (amongst others) the Ethox Centre in the University of Oxford, the Centre for Biomedical Ethics in the National University of Singapore and the Hastings Center, New York. He tweets at @DrRHuxtable.

**Teaching**

Richard has an extensive teaching portfolio, and his teaching has been commended by the General Medical Council and Universities UK. Having previously directed the intercalated BSc (Hons) in Bioethics, Richard leads the ethics and law "helical theme" in the MBChB Medicine.

**Keywords**

- medical law
- medical ethics
- end-of-life decision-making

- surgery
- clinical ethics
- paediatrics
- compromise

## Expertise

Research focuses on medical law and ethics, particularly decision-making at the end of life (e.g. assisted dying, withdrawing treatment, advance directives), in surgery (e.g. facial transplantation, separation of conjoined twins), and in relation to children and young people (e.g. children's rights to consent to, and refuse, treatment).

- end of life treatment
- surgical ethics
- euthanasia/assisted dying
- medical law
- medical ethics

## Memberships

### Organisations

[Bristol Medical School \(PHS\)](#)

### Centres, collaborations and units

- [Centre for Ethics in Medicine](#)

## Recent publications

- Austin, L & Huxtable, R, 2019, '[Resolving Disagreements about the Care of Critically Ill Children: Evaluating Existing Processes and Setting the Research Agenda](#)'. in: *Parental Rights, Best Interests and Significant Harms: Medical Decision-Making on Behalf of Children Post-Great Ormond Street Hospital v Yates* . Oxford University Press
- Main, B, McNair, A, Blencowe, N, Avery, K, Macefield, R, Huxtable, R & Blazeby, J, 2018, '[Core information for consent in surgical oncology: an application of core outcome methodology to define what information is important to patients and clinicians](#)'.
- Ives, J, Dunn, M, Molewijk, B, Schildmann, J, Bærøe, K, Frith, L, Huxtable, R, Landeweer, E, Mertz, M, Provoost, V, Rid, A, Salloch, S, Sheehan, M, Strech, D, De Vries, M & Widdershoven, G, 2018, '[Standards of practice in empirical bioethics research: Towards a consensus](#)'. *BMC Medical Ethics*, vol 19.
- Huxtable, R, 2018, '[Clinic, courtroom or \(specialist\) committee: in the best interests of the critically ill child?](#)'. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, vol 44., pp. 471-475
- Nowland, R, Steeg, S, Quinlivan, L, Cooper, J, Huxtable, R, Hawton, K, Allen, N, Gunnell, D & Kapur, N, 2018, '[The management of patients with an advance decision and suicidal behaviour: A systematic review](#)'. *BMJ Open*.
- Frith, L, Hooper, C, Camporesi, S, Douglas, T, Smajdor, A, Nottingham, E, Fritz, Z, Ekberg, M & Huxtable, R, 2018, '[Institute of Medical Ethics Guidelines for confirmation of appointment, promotion and recognition of UK bioethics and medical ethics researchers](#)'. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, vol 44., pp. 289-291
- Birchley, G, Gooberman-Hill, R, Deans, Z, Fraser, J & Huxtable, R, 2017, '[Best interests' in paediatric intensive care: an empirical ethics study](#)'. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, vol 102., pp. 930-935
- Huxtable, R & Birchley, G, 2017, '[Seeking Certainty? Judicial Approaches to The \(Non-\)Treatment of Minimally Conscious Patients](#)'. *Medical Law Review*, vol 25., pp. 428-455
- Birchley, G, Huxtable, R, Murtagh, M, Meulen, Rt, Flach, P & Gooberman-Hill, R, 2017, '[Smart homes, private homes? An empirical study of technology researchers' perceptions of ethical issues in developing smart-home health technologies](#)'. *BMC Medical Ethics*, vol 18.
- Main, B, McNair, A, Huxtable, R, Donovan, J, Thomas, S, Kinnersley, P & Blazeby, J, 2017, '[Core information sets for informed consent to surgical interventions: baseline information of importance to patients and clinicians](#)'. *BMC Medical Ethics*, vol 18.

[View complete publications list](#) in the University of Bristol publications system