

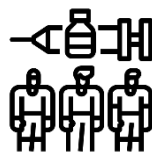
In this feature, our team provides you with an overview of the most recent publications in the field of bioethics, with a particular focus on contributions coming from (or having relevance for) Switzerland.

Buona lettura! Bonne lecture ! Viel Spass beim Lesen! Enjoy the reading!

The editors: Andrea Martani, and Maddalena Favaretto

15th Edition – 25th January, 2022.

PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS



“Willingness to donate organs – an anonymised survey in the emergency department”

Unless a referendum is proposed by the end of January 2022, Switzerland will adopt a new regulation on posthumous organ donation, which constitutes a ‘softened’ opt-out solution: it will be possible to procure organs from deceased patients even if they have not explicitly provided their consent, but it will be necessary to involve the family in the decision. Organ donation policies remain a controversial topic in Switzerland and the study by Slankamenac and colleagues explore it by analysing the results of a survey they administered to Emergency Department patients of a Swiss hospital. Their results show that many patients have not actively registered as organ donors in the past. They also show the importance of accurate information and education (beyond policy changes) in obtaining the desired results, i.e. that all that are favourable to organ donations are actually in the position to provide their organs to other patients.

Slankamenac K, Temperli E, Keller DI. Willingness to donate organs – an anonymised survey in the emergency department. *Swiss Medical Weekly* (2021). doi: [10.4414/smw.2022.w30100](https://doi.org/10.4414/smw.2022.w30100)

“Anticipating hopes, fears and expectations towards COVID-19 vaccines”

As vaccines continue to remain a crucial component of the approach to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, a relevant societal debate is still ongoing on this topic. It is generally held that society is split between those who approve of the vaccines and those who do not, with the two camps being markedly distinct and distant from each other. The study by Paul and colleagues, drawing from more than 200 interviews conducted across Europe (including Switzerland) in October 2020 – as vaccines were about to be approved and the public started reflecting on them – provides more nuanced perspective on this topic. Their results reveal that the people cannot be simply divided in a binary way between pro- and anti-vaccinations. Rather, they show that “decision-making [concerning COVID-19 vaccinations] needs to be considered in relation to individual and collective positions in society, and understood as both an individual and a collective process”.

Paul K, et al. Anticipating hopes, fears and expectations towards COVID-19 vaccines: A qualitative interview study in seven European countries. *SSM Qual Res Health*. 2022 Jan 4;2:100035. doi: [10.1016/j.ssmqr.2021.100035](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmqr.2021.100035).