EthxWeb Search Results

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Document 1
Persson, Ingmar; Savulescu, Julian
The turn for ultimate harm: a reply to Fenton.
Journal of medical ethics 2011 Jul; 37(7): 441-4
Abstract: Elizabeth Fenton has criticised an earlier article by the authors in which the claim was made that, by providing humankind with means of causing its destruction, the advance of science and technology has put it in a perilous condition that might take the development of genetic or biomedical techniques of moral enhancement to get out of. The development of these techniques would, however, require further scientific advances, thus forcing humanity deeper into the danger zone created by modern science. Fenton argues that the benefits of scientific advances are undervalued. The authors believe that the argument rather relies upon attaching a special weight to even very slight risks of major catastrophes, and attempt to vindicate this weighting.

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Document 2
Harris, John
Sparrows, hedgehogs and castrati: reflections on gender and enhancement.
Journal of medical ethics 2011 May; 37(5): 262-6
Abstract: In a number of papers, including the one published in this journal, Robert Sparrow has mounted attacks on consequentialism using principally what he takes to be an important fact, which he believes constitutes a reductio ad absurdum of consequentialism in its many forms and of this author's approach to enhancement and disability in particular (see page 276). This fact is the current longer life expectancy of women when compared with men. Here the author argues that Sparrow's arguments and entire approach utterly fail. In doing so the author hopes to shed further light on the role of normalcy, normal species functioning and species-typical functioning in debates about enhancement and disability.

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Document 3
Sparrow, Robert
Harris, harmed states, and sexed bodies.
Journal of medical ethics 2011 May; 37(5): 276-9
Abstract: This paper criticises John Harris's attempts to defend an account of a 'harmed condition' that can stand independently of intuitions about what is 'normal'. I argue that because Homo sapiens is a sexually dimorphic species, determining whether a particular individual is in a harmed condition or not will sometimes require making reference to the normal capacities of their sex. Consequently, Harris's account is unable to play the role he intends for it in debates about the ethics of human enhancement.

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Racist appearance standards and the enhancements that love them: Norman Daniels and skin-lightening cosmetics.

Bioethics 2011 May; 25(4): 185-91

Abstract: Darker skin correlates with reduced opportunities and negative health outcomes. Recent discoveries related to the genes associated with skin tone, and the historical use of cosmetics to conform to racist appearance standards, suggest effective skin-lightening products may soon become available. This article examines whether medical interventions of this sort should be permitted, subsidized, or restricted, using Norman Daniels's framework for determining what justice requires in terms of protecting health. I argue that Daniels's expansive view of the requirements of justice in meeting health needs offers some support for recognizing a societal obligation to provide this kind of 'enhancement,' in light of the strong connections between skin tone and health outcomes. On balance, however, Daniels's framework offers compelling reasons to reject insurance coverage for skin-lightening medical interventions, including the likely ineffectiveness of such technologies in mitigating racial health disparities, and the danger that covering skin-lightening enhancements would undermine public support for cooperative schemes that protect health. In fact, justice may require limiting access to these technologies because of their potential to exacerbate the negative effects of racism.
Document 8
Caldwell, Paul J

GH in idiopathic short stature. Is treating a poorly defined illness ethical?
BMJ (Clinical research ed.) 2011 April 5; 342: d2144

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Document 9
Lecellier, Charles-Henri

[The democratic side of science-fiction]. = Le côté démocratique de la science-fiction.
Médecine sciences : M/S 2011 Apr; 27(4): 433-8

Abstract: Suspicion towards technological advances has progressively grown during the xx(th) century. However, in the XXI(st) century, reading the NBIC (nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science) report of the National Science Foundation, we can note that science has caught up with science fiction. These changes in public mentality on one side and in scientific capacities on the other argue for an evolution of the debate on sciences. The recent example of the national debate on nanotechnology in France has clearly shown that the public is no longer waiting for additional sources of scientific knowledge but rather waiting for the recognition of its authority to participate in the definition of the national R&D priority and associated scientific strategies. This is all the more legitimate that these strategies will have profound impact on the future of our societies and therefore cannot be decided only by scientists. Hence, it is crucial to identify innovative tools promoting debate on sciences and their technological spin-off. Here, we contend that science fiction has major assets that could face this challenge and facilitate the dialogue between sciences and society.

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Document 10
Jablonski, Nina G

Transforming "racial characteristics": is it an appropriate role for aesthetic surgery?
Aesthetic surgery journal / the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic surgery 2011 Mar 1; 31(3): 352-3

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Document 11
Pols, Auke J K; Houkes, Wybo

What is morally salient about enhancement technologies?
Journal of medical ethics 2011 Feb; 37(2): 84-7

Abstract: The human enhancement debate typically centres on moral issues regarding changes in human nature, not on the means for these changes. We argue that one cannot grasp what is morally salient about human enhancement without understanding how technologies affect human action and practical reasoning. We present a minimalist conception of human agents as bounded practical reasoners. Then, we categorize different effects of technologies on our possibilities for action and our evaluation of these possibilities. For each, we discuss whether enhancement technologies have morally salient effects; which technologies show these effects; and whether these differ significantly from those of other, non-enhancement technologies. We conclude that enhancement technologies are morally salient in several respects, that not all enhancement technologies share all those morally salient respects, and that continuities with traditional technologies may be found in all morally salient respects.

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Häyry, Matti

**Considerable life extension and three views on the meaning of life.**

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Wasson, Katherine

**Medical and genetic enhancements: ethical issues that will not go away.**

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Buchanan, Allen

**BEYOND HUMANITY? THE ETHICS OF BIOMEDICAL ENHANCEMENT**
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 B82 2001

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Savulescu, Julian; Meulen, R.H.J. ter; and Kahane, Guy, eds.

**ENHANCING HUMAN CAPACITIES**

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Koch, Tom

**Enhancing who? Enhancing what? Ethics, bioethics, and transhumanism.**

**Abstract:** Transhumanists advance a "posthuman" condition in which technological and genetic enhancements will transform humankind. They are joined in this goal by bioethicists arguing for genetic selection as a means of "enhancing evolution," improving if not also the species then at least the potential lives of future individuals. The argument of both, this paper argues, is a new riff on the old eugenics tune. As ever, it is done in the name of science and its presumed knowledge base. As ever, the result is destructive rather than instructive, bad faith promoted as high ideal. The paper concludes with the argument that species advancement is possible but in a manner thoroughly distinct from that advanced by either of these groups.

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Bradshaw, Heather G; ter Meulen, Ruud

**A transhumanist fault line around disability: morphological freedom and the obligation to enhance.**
The Journal of medicine and philosophy 2010 Dec; 35(6): 670-84

**Abstract:** The transhumanist literature encompasses diverse non-novel positions on questions of disability and obligation reflecting long-running political philosophical debates on freedom and value choice, complicated by the
difficulty of projecting values to enhanced beings. These older questions take on a more concrete form given transhumanist uses of biotechnologies. This paper will contrast the views of Hughes and Sandberg on the obligations persons with "disabilities" have to enhance and suggest a new model. The paper will finish by introducing a distinction between the responsibility society has in respect of the presence of impairments and the responsibility society has not to abandon disadvantaged members, concluding that questions of freedom and responsibility have renewed political importance in the context of enhancement technologies.

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Document 18
Persson, Ingmar; Savulescu, Julian
Moral transhumanism.
The Journal of medicine and philosophy 2010 Dec; 35(6): 656-69
Abstract: In its basic sense, the term "human" is a term of biological classification: an individual is human just in case it is a member of the species Homo sapiens. Its opposite is "nonhuman": nonhuman animals being animals that belong to other species than H. sapiens. In another sense of human, its opposite is "inhuman," that is cruel and heartless (cf. "humane" and "inhumane"); being human in this sense is having morally good qualities. This paper argues that biomedical research and therapy should make humans in the biological sense more human in the moral sense, even if they cease to be human in the biological sense. This serves valuable biomedical ends like the promotion of health and well-being, for if humans do not become more moral, civilization is threatened. It is unimportant that humans remain biologically human, since they do not have moral value in virtue of belonging to H. sapiens.

