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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This is a very special issue of the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. For years *JLME* has published symposium collections of essays on the most important topics in our interdisciplinary fields. Now, for the first time, the *Journal* is being produced in conjunction with an actual symposium conference and will be available to the attendees and speakers at that conference. Most of the speakers at the conference have their work published in this issue of *JLME*.

The title of both the conference and this symposium issue is *DNA Fingerprinting and Civil Liberties*. DNA Fingerprinting is indeed an important topic worthy of careful study. As our plethora of authors discuss (nearly forty participate in the symposium), the issue of how to treat DNA forensic information is a question that concerns all of us, because it effects so many different groups of people: everyone from prosecutors and policemen to the accused, and even those convicted and on Death Row have a stake in the issues discussed within these pages. We owe it to everyone to consider these issues with great care.

Both the conference, held in Boston, Massachusetts on May 11-13, and this symposium were generously funded by the NIH and produced by *JLME's* parent organization, The American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics. It is this synergy of effort that best demonstrates the benefits of membership of ASLME. As a member, one receives not only a subscription to *JLME*, but also a subscription to our sister publication, the *American Journal of Law & Medicine*, and substantial discounts to conferences like "DNA Fingerprinting and Civil Liberties." Between this printed symposium and the live conference, our membership surely has a leg up on this important and interesting topic.

It is at this exciting moment that I am also very pleased to announce the new Editors-in-Chief of *JLME*. They are Sandra Johnson and Ana Iltis, both of Saint Louis University. Sandra and Ana are wonderful additions to the *Journal* who are sure to lead us in a positive direction in the future. Please join me in welcoming them on board.

Ted Hutchinson
Editor