

Invitation from

Professor Simon Gaskell, Principal

To the Inaugural Lecture

The Republic of Health – Ethics and Politics in 21st Century Healthcare

Richard Ashcroft
Professor of Bioethics

Wednesday 19 May 2010 at 6.30pm

Clinical Lecture Theatre
Francis Bancroft Building
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS

A reception will follow the lecture.



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The Republic of Health - Ethics and Politics in 21st Century Healthcare

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Modern medical ethics and health policy are centrally concerned with patient autonomy, choice and empowerment. Three recent trends complicate this model. Behavioural science research challenges the ideal of the patient as sovereign, rational decision-maker. Modern public health challenges the ideal of the liberal individualism of mainstream bioethics. And work on the human right to health, emphasises the need for strong institutions and active citizen participation. These trends force us to rethink medical ethics. I will argue that there are untapped resources in political philosophy which allow us to do so, with important practical implications.

Richard Ashcroft trained in history and philosophy of science at Cambridge. He has held appointments at the Universities of Liverpool and Bristol, and Imperial College London. He has published extensively on ethical aspects of medical research and of public health. Amongst other honours, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Biology in 2008.

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