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Document 19
Bess, Michael
Enhanced humans versus "normal people": elusive definitions.
Abstract: A key aspect of transhumanist thought involves the modification or augmentation of human physical and mental capabilities—a form of intervention often encapsulated under the term "enhancement." This article provides an overview of the concept of enhancement, focusing on six major areas in which usages of the term become slippery and controversial: normal or species-typical functioning, therapeutics or healing, natural functioning, human nature, authenticity, and the ambiguity between "more" and "better." I argue that we need to be aware of the tendency to embed the concept of enhancement within stark binary oppositions that seem perfectly reasonable at first glance, but that in fact yield little more than conceptual muddles if they are not handled carefully.

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Document 20
Mackenzie, Robin
Don't let them eat cake! A view from across the pond.
The American journal of bioethics : AJOB 2010 Dec; 10(12): 16-8

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Document 21
Brandon, Anna R; Puzziferri, Nancy; Sadler, John Z
Stuck in the middle: what should a good society do?
The American journal of bioethics : AJOB 2010 Dec; 10(12): 18-20
Document 22
Garrett, Jeremy R; McNolty, Leslie Ann
**Bariatric surgery and the social character of the obesity epidemic.**

Document 23
De Ville, Kenneth
**Bariatric surgery, ethical obligation, and the life cycle of medical innovation.**
The American journal of bioethics : AJOB 2010 Dec; 10(12): 22-4

Document 24
Golomb, Beatrice A; Koperski, Sabrina
**Pondering the ponderous: are the "moral challenges" of bariatric surgery morally challenged?**
The American journal of bioethics : AJOB 2010 Dec; 10(12): 24-6

Document 25
van Geelen, S M; Bolt, L L E; van Summeren, M J H
**Moral aspects of bariatric surgery for obese children and adolescents: the urgent need for empirical-ethical research.**
The American journal of bioethics : AJOB 2010 Dec; 10(12): 30-2

Document 26
Wong, Wendy W; Camp, Matthew C; Camp, Jennifer S; Gupta, Subhas C
**The quality of Internet advertising in aesthetic surgery: an in-depth analysis.**
Aesthetic surgery journal / the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic surgery 2010 Sep 1; 30(5): 735-43
**Abstract:** The aesthetic market is a growing business, as evidenced by the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS) reporting an increase of 147% in the number of cosmetic procedures performed by members since 1997. This market is consumer-oriented, relying heavily on advertising for survival amid the increasing provider competition.

Document 27
Aicher, Robert H
**Commentary on "The quality of Internet advertising in aesthetic surgery: an in-depth analysis".**
Document 28
Djordjevic, Miroslav L
**Penile enhancement surgery.**

Document 29
de Melo-Martín, Inmaculada
**Defending human enhancement technologies: unveiling normativity.**

Abstract: Recent advances in biotechnologies have led to speculations about enhancing human beings. Many of the moral arguments presented to defend human enhancement technologies have been limited to discussions of their risks and benefits. The author argues that in so far as ethical arguments focus primarily on risks and benefits of human enhancement technologies, these arguments will be insufficient to provide a robust defence of these technologies. This is so because the belief that an assessment of risks and benefits is a sufficient ethical evaluation of these technologies incorrectly presupposes that risk assessments do not involve value judgements. Second, it presupposes a reductionist conception of ethics as merely a risk management instrument. Each of these assumptions separates ethical evaluation from discussion and appraisal of ends and means and thus leaves important—indeed, essential—ethical considerations out of view. Once these problematic assumptions are rejected, it becomes clear that an adequate defence of human enhancement technologies requires more than a simple balance of their risks and benefits.

Document 30
Larson, David L
**Ethical issues in aesthetic research.**

Document 31
Lantos, John D
**A better life through science?**

Document 32
Jotterand, Fabrice
**Response to open peer commentaries on "Human dignity and transhumanism: do anthro-technological devices have moral status?".**
Document 33
Bredenoord, Annelien L; van der Graaf, Rieke; van Delden, Johannes J M
Toward a "post-posthuman dignity area" in evaluating emerging enhancement technologies.

Document 34
Glenn, Linda MacDonald; Dvorsky, George
Dignity and agential realism: human, posthuman, and nonhuman.
The American journal of bioethics : AJOB 2010 Jul; 10(7): 57-8

Document 35
Henry, Leslie Meltzer
Deciphering dignity.

Document 36
Chapman, Audrey R
Inconsistency of human rights approaches to human dignity with transhumanism.

Document 37
Sandler, Ronald; Basl, John
Transhumanism, human dignity, and moral status.
The American journal of bioethics : AJOB 2010 Jul; 10(7): 63-6

Document 38
Sadler, John Z
Dignity, arête, and hubris in the transhumanist debate.
Document 39

ter Meulen, Ruud

**Dignity, posthumanism, and the community of values.**
The American journal of bioethics : AJOB 2010 Jul; 10(7): 69-70

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Document 40

Smith, Rick J

**Re "The ethics of cosmetic enhancement".**
The Pharos of Alpha Omega Alpha-Honor Medical Society. Alpha Omega Alpha 2010 Summer; 73(3): 51

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Document 41

Zylinska, Joanna

**Playing God, Playing Adam: The Politics and Ethics of Enhancement**
Journal of Bioethical Inquiry 2010 June; 7(2): 149-161

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[http://www.springer.com/medicine/journal/11673](http://www.springer.com/medicine/journal/11673) (link may be outdated)

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Document 42

Schramme, Thomas

**Paternalism and self-interest: a rejoinder.**
Bioethics 2010 May; 24(4): 208-10

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Document 43

Scripko, Patricia D

**Enhancement's place in medicine.**
Journal of medical ethics 2010 May ; 36(5): 293-6

**Abstract:** Many enhancement technologies are distributed by healthcare professionals-by physicians-who are held to the Hippocratic Oath and the goals of medicine. While the ethics of enhancement has been widely discussed with regard to the social justice, humanism, morals and normative values of these interventions, their place in medicine has not attracted a great deal of attention. This paper investigates the potential for enhancement technologies to fulfill the goals of medicine, arguing that they play a role in promoting the health of individuals, and thus, an unavoidable place in medicine. It also warns of potential dangers, suggesting a set of guidelines to initiate conversations regarding the role and responsibilities of physicians practising in an era of enhancement.

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Document 44

Heilinger, Jan-Christoph
The debate about ‘human enhancement’ and its anthropological dimension [review of Medical Enhancement and Posthumanity, edited by Bert Gordijn and Ruth Chadwick]
Medicine, Health Care, and Philosophy 2010 May; 13(2): 177-179

http://www.springerlink.com/content/102960/ (link may be outdated)

Document 45
Cheshire, William P.
Just enhancement
Ethics & Medicine 2010 Spring; 26(1): 7-13

Document 46
Outram, Simon M
The use of methylphenidate among students: the future of enhancement?

Abstract: During the past few years considerable debate has arisen within academic journals with respect to the use of smart drugs or cognitive enhancement pharmaceuticals. The following paper seeks to examine the foundations of this cognitive enhancement debate using the example of methylphenidate use among college students. The argument taken is that much of the enhancement debate rests upon inflated assumptions about the ability of such drugs to enhance and over-estimations of either the size of the current market for such drugs or the rise in popularity as drugs for enhancing cognitive abilities. This article provides an overview of the empirical evidence that methylphenidate has the ability to significantly improve cognitive abilities in healthy individuals, and examines whether the presumed uptake of the drug is either as socially significant as implied or growing to the extent that it requires urgent regulatory attention. In addition, it reviews the evidence of side-effects for the use of methylphenidate which may be an influential factor in whether an individual decides to use such drugs. The primary conclusions are that neither drug efficacy, nor the benefit-to-risk balance, nor indicators of current or growing demand provide sufficient evidence that methylphenidate is a suitable example of a cognitive enhancer with mass appeal. In light of these empirically based conclusions, the article discusses why methylphenidate might have become seen as a smart drug or cognitive enhancer.

