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DRUG RESEARCH

PHILOSOPHY ETHICS AND LAW

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The current issue of the Journal of Science, Humanities and Arts brings us eight novel contributions to the scientific, humanities, and arts fields. Herein we cover the cultural celebration of the International Women's Day, the importance of pharmaceutical patents, the highlights from the international conference in philosophy and cancer, the annual announcement of the IMBS application openings, the work of a great artist as Anja Vollmer, and the update of the discoveries made by Victor Boleslaw Wicherkiewicz on innovative surgical and the conservative treatments of ocular diseases.

Stefan Seiler reports on the 2nd "Frauenkomponiert" (Female Composers) concert in the Martinskirche (Basel, Switzerland), organized by the Basel conductor Jessica Horsley with the orchestra L'anima giusta. This event, celebrating the International Women's Day, included music from the romantic episode till today. The program included Emilie Mayer's Symphony Nr. 5 in F minor, the "poema ritmico" of Korean Junghae Lee, the double concert in A major for violin, horn and orchestra of the British Composer Ethel Symth, and the Lied Sbohem a šáteček (Farewell) for chorus and orchestra of the Czech composer Vítězslava Kaprálová. The highlights of a special and enjoyable evening.

Felicitas Holzer enlightens us with her article on "International Patent Regimes and Access to Medicines: Is the Health Impact Fund an Effective Solution?". She argues that patents are currently the most common mechanism to stimulate pharmaceutical innovation, and they are considered an efficient allocation mechanism and a system in which fewer resources are squandered. In her article, she describes the importance of patents to pharmaceutical companies and the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, which were developed to standardize patent rights in an international context. She discusses that one of the main incentives to design the TRIPS agreement was to create a reward mechanism for pharmaceutical companies to recover costs, make profits, and, importantly, promote research and development (R&D) for diseases that affect developing nations.

Thomas Pradeu and **Lucie Laplane** present an overview of the International Conference on Philosophy and Cancer (IHPST) held in Paris on April 28, 2016. The IHPST conference is a timely and important international conference which addresses novel concepts of understanding cancer and its treatment. Stimulating communication and interaction among scientists, doctors, and philosophers should contribute to identifying priorities and innovative concepts for further research.

In another highlighted article, **Roland Mertelsmann, Cristina Arranz, Marta Mollerach, Christoph Borner et al.** make their annual announcement of the opening of the International Master in Biomedical Sciences (IMBS) Class 2017-2019 application. The IMBS was established in 2008 as a joint program between the School of Medicine of Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg (ALU), Germany, and the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy and Biochemistry of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), Argentina. The aim

of this program is to train prospective researchers in scientific knowledge and state-of-the-art experimental experience in current and emerging biomedical research areas with a focus on translational research and development. It is also meant to foster teaching and research cooperation between the two Universities and to contribute to the cultural exchange on the master, PhD, and academic levels. Moreover, **Christoph Borner** reinforces the activities of the IMBS by inviting prospective students to join the Winter School, which will be held in Freiburg from September 2016 to January 2017 with relevant career opportunities for postgraduate students. The Winter School in Biomedical Sciences is a 5-months program, and students will receive a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Biomedical Sciences (DAS) upon successfully completing the program, consisting of 30 Credit Points in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). This international program is designed as an intensive training that qualifies for success in both academia and industry.

In the arts field, **Amala Berges** features the amazing work of Anja Vollmer “Transparente, multiperspektivische Räume”. Anja Vollmer paints transparent, multi-perspective spaces. They appear separated by an invisible membrane into an external and internal layer. “However, transparency remains an illusion” as she describes Anja’s work.

Andrzej Grzybowski and **Dieter Schmidt** present a complete and comprehensive overview of Victor Boleslaw Wicherkiewicz publications on innovative surgical and the conservative treatments of ocular diseases. They carried on an evaluation of Wicherkiewicz’s important manuscripts published in German journals. Victor Boleslaw Wicherkiewicz published about 300 papers in several languages, mainly in Polish and German. His innovative surgical methods were concerned with several ocular diseases, such as trichiasis, distichiasis, ectropion, lid replacement, free skin transplantation, corneal staphyloma, lid coloboma, eye muscle, and cataract surgery.

Finally, **Guenter Hager** and **Stephan Seiler** interestingly discuss Pope Francis’ Encyclical *Laudato Si* from the perspective of the German and US environmental laws.

We are confident that this issue will add relevant information to the scientific, humanities, and arts communities. Overall, we expect this volume to be filled with worth-spreading scientific discoveries, discussion-worth humanities issues, and inspiring art contributions. If you are interested in receiving the latest released publications, you can subscribe to our periodic [Newsletter](#). JOSHA, the new non-profit open-access multi-disciplinary Journal of Science, Humanities, and Arts encourages all types of contributions, i.e., original research, reviews, case studies, summaries and consensus views, reading lists, training material, theses, academic and non-academic presentations and talks, seminars, comments on social, political, and economic issues, annual reports, meeting announcements and reports, among others. We hope to continue delivering sound and relevant information, as well as inspiring new readers to submit their work.

Evguenia Alechine

on behalf of the JOSHA team

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International Conference PHILOSOPHY AND CANCER (IHPST Paris) April 28,2016

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The innovative surgical and the conservative treatments of ocular diseases by Victor Boleslaw Wicherkiewicz (1847-1915)*

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