

The Centre for Law, Medicine and Life Sciences

Annual Report
DECEMBER 2023



An introduction from **Professor Kathy Liddell**

*Director of the Centre for Law,
Medicine and Life Sciences*



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It gives me great pleasure to present the Centre for Law, Medicine and Life Sciences' (LML) Annual Report for 2022-23. LML was formally constituted in March 2015 as a research centre based within the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge. It seeks to foster legal research and teaching on a wide range of issues in medicine and life sciences, helping to promote responsible, effective, and affordable healthcare.

This report records LML's ninth year of operation, from October 2022 to September 2023. It shows the Centre is firmly and securely established and approaching maturity. We have built sufficient resources for the Centre to have mid-term sustainability and meet its mission of conducting teaching and research at the highest national and international levels. This is underscored by LML's major achievements reported below. Looking ahead, LML is poised to build upon this success. A variety of research projects are yielding significant results and we are keen to explore new routes to impact.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Liddell'.

Major Achievements

In 2022-23, LML:

- was awarded — along with our collaborators at Harvard and Copenhagen — a £5.8m grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation, funding another 5 years of collaboration and recognising our expertise and leadership at the international level.
- attracted excellent students at all levels (Tripos, LLM, and PhD), providing research-led teaching and nurturing the future leaders of our field.
- members published more than 15 articles, earned promotions, extended their research impact networks and delivered various lecture courses.
- was actively involved in the Governance of Stem Cell-Based Embryo Models (G-SCBEM) Working Group, a pioneering policy project initiated by the University of Cambridge.
- organised the fifth annual symposium in a series of five on bio-innovation, attended by international speakers and guests.
- hosted the 2023 Baron de Lancey Lecture with more than 200 guests.
- welcomed a steady stream of prominent researchers as visitors, further enhancing our reputation as a hub for cutting-edge research.
- reviewed and refreshed LML's operational capabilities by updating the membership of the Management Committee and Advisory Panel.



People

Director and Deputy Director



Prof. Kathy Liddell



Dr Jeff Skopek

Research Appointments



Prof. Mateo Aboy



Dr Cristina Crespo



Nicola Anderson



Jacquelyn Veraldi



**Ashleigh
Hamidzadeh**

Law Faculty and College Members



**Professor David
Erdos**



**Prof. Claire Fenton-
Glynn**



Dr Stevie Martin



Dr Caterina Milo



**Dr Okeoghene
Odudu**



**Dr Stephanie
Palmer**



Dr Rumiana Yotova

PhD Students



Rebecca Brown



Matt Jordan



Victor Van de Wiele

Research Affiliates



**Dr Elizabeth Fistein
(Cambridge Clinical
School)**



**Dr Zöe Fritz
(Cambridge Clinical
School)**



**Ms Annie Mackley
(Crown Office
Chambers)**



**Prof. Timo Minssen
(University of
Copenhagen)**

Events

LML members participated in a wide range of events this year. Some of those organised 'in house' included:

Baron de Lancey Public Lecture 2023: Assisted Dying: Slippery Slopes and Unintended Consequences

Speaker: Prof. Emily Jackson, London School of Economics

Faculty of Law and online

16 March 2023

Organised by LML, Dr Jeff Skopek and Prof Liddell

CeBIL Annual Symposium 2023: Intellectual Property & Biologics: Policy Challenges and Responses

Trinity Hall and online

12 May 2023

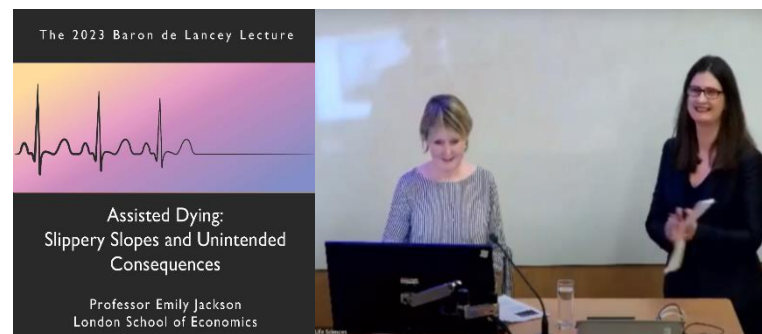
Organised by LML, Profs. Kathy Liddell and Mateo Aboy in collaboration with the Centre for Advanced Studies in Biomedical Innovation Law (CeBIL)

European Human Rights Law Conference

Faculty of Law, Cambridge and online

28-29 September 2023

Organised by Dr Stevie Martin, Dr Stephanie Palmer and Dr Kirsty Hughes, and Centre for Public Law, with input from LML



Publications

M Aboy, LC Druedahl and T Minssen 'Evidence-based IP research' in *Research Handbook on Empirical Studies in Intellectual Property Law* (2023) Edward Elgar Publishing 120-136