Document 47
Fenton, Elizabeth
The perils of failing to enhance: a response to Persson and Savelescu.

Abstract: Ingmar Persson and Julian Savelescu argue that non-traditional forms of cognitive enhancement (those involving genetic engineering or pharmaceuticals) present a serious threat to humanity, since the fruits of such enhancement, accelerated scientific progress, will give the morally corrupt minority of humanity new and more effective ways to cause great harm. And yet it is scientific progress, accelerated by non-traditional cognitive enhancement, which could allow us to dramatically morally enhance human beings, thereby eliminating, or at least reducing, the threat from the morally corrupt minority. I argue that this apparently intractable dilemma is less difficult to resolve than Persson and Savelescu suppose. Their analysis of non-traditional cognitive enhancement overstates the risks and undervalues the benefits that such enhancement might provide. Once the benefits are better described, it is clear that non-traditional cognitive enhancement could be the means of our survival, not of our destruction.
Cohen, Susan; Cosgrove, Christine
Too tall, too small? The temptation to tinker with a child's height.
Lancet 2010 February 6; 375(9713): 454-455

Leutwyler, Henry
Vigor quest

Mousavi, S R
The ethics of aesthetic surgery.
Abstract: Advances in plastic and reconstructive surgery have revolutionized the management of patients suffering from disfiguring congenital abnormalities, burns and skin cancers. The demand for aesthetic surgery has increased in recent years, as our culture has become more concerned with image and appearance. Several ethical considerations such as patient's right for informed counseling, beneficience and maleficience need to be given careful consideration.

Bales, Donald W.
Accelerating human evolution?
Pharos of Alpha Omega Alpha–Honor Medical Society 2010 Winter; 73(1): 48

Raphael, Anna
The ethics of cosmetic enhancement.
Pharos of Alpha Omega Alpha–Honor Medical Society 2010 Winter; 73(1): 18-23

Berry, James
Accelerating human evolution??
Pharos of Alpha Omega Alpha–Honor Medical Society 2010 Winter; 73(1): 48
**Document 54**

European Commission. Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC DEBATE ON NANOTECHNOLOGIES
Call number: T174.7_U54 2010

**Document 55**

Agar, Nicholas
HUMANITY'S END: WHY WE SHOULD REJECT RADICAL ENHANCEMENT
Call number: GN281_A33 2010

**Document 56**

Hughes, James J.
Technopressive biopolitics and human enhancement
Call number: R724_P736 2010

**Document 57**

Blackford, R.
Moral pluralism versus the total view: why Singer is wrong about radical life extension.
Journal of Medical Ethics 2009 December; 35(12): 747-52
Abstract: Peter Singer has argued that we should not proceed with a hypothetical life-extension drug, based on a scenario in which developing the drug would fail to achieve the greatest sum of happiness over time. However, this is the wrong test. If we ask, more simply, which policy would be more benevolent, we reach a different conclusion from Singer's: even given his (admittedly questionable) scenario, development of the drug should go ahead. Singer's rigorous utilitarian position pushes him in the direction of an implausible "total view" utilitarianism when it encounters the problems presented by certain thought experiments. A more pluralistic account of the nature of morality promises to solve these problems, and in this case it reaches a benevolent recommendation on life-extension technology.

**Document 58**

Shaw, David
Cryoethics: seeking life after death.
Bioethics 2009 November; 23(9): 515-521
Abstract: Cryonic suspension is a relatively new technology that offers those who can afford it the chance to be 'frozen' for future revival when they reach the ends of their lives. This paper will examine the ethical status of this technology and whether its use can be justified. Among the arguments against using this technology are: it is 'against nature', and would change the very concept of death; no friends or family of the 'freezee' will be left alive when he is revived; the considerable expense involved for the freezee and the future society that will revive him; the environmental cost of maintaining suspension; those who wish to use cryonics might not live life to the full because they would economize in order to afford suspension; and cryonics could lead to premature euthanasia in order to maximize chances of success. Furthermore, science might not advance enough to ever permit revival, and reanimation might not take place due to socio-political or catastrophic reasons. Arguments advanced by proponents of cryonics include: the potential benefit to society; the ability to cheat death for at least a few more years; the
The prospect of immortality if revival is successful; and all the associated benefits that delaying or avoiding dying would bring. It emerges that it might be imprudent not to use the technology, given the relatively minor expense involved and the potential payoff. An adapted and more persuasive version of Pascal's Wager is presented and offered as a conclusive argument in favour of utilizing cryonic suspension.

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http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122612825/issue (link may be outdated)

Document 59

Chan, S.
**Should we enhance animals?**
Journal of Medical Ethics 2009 November; 35(11): 678-683
**Abstract:** Much bioethical discussion has been devoted to the subject of human enhancement through various technological means such as genetic modification. Although many of the same technologies could be, indeed in many cases already have been, applied to non-human animals, there has been very little consideration of the concept of "animal enhancement", at least not in those specific terms. This paper addresses the notion of animal enhancement and the ethical issues surrounding it. A definition of animal enhancement is proposed that provides a framework within which to consider these issues; and it is argued that if human enhancement can be considered to be a moral obligation, so too can animal enhancement.

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Document 60

Schmidt, Michael S.
**Dominicans try shots to boost rising players**

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Document 61

Engber, Daniel
**The fat and short of it.**
New York Times Magazine 2009 October 18; p. 23

http://www.nytimes.com (link may be outdated)

Document 62

Cakic, V.
**Smart drugs for cognitive enhancement: ethical and pragmatic considerations in the era of cosmetic neurology.**
Journal of Medical Ethics 2009 October; 35(10): 611-615
**Abstract:** Reports in the popular press suggest that smart drugs or "nootropics" such as methylphenidate, modafinil and piracetam are increasingly being used by the healthy to augment cognitive ability. Although current nootropics offer only modest improvements in cognitive performance, it appears likely that more effective compounds will be developed in the future and that their off-label use will increase. One sphere in which the use of these drugs may be commonplace is by healthy students within academia. This article reviews the ethical and pragmatic implications of
nootropic use in academia by drawing parallels with issues relevant to the drugs in sport debate. It is often argued that performance-enhancing drugs should be prohibited because they create an uneven playing field. However, this appears dubious given that “unfair” advantages are already ubiquitous and generally tolerated by society. There are concerns that widespread use will indirectly coerce non-users also to employ nootropics in order to remain competitive. However, to restrict the autonomy of all people for fear that it may influence the actions of some is untenable. The use of potentially harmful drugs for the purposes of enhancement rather than treatment is often seen as unjustified, and libertarian approaches generally champion the rights of the individual in deciding if these risks are acceptable. Finally, whether the prohibition of nootropics can be effectively enforced is doubtful. As nootropics use becomes widespread among students in the future, discussion of this issue will become more pressing in the years to come.

http://jme.bmj.com/content/35/10.toc (link may be outdated)

* Document 63

Wade, Nicholas

Quest for a long, long life gains scientific respect
New York Times 2009 September 29; p. D4

http://www.nytimes.com (link may be outdated)

* Document 64

Askland, Andrew

Science and socially responsible freedom: commentary on "Cognitive enhancement: methods, ethics, regulatory challenges".
Science and Engineering Ethics 2009 September; 15(3): 343-349

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* Document 65

Bostrom, Nick; Sandberg, Anders

Cognitive enhancement: methods, ethics, regulatory challenges.

http://www.springerlink.com/content/120482/ (link may be outdated)

* Document 66

Guevin, Benedict M.

