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This volume of the Journal of Philosophy and Ethics in Health Care and Medicine contains one invited paper and three papers accepted through peer-review.

The opening paper is an invited paper authored by two members of the National Bioethics Committee of the Republic of San Marino, Luisa Borgia and Giampiero Griffò. In past years, the committee created a few documents concerning bioethics and disability, including one entitled *Bioethical Approach to Persons with Disability*, published in 2013. These documents provide detailed discussions as to what it means to protect the rights and interests of disabled people in the context of policy-related debate in bioethics. Borgia and Griffò explain the contents and purpose of drafting each of these documents and discuss their implications for future bioethical debates.

The next paper, by Yutaka Kato, is a report on vaccination refusal. An individual's right to refuse vaccination has the potential of posing a serious threat to public health. Based on a survey of relevant literature, Kato made it clear that while people do refuse vaccination across countries, there are very few reports on the current situation, worldwide, of vaccination refusal, including the reasons why people refuse, excepting reports from the United States. Kato's paper shows that more empirical research is needed in this area, in order to investigate the justifiability of limiting an individual's right to refuse vaccination.

Keiko Hattori considers the advocacy role medical interpreters can play in the clinical setting. As the number of immigrants to Japan

increases, there is a growing demand for medical interpreters. It is sometimes said that medical interpreters can do more than act as bi- or multi-lingual interlocutors; in addition, they are increasingly expected to bridge the cultural gap between the care-giver and patient, as well as to prevent foreseeable conflicts arising from misunderstandings, thereby playing the role of a patient advocate, protecting the rights and interests of the patient who may come from a potentially socially disadvantaged group. Hattori investigates the appropriateness of such an additional role, based on her findings from interviews with medical interpreters currently working in Japan.

The paper of Ren Ino deals with the nineteenth century Japanese poet, Masaoka Shiki, who suffered from tuberculosis and was bedridden for years before he died at the age of 35. By analyzing Shiki's writings, Ino describes how the poet overcame suicidal ideation and clarified his thoughts and struggles as the poet came to accept his difficult situation and created numerous pieces of beautiful poetry about his immediate surroundings. Ino describes in detail, the last years of Shiki's life, which contain important lessons for the ethics of end-of-life care.

As I succeed Yutaka Maruhashi in the role of editor-in-chief of the Journal of Philosophy and Ethics in Health Care and Medicine, let me express my sincere gratitude to Professor Maruhashi for his help and for his thoughtful and careful work as the editor-in-chief, in the past years.