M Aboy, J McNames 'Feasibility of Tracking Human Kinematics with Simultaneous Localization and Mapping (SLAM)' (2022) 22(23) *Sensors*

R Brown, 'Quarantine Island: Australia's Health Policy and its Construction of International Law' (2023) 41 *Australian Yearbook of International Law* 299

C Cox and **Z Fritz** 'Presenting complaint: use of language that disempowers patients' (2022) 377 *BMJ*

C Cox and **Z Fritz**, 'What is in the toolkit (and what are the tools)? How to approach the study of doctor-patient communication' (2023) 99(1172) *Postgraduate Medical Journal* 631-638

D Erdos, 'A Bill for a Change? Analysing the UK Government's Statutory Proposals on the Content of Data Protection and Electronic Privacy' (2022) University of Cambridge Faculty of Law Research Paper No. 13/2022

A Hamidzadeh, **J Liddicoat**, and **K Liddell**, 'Should Europe Adopt a Policy Like the US MODERN Labeling Act?' (2023) 7(1) *European Health & Pharmaceutical Law Review* 36-38

K Liddell, **J Skopek**, **A Mackley**, I Le Gallez and Z Fritz, 'The frontiers of medical negligence and diagnosis: an interview-based analysis' (2023) *Medical Law Review* 1-16

J Liddicoat, 'New insights into the amount of R & D for new uses of generic drugs' (2023) *Generics and Biosimilars Initiative (Online)*

J Liddicoat, 'Editorial' (2023) 7(1) *European Health & Pharmaceutical Law Review* 1-4

N Lowe and **C Fenton-Glynn** (eds) (2023) *Research Handbook on Adoption Law* (Edward Elgar Publishing)

S Martin, 'The right to life at the end of life: A note on *Mortier v Belgium App No. 78017/17*' (2023) *Medical Law International*

S Martin, 'Abortion and the "Right to Choose": The Consumer Rights Implications of *Roe v Wade*' in Garder and Ramsay (eds) (2023) *Landmark Cases in Consumer Law*, Bloomsbury

S Martin, 'Proportionality and protest-related offences' (2023) 82(2) *Cambridge Law Journal* 204-207

U Petti, R Nyrupe, **J M Skopek** and A Korhonen 'Ethical considerations in the early detection of Alzheimer's disease using speech and AI' (2023) in *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency* 1062-1075

J M Scherpe, N Espejo-Yaksic, and **C Fenton-Glynn** (eds) (2023) *Surrogacy in Latin America*. (Intersentia)

Illustrative Highlights

M Aboy, WN Price and S Raker 'Mapping the patent landscape of medical machine learning' (2023) 41(4) *Nature Biotechnology* 461-468

- The article discusses the robust patenting activity of AI inventions in the medical field, countering concerns about their eligibility due to legal challenges.
- The findings suggest patents are an important incentive for innovation in medical AI, with a diverse range of inventors actively seeking protection for their inventions.

R Brown, 'Quarantine Island: Australia's Health Policy and its Construction of International Law' (2023) 41 *Australian Yearbook of International Law* 299

- The article examines Australia's health policy and its influence on international law, highlighting Australia's consistent use of strict border control to manage communicable diseases.
- Rebecca Brown won the prestigious Student Paper Prize from the Australian Yearbook of International Law for this paper.

I Weldon, **K Liddell** et al., 'A Pandemic Instrument Can Start Turning Collective Problems into Collective Solutions by Governing the Common-Pool Resource of Antimicrobial Effectiveness' (2022) 50(2) *Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics* 17-25

- This article discusses the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance and how they could be addressed in an international legal treaty about pandemic preparedness.
- It emphasises the need for fair access to antimicrobials, conserving their effectiveness, and innovation in medical technologies.
- The paper also suggests that lessons from governance in biodiversity, climate, and nuclear areas can inform strategies to manage AMR as a common-pool resource.

A Selection of LML's Collaborations

University of Copenhagen

LML's involved and exciting collaboration with the University of Copenhagen was exemplified at the end of September 2023, where a research award was announced to grow CeBIL into **Inter-CeBIL**. This award will run from October 2023 to September 2028. With a grand total of over DKK 50m (approx. £6 mill), the grant will enable the Consortium, including LML and its partners, to research advanced medical computing, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, pandemic preparedness, anti-microbial resistance, sustainable innovation and biosolutions.

In 2022-23, Prof. Kathy Liddell and Prof. Mateo Aboy were deeply involved in the application for continued funding (for Inter-CeBIL) and provided strategic guidance to the University of Copenhagen. In addition, Prof. Liddell led the CeBIL study "New Uses," for which Dr John Liddicoat was the Senior Research Associate. Prof. Mateo Aboy and Prof. Kathy Liddell also contributed to the synergy & policy solutions study, with particular emphasis on patent landscaping, international transfers of personal data, and empirical research.