Augmentation mammoplasty for male-to-female transexuals: a case study for Catholic hospitals
National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly 2009 Autumn; 9(3): 453-458

Abstract: The author explores whether Catholic hospitals should be required by law to perform augmentation mammoplasty on male-to-female transsexuals. The case involves a male-to-female transsexual who presented at a Catholic hospital for breast augmentation surgery. The hospital refused and was sued on the basis of a violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act. The hospital formulated a policy on how to deal with such cases in the future. It determined that the same standards that apply to any woman be applied here, since the mammoplasty was not part
of the actual transgender surgery. The author argues that augmentation mammaplasty is part of the transgendering process and illicit for a Catholic hospital to perform. Legislation protecting Catholic hospitals from having to perform abortions should be expanded to include transsexual reassignment surgery in all of its stages.

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* Document 67
Tännsjö, Torbjörn
Ought we to enhance our cognitive capacities?
Bioethics 2009 September; 23(7): 421-432

Abstract: Ought we to improve our cognitive capacities beyond the normal human range? It might be a good idea to level out differences between peoples cognitive capacities; and some people's reaching beyond normal capacities may have some good side-effects on society at large (but also bad side-effects, of course). But is there any direct gain to be made from having ones cognitive capacities enhanced? Would this as such make our lives go better? No, I argue; or at least there doesn't seem to be any evidence suggesting that it would. And it doesn't matter whether we consider the question from a narrow hedonistic perspective, from a more refined hedonistic perspective, from a desire-satisfaction view, or from some reasonable objective list view of what makes a life go well. Only an extremely perfectionist—and implausible—view of what makes our lives go well could support any direct value in cognitive enhancement. Finally, our sense of identity gives us no good reasons to enhance even our capacity to remember. So, cognitive enhancement as such would not improve our lives.

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Caplan, Arthur
Is the perfect the enemy of the good?
Perspectives in Biology and Medicine 2009 Autumn; 52(4): 624-627

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http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/pbm/ (link may be outdated)

Document 69
Saletan, William
You: the updated owner's manual
New York Times Book Review 2009 August 2; p. 23

http://www.nytimes.com (link may be outdated)

* Document 70
Lindsay, Ronald A.
The uncharted moral landscape or designer personalities
Free Inquiry 2009 August-September; 29(5): 37-40

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**Document 71**
Walker, Mark Alan
The case for happy-people pills
Free Inquiry 2009 August-September; 29(5): 33-36
Georgetown users check Georgetown Journal Finder for access to full text

**Document 72**
Hughes, James J.
Social pressures for technological mood management
Free Inquiry 2009 August-September; 29(5): 28-32
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**Document 73**
Koepsell, David
Designer moods: the ethics of neurochemical enhancement
Free Inquiry 2009 August-September; 29(5): 26-27
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**Document 74**
Racine, Eric; Forlini, C.
Expectations regarding cognitive enhancement create substantial challenges.
Journal of Medical Ethics 2009 August; 35(8): 469-470
Abstract: A recent discussion on cognitive enhancers has caused some controversy in the ethics and neuroscience fields by coming out in favour of making neuropharmaceuticals with enhancing properties available for general consumption. We highlight in this brief commentary why concerns regarding efficacy and safety, demands on resources, and public health are substantive enough to warrant serious reconsideration before pharmaceutical performance enhancement can be widely supported.
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http://jme.bmj.com (link may be outdated)

**Document 75**
Fenton, Andrew
Buddhism and neuroethics: the ethics of pharmaceutical cognitive enhancement
Developing World Bioethics 2009 August; 9(2): 47-56
Abstract: This paper integrates some Buddhist moral values, attitudes and self-cultivation techniques into a discussion of the ethics of cognitive enhancement technologies - in particular, pharmaceutical enhancements. Many Buddhists utilize meditation techniques that are both integral to their practice and are believed to enhance the cognitive and affective states of experienced practitioners. Additionally, Mahayana Buddhism's teaching on skilful means permits a liberal use of methods or techniques in Buddhist practice that yield insight into our selfnature or aid in alleviating or eliminating duhkha (i.e. dissatisfaction). These features of many, if not most, Buddhist traditions will inform much of the Buddhist assessment of pharmaceutical enhancements offered in this paper. Some Buddhist concerns about the effects and context of the use of pharmaceutical enhancements will be canvassed in the discussion. Also, the author will consider Buddhist views of the possible harms that may befall human and nonhuman research subjects, interference with a recipient's karma, the artificiality of pharmaceutical enhancements,
and the possible motivations or intentions of healthy individuals pursuing pharmacological enhancement. Perhaps surprisingly, none of these concerns will adequately ground a reflective Buddhist opposition to the further development and continued use of pharmaceutical enhancements, either in principle or in practice. The author argues that Buddhists, from at least certain traditions - particularly Mahayana Buddhist traditions - should advocate the development or use of pharmaceutical enhancements if a consequence of their use is further insight into our self-nature or the reduction or alleviation of duhkha.

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Document 76
Zuger, Abigail

**At what height, happiness? A medical tale** [review of Normal At Any Cost: Tall Girls, Small Boys, and the Medical Industry's Quest to Manipulate Height by Susan Cohen, Christine Cosgrove, and Jeremy P. Tarcher]

[Document 77](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118486360/home) (link may be outdated)

Document 77
Campbell, Courtney S.

**Enhancing humans, controlling evolution** [review of Babies by Design: The Ethics of Genetic Choice by Ronald M. Green; Enhancing Evolution: The Ethical Case for Making Better People, by John Harris]

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[Document 78](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118486360/home) (link may be outdated)

Document 78
Bublitz, Jan Christoph; Merkel, Reinhard

**Autonomy and authenticity of enhanced personality traits**
Bioethics 2009 July; 23(6): 360-374

**Abstract:** There is concern that the use of neuroenhancements to alter character traits undermines consumer's authenticity. But the meaning, scope and value of authenticity remain vague. However, the majority of contemporary autonomy accounts ground individual autonomy on a notion of authenticity. So if neuroenhancements diminish an agent's authenticity, they may undermine his autonomy. This paper clarifies the relation between autonomy, authenticity and possible threats by neuroenhancements. We present six neuroenhancement scenarios and analyse how autonomy accounts evaluate them. Some cases are considered differently by criminal courts; we demonstrate where academic autonomy theories and legal reasoning diverge and ascertain whether courts should reconsider their concept of autonomy. We argue that authenticity is not an appropriate condition for autonomy and that new enhancement technologies pose no unique threats to personal autonomy.

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[Document 79](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118486360/home) (link may be outdated)

Document 79
Lipsman, Nir; Zener, Rebecca; Bernstein, Mark

**Personal identity, enhancement and neurosurgery: a qualitative study in applied neuroethics**
Bioethics 2009 July; 23(6): 375-383

**Abstract:** Recent developments in the field of neurosurgery, specifically those dealing with the modification of mood
and affect as part of psychiatric disease, have led some researchers to discuss the ethical implications of surgery to alter personality and personal identity. As knowledge and technology advance, discussions of surgery to alter undesirable traits, or possibly the enhancement of normal traits, will play an increasingly larger role in the ethical literature. So far, identity and enhancement have yet to be explored in a neurosurgical context, despite the fact that 1) neurological disease and treatment both potentially alter identity, and 2) that neurosurgeons will likely be the purveyors of future enhancement implantable technology. Here, we use interviews with neurosurgical patients to shed light on the ethical issues and challenges that surround identity and enhancement in neurosurgery. The results provide insight into how patients approach their identity prior to potentially identity-altering procedures and what future ethical challenges lay ahead for clinicians and researchers in the field of neurotherapeutics.

