

# Balancing Best Interests in Medical Ethics and Law (BABEL).

<https://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/survey/balancing-best-interests-in-medical-ethics-and-law-babel/>

## Principal Investigators

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## Institution

University of Bristol

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### Country

United Kingdom

## Title of project or programme

Balancing Best Interests in Medical Ethics and Law (BABEL).

## Source of funding information

The Wellcome Trust

## Total sum awarded (Euro)

€ 67,783

## Start date of award

01/12/2015

## Total duration of award in years

1

## Keywords

### Research Abstract

This project asks: How are the best interests of incapacitated patients interpreted and applied in judicial decision-making? The aim is to establish whether or to what extent bioethical understandings of best interests are captured in law, and vice versa. This will involve exploring the (bio)ethical values associated with the best interests standard and the values captured in judges' use(s) of this standard and the weighting(s) these acquire in the judicial balancing exercise. The project examines decisions to treat or not treat a range of incapacitated patients, focusing on particular areas of bioethical controversy (e.g. sterilisation, vaccination, dementia care, and the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment). In addition to combined legal and bioethical analysis, which will be published, the project will prepare the way for a programme of

research on best interests, by supporting networking and the preparation of bids. The programme will ask: How should the best interests of incapacitated patients be interpreted and applied in medico-legal decision-making? The programme will utilise integrated empirical bioethics methodologies and thus encompass documentary analysis, normative arguments and empirical enquiry. A Seed Award would provide vital support to the formation of the proposed programme.

**Further information available at:**

**Types:**

Investments < €500k

**Member States:**

United Kingdom

**Diseases:**

N/A

**Years:**

2016

**Database Categories:**

N/A

**Database Tags:**

N/A