Although the medical profession is expected to deal with life and death, the
definition of death and how to deal with death can be complex. As we advance
in technology, ‘life-sustaining’ or ‘death-prolonging’ treatments are available.
These are often applied to patients when they have lost her communication
and/or decision-making capacity. Other players will then get involved: families,
friends, attorneys. Examples of these delicate subjects in medical practice
include determining death and eligibility for organ donation, euthanasia,
end-of-life care of terminally ill patients. The medical, legal and ethical
considerations of these topics will be discussed. Doctors would need opinions
and directives from legal professions and general public on when and when
not to act. The medical and legal profession as well as the Government have
the responsibility to increase understanding and awareness of the problems,
and to promote open discussion among general public.