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Harris, John; Chatterjee, Ajan
Is it acceptable for people to take methylphenidate to enhance performance? [debate]
BMJ: British Medical Journal 2009 June 27; 338(7710): 1532-1533

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http://www.bmj.com (link may be outdated)

* Article Document 81
Lewens, T.
Enhancement and human nature: the case of Sandel
Abstract: If we assume that "enhancement" names all efforts to boost human mental and physical capacities beyond the normal upper range found in our species, then enhancement covers such a broad range of interventions that it becomes implausible to think that there is any generic ethical case to be made either for or against it. Michael Sandel has recently made such a generic case, which focuses on the importance of respecting the "giftedness" of human nature. Sandel succeeds in diagnosing an important worry we may have about the use of some enhancements by some parents, but his arguments are better understood as opposing "procrustean parenting" rather than enhancement in general.

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* Article Document 82
Coghlan, Andy
Will designer brains divide humanity?
New Scientist 2009 May 16-22; 202(2708): 8-9

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* Article Document 83
Hildt, Elisabeth
Living longer: age retardation and autonomy
Medicine, Health Care, and Philosophy 2009 May; 12(2): 179-185
Abstract: Research into human ageing is a growing field of research with two central foci: geriatric medicine works to
reduce the incidence and severity of age-related diseases and disabilities by devising adequate therapeutic and preventive strategies. A second focus, this time in the emerging field of biogerontology, is to bring about a general retardation of the ageing process and by this increase the average and maximum human lifespan. This contribution looks into the second focus, i.e. the possibility of age retardation which, for the time being, is merely hypothetical. After outlining research strategies studying age retardation in animal experiments, it will ask how extending human life by technological interventions might play out on the individual, familial and social level. The central concern here will be autonomy-linked issues, seeing that in debates concerning the ethical implications of age-retarding techniques the argument from autonomy is one of the main arguments in favour of the prolongation of human life. In particular, this contribution will assess whether the argument from autonomy does, in fact, unequivocally support the recourse to age-retarding techniques.
Abstract: Appeals to the idea of human nature are frequent in the voluminous literature on the ethics of enhancing human beings through biotechnology. Two chief concerns about the impact of enhancements on human nature have been voiced. The first is that enhancement may alter or destroy human nature. The second is that if enhancement alters or destroys human nature, this will undercut our ability to ascertain the good because, for us, the good is determined by our nature. The first concern assumes that altering or destroying human nature is in itself a bad thing. The second concern assumes that human nature provides a standard without which we cannot make coherent, defensible judgments about what is good. I will argue (1) that there is nothing wrong, per se, with altering or destroying human nature, because, on a plausible understanding of what human nature is, it contains bad as well as good characteristics and there is no reason to believe that eliminating some of the bad would so imperil the good as to make the elimination of the bad impermissible, and (2) that altering or destroying human nature need not result in the loss of our ability to make judgments about the good, because we possess a conception of the good by which we can and do evaluate human nature. I will argue that appeals to human nature tend to obscure rather than illuminate the debate over the ethics of enhancement and can be eliminated in favor of more cogent considerations.

http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118486360/home (link may be outdated)
Enhancement means a broader role for physicians [letter]
Nature 2009 January 29; 457(7229): 533

Careful use helps me do better research, and society benefits [letter]
Nature 2009 January 29; 457(7229): 533

Recall of learned information may rely on taking drug again [letter]
Nature 2009 January 29; 457(7229): 533

Patterns of drug use have varied throughout history [letter]
Nature 2009 January 29; 457(7229): 533

Cognitive enhancement on campus: Taking competition seriously

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Sweeney, Camille
Seeking self-esteem through surgery
http://www.nytimes.com (link may be outdated)

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Tierney, John
Anti-love drug may be ticket to bliss
New York Times 2009 January 13; p. D1, D4
http://www.nytimes.com (link may be outdated)

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Young, Larry J.
Love: neuroscience reveals all.
Nature 2009 January 8; 457(7226): 148
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Dooley, Anne
One implant made an impact. Might two do even more? For family, second cochlear surgery was a difficult decision
Washington Post 2009 January 6; p. F5
http://www.washingtonpost.com (link may be outdated)

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Gilbert, Susan
Children's bodies, parents' choices.
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Ouellette, Alicia
Eyes wide open: surgery to westernize the eyes of an Asian child.
* Document 104
Opel, Douglas J.; Wilfond, Benjamin S.
Cosmetic surgery in children with cognitive disabilities: who benefits? Who decides?

* Document 105
Paren, Erik
Respecting children with disabilities -- and their parents.

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Healey, Peter and Rayner, Steve, eds.
UNNATURAL SELECTION: THE CHALLENGE OF ENGINEERING TOMORROW'S PEOPLE
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 U48 2009

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Mehlman, Maxwell J.
THE PRICE OF PERFECTION: INDIVIDUALISM AND SOCIETY IN THE ERA OF BIOMEDICAL ENHANCEMENT
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 M45 2009

* Document 108
Gordijn, Bert and Chadwick, Ruth, eds.
MEDICAL ENHANCEMENT AND POSTHUMANITY
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 M424 2009

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Jones, D. Gareth
Enhancement: is baseless speculation misleading theologians and bioethicists?
* Document 111
Bostrom, Nick
**How to enhance human beings**
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**Enhancement and fairness**
Call number: RA418.5.M4 U48 2009

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Bailey, Ronald
**Who's afraid of posthumanity? A look at the growing left/right alliance in opposition to biotechnological progress**
Call number: TP248.23.B5626 2009

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Kass, Leon R.
**Biotechnology and our human future: some general reflections**
Call number: TP248.23.B5626 2009

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Schneider, Susan
**Future minds: transhumanism, cognitive enhancement, and the nature of persons**
Call number: QH332.P46 2009

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Jones, D. Gareth; Whitaker, Maja I.
**The modified body**
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Murphy, Timothy F.
Choosing disabilities and enhancements in children: a choice too far?
Reproductive Biomedicine Online 2009; 18(Supplement 1): 43-49
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The wisdom of nature: an evolutionary heuristic for human enhancement
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Hanson, Robin
Enhancing our truth orientation
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Paternalism in the age of cognitive enhancement: do civil liberties presuppose roughly equal mental ability?
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Life enhancement technologies: the significance of social category membership
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Tännsjo, Torbjörn
Medical enhancement and the ethos of elite sport
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Savulescu, Julian
The human prejudice and the moral status of enhanced beings: what do we owe the gods?
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Caplan, Arthur L.
Good, better, best?
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Parens, Erik
Toward a more fruitful debate about enhancement
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Kamm, Frances
What is and is not wrong with enhancement?
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Ida, Ryuichi
Should we improve human nature? An interrogation from an Asian perspective
Call number: RA418.5 .M4 H86 2009

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Warner, Judith
Living the off-label life [op-ed]
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Greely, Henry; Sahakian, Barbara; Harris, John; Kessler, Ronald C.; Gazzaniga, Michael; Campbell, Philip; Farah, Martha J.
Towards responsible use of cognitive-enhancing drugs by the healthy
Nature 2008 December 11; 456(7223): 702-705
Mitchell, C. Ben
**Why human bioenhancement technologies are a bad idea**

Garcia, Tamara; Sandler, Ronald
**Enhancing justice?**
NanoEthics 2008 December; 2(3): 277-287

Lin, Patrick; Allhoff, Fritz
**Untangling the debate: the ethics of human enhancement**
NanoEthics 2008 December; 2(3): 251-264

Polonijo, Andrea N.; Carpiano, Richard M.
**Representations of cosmetic surgery and emotional health in women's magazines in Canada**
Women's Health Issues 2008 November-December; 18(8): 463-470

Bell, J.
**Propranolol, post-traumatic stress disorder and narrative identity**

*Abstract:* FUNDING: Research funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research, NNF 80045, States of Mind: Emerging Issues in Neuroethics. While there are those who object to the prospective use of propranolol to prevent or treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), most obstreperous among them the President's Council on Bioethics, the use of propranolol can be justified for patients with severe PTSD. Propranolol, if effective, will alter the quality of certain memories in the brain. But this is not a serious threat to the self understood in terms of narrative identity. A narrative identity framework acknowledges that memory is always being subtly altered or modified. For severe cases of PTSD propranolol may help victims who don't respond to any other therapy or therapy combination regain their authentic self-narrative and engage once more in life activities. For those whose symptoms are not so severe the potential risks and side-effects of the drug may outweigh the benefits. Patients and family members should be allowed to decide, in consultation with their physician, whether this drug is appropriate in their case.

