

## **Call for Papers: 2012 Claremont International Jain Conference: Bioethics: Religious and Spiritual Approaches**

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Cosponsored by Claremont Lincoln University, the International School for Jain Studies, Jain Center of Southern California, and the Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA)

Bioethics: Religious and Spiritual Approaches

August 24-25, 2012 Claremont, California

The rapid growth of the medical sciences and of medical technologies has given doctors the ability to diagnose and to cure as never before. At the same time, these breakthroughs raise perplexing ethical questions: when does life begin, and when does it end? When is the quality of life so compromised that doctors should cease further interventions? What is informed consent? What constraints should apply to research on human subjects? And, above all, how can the sanctity of life be preserved? This conference will bring the resources of Jainism (see note below), of the dharma traditions of India, and of the world's religious and spiritual traditions in general to bear on the most difficult bioethical questions of our day.

The conference presupposes that religious and spiritual traditions can assist doctors and ethicists in thinking through these questions and coming to answers. We welcome paper proposals addressing any of the overlaps between bioethics and the religious traditions, including procreation, alternative medicines, birth and related issues (abortion, in vitro fertilization, population control, etc.), use of stem cells, cloning, the ethics of medical research, end of life issues. The Claremont International Jain Conferences are sponsored by the Jain community, but papers drawing on any of the world's religious or spiritual traditions are warmly welcomed.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Cromwell Crawford (Univ. of Hawaii) and D.K. Bobra, M.D. Paper abstracts of 1,000 words should be emailed to Matthew Fisher [matthew.fisher@cgu.edu](mailto:matthew.fisher@cgu.edu) by May 1, 2012. Applications from a wide range of fields are welcome, and graduate students are especially encouraged to submit proposals. Notifications will be made by May 31st.

### Conference Details

Plenary sessions take place in Mudd Auditorium, Claremont Lincoln University, 1325 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. There is an inexpensive registration fee and a discount for students. Early registration at a reduced rate will close on July 15th.

The conference hotel is the Claremont DoubleTree, 555 W. Foothill Blvd. in Claremont; (909) 626-2411. Other accommodations can be found at Hotel Claremont (909) 621-4831. Claremont is 15 minutes from the Ontario International Airport.

Note on Jainism:

Jainism is one of the oldest religions originating from India. At the very heart of Jainism is the ethic of non-violence, Ahimsa, which means 'Respect for all living beings.' Ahimsa continues to guide the daily lives of all Jains, who are vegetarians, and practice ecology and conservation. Out of 14 million Jains in the world, 125,000 are settled in North America. The other two tenets of Jainism are non-absolutism, which means that real truth has multiple facets, and non-possessiveness, which means that one should balance one's needs and desires. JAINA is the umbrella organization of nearly 70 Jain centers and congregations in North America, that has Special Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Organizing Committee:

Matthew Fisher, Coordinator

Dr. Manoj Jain

Dr. Nitin Shah

Manish Mehta, Ph.D.

Rajen Dhama

**Link:** <http://jain.claremontlincoln.org/2012-conference-2/>

**Categories:** Academia, Bioethics, End-of-Life Care, Ethics, Quality of Life, Stem Cells

**Audience:** Academic, Bioethicist, Ethicist, Physician