

# El Congreso Internacional de Bioetica

Elizabeth (Libby) Bogdan-Lovis

Michigan State University

June 24-27, 2008

Heredia, Costa Rica

# Childbirth Choice (NOT)

A Paradox of *Informed Consent*  
And  
*Best Evidence*



With both hands,  
the surgeon reaches  
into your uterus  
and lifts your baby's  
head as an assistant  
pushes down on your  
upper uterus to help  
guide your baby out

[adam.com](http://adam.com)



**LYCOS**  
lycos.com

**SHOPPING**  
Computers  
Electronics  
Clothing  
Home & Gardens  
Baby Strollers

Whatever you're into, dig into it deeper on Lycos.

# BIRTH IS NOT AN ILLNESS!



## 16 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

16 recommendations are based on the fact that each woman has a fundamental right to receive proper prenatal care, that the woman should have a central role in all aspects of this care, including participation in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of the care; and that emotional and psychological factors are important in the understanding and implementation of proper prenatal care.

The health care community should be informed about the various procedures in birth care, to enable each woman to choose the type of birth care she prefers.

- There is no evidence that routine electronic fetal monitoring during labor has a positive effect on the outcome of pregnancy.

- There is no indication for pubic shaving or a pre-delivery enema.

- Pregnant women should not be put in a lithotomy (flat on the back) position during labor or delivery. They should be encouraged to walk during labor and each woman must freely decide which position to adopt during delivery.

- The healthy newborn must remain with mother, whenever both their conditions permit, during the process of observation of the healthy newborn. Justification for a separation from the mother is rare.

- The immediate beginning of breastfeeding should be promoted, even before the mother leaves the delivery room.

- Obstetric care services that have a critical attitude towards technology and that have adopted an attitude of respect for the emotional, psychological, and social aspects of birth should be identified.

# **Birth is Not an Illness!**

16 Recommendations  
from the World Health  
Organization

**Compiled from Care in  
Normal Birth: report of  
a technical working  
group 1997 -  
WHO/FRH/MSM/96.24**









Odysseus and the Sirens'. Herbert James Draper,  
1909







Anne Griffiths Belt / PNI file









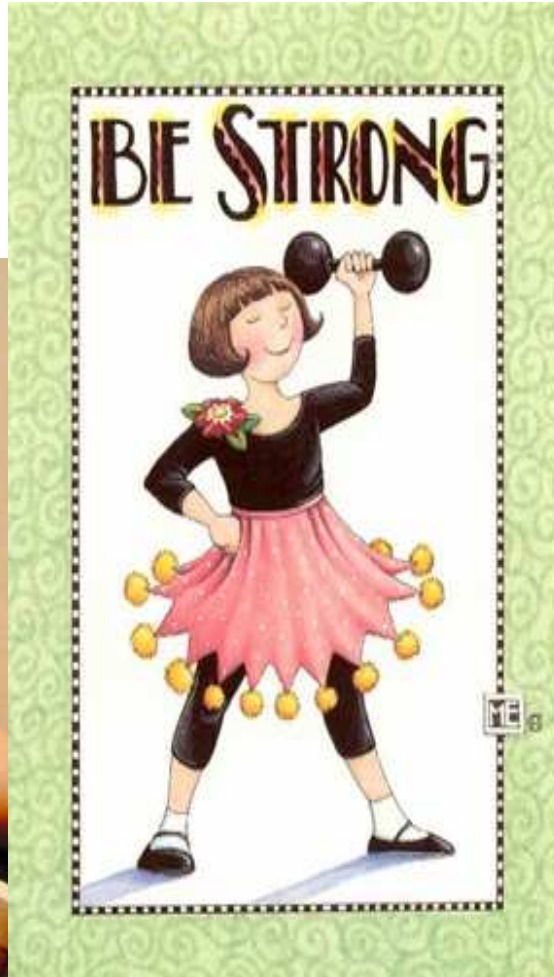


















# Muchas Gracias

Comments?

Elizabeth (Libby) Bogdan-Lovis  
Center for Ethics and Humanities  
in the Life Sciences  
[bogdanlo@msu.edu](mailto:bogdanlo@msu.edu)