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Curtis, Benjamin L.
Non-therapeutic modification and self-interest: reply to Schramme [letter]
Bioethics 2008 October; 22(8): 455-456
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Dobson, Roger
Cosmetic vulvovaginal surgery is being carried out without evidence of benefit [news]
BMJ: British Medical Journal 2008 September 20; 337(7671): 650
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Latham, Melanie
The shape of things to come: feminism, regulation and cosmetic surgery
Medical Law Review 2008 Autumn; 16(3): 437-457
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Karpin, Isabel; Mykitiuk, Roxanne
Going out on a limb: prosthetics, normalcy and disputing the therapy/enhancement distinction
Medical Law Review 2008 Autumn; 16(3): 413-436
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Rubin, Charles T.
Beyond mankind [review of Enhancing Evolution: The Ethical Case for Making Better People, by John Harrie]
New Atlantis 2008 Fall; (22): 77-83
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Ravelingien, A.; Sandberg, A.
Sleep better than medicine? Ethical issues related to "wake enhancement"

Abstract: This paper deals with new pharmacological and technological developments in the manipulation and curtailment of our sleep needs. While humans have used various methods throughout history to lengthen diurnal wakefulness, recent advances have been achieved in manipulating the architecture of the brain states involved in sleep. The progress suggests that we will gradually become able to drastically manipulate our natural sleep-wake cycle. Our goal here is to promote discussion on the desirability and acceptability of enhancing our control over biological sleep, by illustrating various potential attendant ethical problems. We draw attention to the risks involved, possible conflicts of interests underlying the development of wake enhancement, and the potential impact on accountability for fatigue related errors.

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http://www.jmedethics.com (link may be outdated)

*  Document 141
Schermer, Maartje
Enhancements, easy shortcuts, and the richness of human activities
Bioethics 2008 September; 22(7): 355-363

Abstract: One argument that is frequently invoked against the technological enhancement of human functioning is that it is morally suspect, or even wrong, to take an easy shortcut. Some things that usually take effort, endurance or struggle can come easily with the use of an enhancer. This paper analyses the various arguments that circle round the idea that enhancement of human functioning is problematic because of the 'easy shortcut' that it offers. It discusses the concern that quick fixes lead to corrosion of character and the idea that suffering, pain, hard work and effort are essential for real and worthy achievements, and argues that these views are largely mistaken. Next, the paper argues that the core worry about taking an easy shortcut is that it makes us lose sight of the complexities of our means and ends; in other words, the argument warns against reducing the richness of human activities. A vocabulary of 'practices', 'internal goods' and 'focal engagement' will be used to articulate this argument further. The conclusion is that the easy shortcut argument has no general validity as an argument against enhancement 'as such'. The paper urges us, however, to evaluate enhancement technologies not only in terms of their efficiency in reaching certain goals but also in terms of their contribution to intrinsically worthwhile human activities. It can point out some of the caveats, as well as the opportunities, of the use of enhancement technologies.

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Glannon, Walter
Enhancing Evolution: The Ethical Case for Making Better People, by John Harris [book review]
CQ: Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics 2008 Fall; 17(4): 473-476

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Camporesi, Silvia
Oscar Pistorius, enhancement and post-humans [editorial]
Journal of Medical Ethics 2008 September; 34(9): 639

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Let the games be doped
New York Times 2008 August 12; p. F1, F6
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Coghlan, Andy
Will the year of the gene pass China by?
New Scientist 2008 August 2-8; 199(2667): 9

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Aldhous, Peter
Inside the minds of athletes who cheat: finding out why some competitors take drugs while others stay clean may be the key to deterring doping
New Scientist 2008 August 2-8; 199(2667): 8-9

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Drugs or food? It is time to investigate the role of nutritional supplements in sport [editorial]
New Scientist 2008 August 2-8; 199(2667): 5

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Nelson, Roxanne
Mirror, mirror on the wall: questioning cosmetic procedures in adolescents

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Loland, S.;
Ethics of technologically constructed hypoxic environments in sport.

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**Document 151**

**Douglas, Thomas**

**Moral enhancement**
Journal of Applied Philosophy 2008 August; 25(3): 228-245

**Abstract:** Opponents of biomedical enhancement often claim that, even if such enhancement would benefit the enhanced, it would harm others. But this objection looks unpersuasive when the enhancement in question is a moral enhancement — an enhancement that will expectably leave the enhanced person with morally better motives than she had previously. In this article I (1) describe one type of psychological alteration that would plausibly qualify as a moral enhancement, (2) argue that we will, in the medium-term future, probably be able to induce such alterations via biomedical intervention, and (3) defend future engagement in such moral enhancements against possible objections. My aim is to present this kind of moral enhancement as a counter-example to the view that biomedical enhancement is always morally impermissible.

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**Document 152**

**Temkin, Larry S.**

**Is living longer living better?**

**Abstract:** Some day, perhaps soon, we may have genetic enhancements enabling us to conquer aging. Should we do so, if we can? I believe the topic is both interesting and important, and that it behoves us to think about it. Doing so may yield important insights about what we do care about, what we should care about, and how we should seek to live our lives, both individually and collectively. My central question is this: Is living longer, living better? My paper does not offer a sustained argument for a single, considered, thesis. Rather, it offers a number of snippets of often-uncorrelated thoughts relevant to the issues my question raises. The paper contains seven sections. Part one is introductory. Part two comments on some current longevity research. Part three indicates the attitudes towards death and science with which I approach these questions. Parts four and five, respectively, discuss some worries about immortality raised by Leon Kass and Bernard Williams. Part six points to some practical, social, and moral concerns that might arise if society's members lived super long lives. Part seven concludes by suggesting that we should favour living well over living longer, and ongoing reproduction over immortality; correspondingly, I suggest that we should think long and hard before proceeding with certain lines of longevity research.

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**Document 153**

**Persson, Ingmar; Savulescu, Julian**

**The perils of cognitive enhancement and the urgent imperative to enhance the moral character of humanity**

Abstract: As history shows, some human beings are capable of acting very immorally. Technological advance and consequent exponential growth in cognitive power means that even rare evil individuals can act with catastrophic effect. The advance of science makes biological, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction easier and easier to fabricate and, thus, increases the probability that they will come into the hands of small terrorist groups and deranged individuals. Cognitive enhancement by means of drugs, implants and biological (including genetic) interventions could thus accelerate the advance of science, or its application, and so increase the risk of the development or misuse of weapons of mass destruction. We argue that this is a reason which speaks against the desirability of cognitive enhancement, and the consequent speedier growth of knowledge, if it is not accompanied by an extensive moral enhancement of humankind. We review the possibilities for moral enhancement by biomedical and genetic means and conclude that, though it should be possible in principle, it is in practice probably distant. There is thus a reason not to support cognitive enhancement in the foreseeable future. However, we grant that there are also reasons in its favour, but we do not attempt to settle the balance between these reasons for and against. Rather, we conclude that if research into cognitive enhancement continues, as it is likely to, it must be accompanied by research into moral enhancement.