LML also organised an annual symposium for the CeBIL collaboration. This year, the topic was 'Intellectual Property & Biologics; Policy Challenges and Responses'. The event took place at Trinity Hall College (and online) on Friday 12 May 2023, with a peak audience over 100 attendees.

In Copenhagen, from 5 – 6 October 2022, Prof. Kathy Liddell participated in the INAMRSS/CeBIL Copenhagen AMR Workshop: Solutions to AMR from the Social Sciences. This Workshop brought together the international scholarly community – particularly those working in the social sciences – to establish a coherent evidence base

to guide national and international efforts to stem AMR and its impacts. The programme addressed topics including pandemic preparedness, the skewed impact of resistance for women and vulnerable populations, and governance to improve antimicrobial stewardship.

From 14-15 June 2023, a group of LML members attended Sustainable Health Innovation, Grand Challenges & the Law, a symposium hosted by the University of Copenhagen. This event marked the conclusion of the Collaborative Innovation Program In Biomedical Innovation Law (CeBIL).



University of Cambridge

Alongside national and international collaborations, LML has grown a range of interdisciplinary relationships within Cambridge.

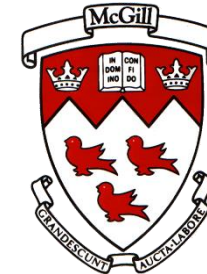
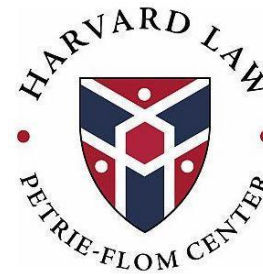
For example, in late 2022, LML helped to set up the **Cambridge Network for Values and Science (CANVAS)**. This is intended to be a collegial forum for a Cambridge-based ecosystem of law, social sciences, medical sciences and public engagement. Along with THIS Institute, the group includes representatives from the Kavli Centre and Wellcome Connecting Science, CSaP, HPS, the PHG Foundation and LML.

G-SCBEM

Prof. Kathy Liddell is actively involved in the **Governance of Stem Cell-Based Embryo Models (G-SCBEM) Working Group**, a pioneering project initiated by the University of Cambridge. This initiative aims to develop the first governance framework for research involving stem cell-based human embryo models in the UK. Led by Cambridge Reproduction, the project brings together a multidisciplinary team comprising scientists, legal scholars, bioethics experts, and representatives from major funders and regulators in the field of stem cell research.

Other Partners

LML continues to collaborate with its other partners, including the universities of Harvard, McGill, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Sydney and Tasmania. It is also a founding research centre of the International Network for AMR Social Sciences (INAMRSS).



Impact

LML aspires to shape the ways in which academics, policymakers, and the public understand and address the legal and ethical challenges that arise in the fields of medicine and the life sciences. We aim to have both academic and social impact. This impact can be seen, in part, through our events, publications, and active networks both with academics from other disciplines and with senior policy makers at institutions including the Department of Health. These foundations are important for building trust, credibility and collaborative engagement.



As LML approaches its tenth year, our work has greater maturity and is having increasing impact on public opinion and policy development. For example:

- Prof. Kathy Liddell became actively involved in the Governance of Stem Cell-Based Embryo Models (G-SCBEM) Working Group, an initiative aiming to develop the first governance framework for research involving stem cell-based embryo human embryo models in the UK.
- Prof. Mateo Aboy co-authored an open letter to 'Pause Giant AI Experiments', calling for further development for guiding principles to foster responsible innovation for AI and quantum technology.
- Dr Stevie Martin presented evidence on human rights and assisted dying to the UK Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Human Rights.
- Prof. Kathy Liddell participated in the INAMRSS/CeBIL Copenhagen AMR Workshop, an international workshop on antimicrobial resistance.
- Prof. Kathy Liddell co-authored a mixed-method study on organisational decision making about Covid-19 asymptomatic testing in workplaces.
- Ms Rebecca Brown was awarded the prestigious prize of best student paper for the 2023 Australian Yearbook of International Law and Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law for her paper "Quarantine Island: Australia's Health Policy and its Construction of International Law".

Conclusion

In conclusion, the past year has marked a significant milestone for LML, solidifying its position as a prominent and mature research institution both nationally and internationally. The achievements highlighted in this report underscore our commitment to academic excellence.

Our members' publications, presentations, events, and collaborative efforts, notably our involvement in the groundbreaking G-SCBEM group, continues to drive tangible change within our field. Financially, the Centre has demonstrated resilience and success in securing resources, including a second substantial five-year grant from the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Our courses and PhD supervisions consistently attract eager participants whom we guide towards becoming future leaders in our field. It is also noteworthy that several LML members were offered and accepted career-enhancing positions at new institutions, further attesting to the calibre of our team and their progression.

As we look to the future, LML is well-prepared to navigate new challenges and seize opportunities. With numerous ongoing research projects and grants, we are poised to build upon our successes, and anticipate a dynamic academic year ahead.

Prof. Kathy Liddell & Dr Jeff Skopek