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Document 154
Liao, S. Matthew; Savulescu, Julian; Wasserman, David
The ethics of enhancement
Journal of Applied Philosophy 2008 August; 25(3): 159-161

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Document 155
Appel, J.M.
When the boss turns pusher: a proposal for employee protections in the age of cosmetic neurology
Journal of Medical Ethics 2008 August; 34(8): 616-618

Abstract: Neurocognitive enhancement, or cosmetic neurology, offers the prospect of improving the learning, memory and attention skills of healthy individuals well beyond the normal human range. Much has been written about the ethics of such enhancement, but policy-makers in the USA, the UK and Europe have been reluctant to legislate in this rapidly developing field. However, the possibility of discrimination by employers and insurers against individuals who choose not to engage in such enhancement is a serious threat worthy of legislative intervention. While lawmakers should not prevent individuals from freely pursuing neurocognitive enhancement, they should act to ensure that such enhancement is not coerced. This paper offers one model for such legislation, based upon a proposed US law, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, to address precisely this particular pitfall of the impending neuroscience revolution.

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Redfearn, Suz
A cautionary tale: when things go wrong, it's better to be at home
Washington Post 2008 July 8; p. F1, F5

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Watkin, Eleanor Black
A new deal: one company with an eye on U.S. customers
Washington Post 2008 July 8; p. F1, F5

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Rajczi, Alex
One danger of biomedical enhancements.
Bioethics 2008 July; 22(6): 328-336
Abstract: In the near future, our society may develop a vast array of medical enhancements. There is a large debate about enhancements, and that debate has identified many possible harms. This paper describes a harm that has so far been overlooked. Because of some particular features of enhancements, we could come to place more value on them than we actually should. This over-valuation would lead us to devote time, energy, and resources to enhancements that could be better spent somewhere else. That mistake might not be trivial. By spending too much time, energy, and resources on enhancements, we could set back our pursuit of our deepest goals such as living happily and leading ethical lives.

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Miah, Andy
Paralympics 2.0

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Wasserman, David
Performance-enhancing technologies and the values of athletic competition
Philosophy and Public Policy Quarterly 2008 Summer-Fall; 28(3-4): 22-27

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Morris, Kelly
Experts urge smart thinking on cognitive enhancers.
Carey, Benedict

**Monkey think, moving artificial arm as own**


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Harris, John

**Who's afraid of a synthetic human?**

TimesOnline (London) 2008 May 17; 2 p. [Online]. Accessed:
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article3949986.ece [2008 June 3]

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**La ética de la estética [The ethics of esthetics] [editorial]**

Bioethics and Debat 2008 May-August; 14(52): 2

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Soriano y Victòria Sedó, José

**Aspectos médicos y éticos en cirugía plástica, reparadora y estética [Medical and ethical aspects of plastic, restorative and esthetic surgery]**

Bioethics and Debat 2008 May-August; 14(52): 6-8

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Maestre, Begoña Román

**El culto al cuerpo: algunas reflexiones filosóficas [The cult of the body: some philosophical reflections]**

Bioethics and Debat 2008 May-August; 14(52): 1, 3

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Maher, Brendan

**Poll results: look who's doping [news]**

Nature 2008 April 10; 452(7188): 674-675

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**Document 168**

Boeff, Courtney

*The ethical considerations of nootropic drugs: memory boom or bust?*

Penn Bioethics Journal 2008 April 2; 4(2): 12-15

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**Document 169**

Carey, Benedict

*Brain enhancement is wrong, right?*

New York Times 2008 March 9; p. WK1, WK2

**Document 170**

Athar, Shahid

*Enhancement technologies and the person: an Islamic view*

Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics 2008 Spring; 36: 59-64

**Document 171**

Buchanan, Allen

*Enhancement and the ethics of development*

Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal 2008 March; 18(1): 1-34

**Abstract:** Much of the debate about the ethics of enhancement has proceeded according to two framing assumptions. The first is that although enhancement carries large social risks, the chief benefits of enhancement are to those who are enhanced (or their parents, in the case of enhancing the traits of children). The second is that, because we now understand the wrongs of state-driven eugenics, enhancements, at least in liberal societies, will be personal goods, chosen or not chosen in a market for enhancement services. This article argues that both framing assumptions must be rejected, once it is understood that some enhancements—especially those that are most likely to garner resources and become widespread—will increase human productivity. Once one appreciates the productivity-increasing potential of enhancements, one can begin to see that enhancement need not be primarily a zero sum affair, that the social costs of forgoing enhancements may be great, and that the state may well take an interest in facilitating biomedical enhancements, just as it does in facilitating education and other productivity-increasing traditional enhancements. Appreciating the productivity-increasing potential of enhancements also makes it possible to view the enhancement debate in a new light, through the lens of the ethics of development.

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Lomanno, Matthew P.

*The possibilities and problems of transhumanism*

National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly 2008 Spring; 8(1): 57-66
Document 173
Anderson, Ryan T.; Tollefsen, Christopher
Biotech enhancement and natural law
New Atlantis 2008 Spring; (20): 79-103

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Macaes, Bruno
Technology and authenticity
New Atlantis 2008 Spring; (20): 63-78

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Document 175
Ashcroft, Richard Edmund; Wolfendale, Jessica
Regulating biomedical enhancements in the military [comment]
American Journal of Bioethics 2008 February; 8(2): 47-49; author reply W4

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Dees, Richard H.; Wolfendale, Jessica
Soldiers as agents [comment]
American Journal of Bioethics 2008 February; 8(2): 46-47; author reply W4

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Lev, Ori; Wolfendale, Jessica
Assessing the importance of maintaining soldiers’ moral responsibility -- possible trade-offs [comment]
American Journal of Bioethics 2008 February; 8(2): 44-45; author reply W4

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Fenton, Andrew; Krahn, Timothy; Wolfendale, Jessica
Who's to regret, what's to regret? [comment]
American Journal of Bioethics 2008 February; 8(2): 42-43; author reply W4
Georgetown users check Georgetown Journal Finder for access to full text
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Document 179
Russo, Michael B.; Arnett, Michael V.; Thomas, Maria L.; Caldwell, John A.; Wolfendale, Jessica
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Wolfendale, Jessica
Performance-enhancing technologies and moral responsibility in the military
Abstract: New scientific advances have created previously unheard of possibilities for enhancing combatants' performance. Future war fighters may be smarter, stronger, and braver than ever before. If these technologies are safe, is there any reason to reject their use? In this article, I argue that the use of enhancements is constrained by the importance of maintaining the moral responsibility of military personnel. This is crucial for two reasons: the military's ethical commitments require military personnel to be morally responsible agents, and moral responsibility is necessary for integrity and the moral emotions of guilt and remorse, both of which are important for moral growth and psychological well-being. Enhancements that undermined combatants' moral responsibility would therefore undermine the military's moral standing and would harm combatants' well-being. A genuine commitment to maintaining the military's ethical standards and the well-being of combatants therefore requires a careful analysis of performance-enhancing technologies before they are implemented.
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Human enhancement and factor X
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Schermer, M.
On the argument that enhancement is “cheating”
Abstract: One frequently used argument in the discussion on human enhancement is that enhancement is a form of cheating. This argument is well-known in relation to doping in sports, but recently it has also been used with regard to cognitive enhancement in the context of education and exams. This paper analyses the enhancement-is-cheating argument by comparing sports and education, and by evaluating how the argument can be interpreted in both contexts. If cheating is understood as breaking the rules in order to gain an unfair advantage over others, it can be argued that some enhancements are a form of cheating. This problem of cheating is, however, relatively easy to remedy by either changing the rules, or by instituting controls and sanctions. This does not, therefore, constitute a categorical objection to enhancement. A further analysis of the intuitions behind the enhancement-is-cheating argument, however, shows that if sports and education are understood as "practices", with their own internal goods and standards of excellence, some potential problems of enhancement can be articulated. These concern the internal goods and standards of excellence that are characteristic of specific practices. Seen from this perspective, the important question is how enhancement technologies might be embedded in specific practices—or how they might corrode them.

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*Striving for perfection: can we go too far?*

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*Transhumanism and moral equality*

Bioethics 2007 October; 21(8): 419-425

**Abstract:** Conservative thinkers such as Francis Fukuyama have produced a battery of objections to the transhumanist project of fundamentally enhancing human capacities. This article examines one of these objections, namely that by allowing some to greatly extend their capacities, we will undermine the fundamental moral equality of human beings. I argue that this objection is groundless: once we understand the basis for human equality, it is clear that anyone who now has sufficient capacities to count as a person from the moral point of view will continue to count as one even if others are fundamentally enhanced; and it is mistaken to think that a creature which had even far greater capacities than an unenhanced human being should count as more than an equal from the moral point of view.

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**Surgical solution becoming acceptable, as for birth [letter]**


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**Constructive memory and memory enhancement**


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**Re-inventing ourselves: the plasticity of embodiment, sensing, and mind**
Journal of Medicine and Philosophy 2007 May-June; 32(3): 263-282

**Abstract:** Recent advances in cognitive science and cognitive neuroscience open up new vistas for human enhancement. Central to much of this work is the idea of new human-machine interfaces (in general) and new brain-machine interfaces (in particular). But despite the increasing prominence of such ideas, the very idea of such an interface remains surprisingly under-explored. In particular, the notion of human enhancement suggests an image of the embodied and reasoning agent as literally extended or augmented, rather than the more conservative image of a standard (non-enhanced) agent using a tool via some new interface. In this essay, I explore this difference, and attempt to lay out some of the conditions under which the more radical reading (positing brand new integrated agents or systemic wholes) becomes justified. I adduce some empirical evidence suggesting that the radical result is well within our scientific reach. The main reason why this is so has less to do with the advancement of our science (though that certainly helps) than with our native biological plasticity. We humans, I shall try to show, are biologically disposed towards literal (and repeated) episodes of sensory re-calibration, of bodily re-configuration and of mental extension. Such potential for literal and repeated re-configuration is the mark of what I shall call "profoundly embodied agency," contrasting it with a variety of weaker (less philosophically and scientifically interesting) understandings of the nature and importance of embodiment for minds and persons. The article ends by relating the image of profound embodiment to some questions (and fears) concerning converging technologies for improving human performance.

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**True to oneself? Broad and narrow ideas on authenticity in the enhancement debate**


**Abstract:** Our knowledge of the human brain and the influence of pharmacological substances on human mental functioning is expanding. This creates new possibilities to enhance personality and character traits. Psychopharmacological enhancers, as well as other enhancement technologies, raise moral questions concerning the boundary between clinical therapy and enhancement, risks and safety, coercion and justice. Other moral questions include the meaning and value of identity and authenticity, the role of happiness for a good life, or the perceived threats to humanity. Identity and authenticity are central in the debate on psychopharmacological enhancers. In this paper, I first describe the concerns at issue here as extensively propounded by Carl Elliott. Next, I address David DeGrazia's theory, which holds that there are no fundamental identity-related and authenticity-related arguments against enhancement technologies. I argue, however, that DeGrazia's line of reasoning does not succeed in settling these concerns. His conception of identity does not seem able to account for the importance we attach to personal identity in cases where personal identity is changed through enhancement technology. Moreover, his conception of authenticity does not explain the reason why we find inauthentic values objectionable. A broader approach to authenticity can make sense of concerns about changes in personal identity by means of enhancement technologies.

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Converging NBIC technologies for improving human performance: a critical assessment of the novelty and the prospects of the project


Abstract: This contribution focuses on two claims advanced by the proponents of the project of "Converging Technologies for Improving Human Performance." Firstly, it is maintained that this project represents something genuinely new and quite unique. Secondly, it is argued that the future prospects of the project are extraordinarily positive. In order to critically assess both claims this paper first focuses on the question of whether there is actually anything genuinely new about the project of improving human performance by means of converging NBIC technologies. In addition it is analyzed whether the project warrants that we be optimistic about its future prospects.

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Journal of Medical Ethics 2006 September; 32(9): 513-518
Abstract: In this article, transhumanism is considered to be a quasi-medical ideology that seeks to promote a variety of therapeutic and human-enhancing aims. Moderate conceptions are distinguished from strong conceptions of transhumanism and the strong conceptions were found to be more problematic than the moderate ones. A particular critique of Bostrom's defence of transhumanism is presented. Various forms of slippery slope arguments that may be used for and against transhumanism are discussed and one particular criticism, moral arbitrariness, that undermines both weak and strong transhumanism is highlighted.
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The bioethics of enhancing human performance for spaceflight

Journal of Medical Ethics 2006 March; 32(3): 129-132

Abstract: There are many ways of enhancing human performance. For military aviation in general, and for spaceflight in particular, the most important tools are selection, training, equipment, pharmacology, and surgery. In the future, genetic manipulation may be feasible. For each of these tools, the specific modalities available range from the ethically acceptable to the ethically unacceptable. Even when someone consents to a particular procedure to enhance performance, the action may be ethically unacceptable to society as a whole and the burden of risk for the individual may be too great. In addition, there are several characteristics that define the quality and the acceptability of the consent. Each method of enhancing performance will be examined in the context of the principles of medical ethics in a western society: autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence, and justice. The aim is to draw the attention of aeromedical practitioners to the complexities of ethical dilemmas such as this particular one in order to help them to develop a morally justifiable code of practice that balances society's needs against individual ambitions and corporate goals.

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Cetina, Karin Knorr

The rise of a culture of life: the biological sciences are encouraging the move away from the ideals of the Enlightenment towards an idea of individual perfectibility and enhancement

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**Document 292**

Bostrom, Nick

In defense of posthuman dignity


*Abstract*: Positions on the ethics of human enhancement technologies can be (crudely) characterized as ranging from transhumanism to bioconservatism. Transhumanists believe that human enhancement technologies should be made widely available, that individuals should have broad discretion over which of these technologies to apply to themselves, and that parents should normally have the right to choose enhancements for their children-to-be. Bioconservatives (whose ranks include such diverse writers as Leon Kass, Francis Fukuyama, George Annas, Wesley Smith, Jeremy Rifkin, and Bill McKibben) are generally opposed to the use of technology to modify human nature. A central idea in bioconservativism is that human enhancement technologies will undermine our human dignity. To forestall a slide down the slippery slope towards an ultimately debased 'posthuman' state, bioconservatives often argue for broad bans on otherwise promising human enhancements. This paper distinguishes two common fears about the posthuman and argues for the importance of a concept of dignity that is inclusive enough to also apply to many possible posthuman beings. Recognizing the possibility of posthuman dignity undercuts an important objection against human enhancement and removes a distortive double standard from our field of moral vision.

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DeGrazia, David

Enhancement technologies and human identity


*Abstract*: As the President's Council on Bioethics emphasized in a recent report, rapid growth of biotechnologies creates increasingly many possibilities for enhancing human traits. This article addresses the claim that enhancement via biotechnology is inherently problematic for reasons pertaining to our identity. After clarifying the concept of enhancement, and providing a framework for understanding human identity, I examine the relationship between enhancement and identity. Then I investigate two identity-related challenges to biotechnological enhancements: (1) the charge of inauthenticity and (2) the charge of violating inviolable core characteristics. My thesis is that a lucid, plausible understanding of human identity largely neutralizes these charges, liberating our thinking from some seductive yet unsound objections to enhancement via biotechnology.

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Kamm, Frances

**Response to commentators on "What's wrong with enhancement?"**


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**The expressive meaning of enhancement**


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