

BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



WELCOME...

Welcome to the monthly Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter provided by the Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Program in Bioethics and Humanities: *Our Mission*

We are committed to helping healthcare professionals explore and understand the increasingly complex ethical questions that have been brought on by advances in medical technology and the health care system. We achieve this through education, research, and service within the Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa Health Care, University of Iowa, and the wider Iowa community.

[More Details About
The Program](#)

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ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Program in Bioethics and Humanities,
Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa



**Save
the
Date**



Friday, May 31, 2024

About the Conference:

With the steady introduction of more treatment options and biotechnologies, an increasing number and range of ethical challenges in health care are emerging. This conference is designed to help professionals meet these challenges through their work as clinicians, members of ethics committees or ethics consult teams, and administrators.

This one-day conference for collaborative dialogue and inter-professional exchange seeks to provide up-to-date information in healthcare ethics relevant to clinical practice; provide approaches to ethical reasoning that clarify ethical problems; facilitate professional discussion of ethical challenges and decision making in healthcare; and encourage professional networking for ongoing dialogue, support, and collaboration.

Sessions will include the following topics:

- a primer on normative ethics
- moral resilience in nursing and healthcare
- screening for alcohol/illicit drugs in adolescent trauma patients
- ethical issues in the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare

Additional information will be coming in the next few months.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Practical Wisdom in Medicine Through the Eyes of Medical Students and Physicians

Lauris C. Kaldjian, John Yoon, Tavinder K. Ark, Laura Shinkunas,
Fabrice Jotterand

[Medical Education](#)

BACKGROUND: Practical wisdom is considered a multidimensional virtue of enduring relevance to medicine. Though it has received increasing attention in recent years, proposed frameworks for practical wisdom can differ, and little is known about how medical students and physicians describe its dimensions and relevance.

METHODS: We used structured interviews, employing open-ended and closed-ended questions, to describe how medical students and physicians understand practical wisdom and identify the kinds of clinical situations they believe require practical wisdom. We interviewed 102 participants at two US medical schools in 2021, comprising a voluntary response sample of 40 pre-clinical medical students and 40 clinical medical students and a purposive sample of 22 nominated physicians. Interviews were conducted by videoconference using a structured interview guide. Open-ended responses were coded using qualitative content analysis (directed and conventional) and tabulated; closed-ended responses were tabulated. Quotations provided qualitative illustrations, and frequencies were used for summative results.

RESULTS: Participants considered practical wisdom clinically meaningful, broadly relevant and multidimensional. Most described it as deliberative, goal-directed, context-sensitive, integrated with ethics and marked by integrity and motivation to act. Many described it as experience-based, person-centred or problem-solving. Participants also selected an average of 15.6 (SD = 4.9) additional virtues as being essential for practical wisdom in medicine and described a broad range of clinical situations that require practical wisdom in medicine.

CONCLUSIONS: Participants described practical wisdom as a multidimensional capacity that entails deliberation, depends on a constellation of other virtues and is broadly applicable to medicine. Most agreed it is goal-directed and context-sensitive and involves ethics, integrity and motivation. Efforts to teach practical wisdom in medical education should clarify its dimensions and highlight its relationship to virtue ethics, professionalism, clinical judgement and the individualised care of patients as persons.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

ASSESSING AND SUPPORTING SURROGATE DECISION MAKERS

Key Articles and Resources

- ⇒ Hickman RL, Jr., Pignatiello GA, Tahir S. Evaluation of the decisional fatigue scale among surrogate decision makers of the critically ill. [West J Nurs Res](#). 2018; 40: 191-208.
- ⇒ Howe EG. Beyond shared decision making. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2020; 31: 293-302.
- ⇒ Kim H, Deatrck JA, Ulrich CM. Ethical frameworks for surrogates' end-of-life planning experiences. [Nurs Ethics](#). 2017; 24: 46-69.
- ⇒ Martins CS, Sousa I, Barros C, et al. Do surrogates predict patient preferences more accurately after a physician-led discussion about advance directives? A randomized controlled trial. [BMC Palliat Care](#). 2022; 21: 122.
- ⇒ Pignatiello GA, Martin RJ, Hickman RL, Jr. Decision fatigue: A conceptual analysis. [J Health Psychol](#). 2020; 25: 123-135.
- ⇒ Pope TM. Legal fundamentals of surrogate decision making. [Chest](#). 2012; 141: 1074-1081.
- ⇒ Shalowitz DI, Garrett-Mayer E, Wendler D. The accuracy of surrogate decision makers: A systematic review. [Arch Intern Med](#). 2006; 166: 493-497.
- ⇒ Wendler D, Rid A. Systematic review: The effect on surrogates of making treatment decisions for others. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2011; 154: 336-346.
- ⇒ White DB, Malvar G, Karr J, et al. Expanding the paradigm of the physician's role in surrogate decision-making: An empirically derived framework. [Crit Care Med](#). 2010; 38: 743-750.
- ⇒ Yadav KN, Gabler NB, Cooney E, et al. Approximately one in three US adults completes any type of advance directive for end-of-life care. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2017; 36: 1244-1251.



HUMANITIES CORNER

This month's spotlight is on **Anna Clemens, a 4th year medical student**. Her creative work is an illustration and reflection. She completed this creative work as part of the *Ethics and Humanities Sub-Internship Seminar*. During this Seminar students are asked to complete a written reflection or creative work that responds to a situation they encountered during their sub-internship that illustrated values in ethics, professionalism, or humanism.



So often, I find myself with my head down, walking to work to complete another shift. Rounding on patient after patient, consulting consult after consult, writing note after note, I avoid making eye contact with the world around me. We do this, I believe, from an instinct of self-preservation. An instinct to shelter ourselves from the height of emotion we find ourselves surrounded by – the pain, suffering, fear, and frustration. An instinct to shelter ourselves from the expectations and responsibilities we place on ourselves and experience and perceive from those around us. We are afraid, perhaps, that if we face the world we find ourselves in, it may be too much to bear.

And yet, those moments in which we pause – pause for a conversation, a hand on a shoulder, an encouraging and empathetic word – those are the moments in which our work is done. Those are the moments in which humanity is found. Let us not be afraid to raise our gaze to engage in the world of humanity. We may find it lighter than we imagined, or ourselves stronger than we would have guessed.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Adsul P, Austin JD, Chebli P, et al. From study plans to capacity building: A journey towards health equity in cancer survivorship. [Cancer Causes Control](#). 2023.20231018.
- ⇒ Ahmed A, Li X. Labor unionization among physicians in training. [JAMA](#). 2023; 330: 1905-1906.
- ⇒ Amara P. Doctors googling patients is a commonly broken taboo. [BMJ](#). 2023; 383: 2301.

“... there could be a ‘sinister or creepy’ edge to doctors searching for patients online.... ‘If someone is searching online for a patient and they can’t discuss it with a colleague, document it, or tell the patient—why are they doing it?’”

(Amara)

- ⇒ Appel JM. The statutory codification of decisional capacity standards. [J Am Acad Psychiatry Law](#). 2023 Nov 1. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Biermanns N. Gatekeepers of extermination: Ss camp physicians and their scope of action. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2023; 176: 853-856.
- ⇒ Booth CM, Ross JS, Detsky AS. The changing medical publishing industry: Economics, expansion, and equity. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2023; 38: 3242-3246.
- ⇒ Chen J, Cadiente A, Kasselmann LJ, et al. Assessing the performance of ChatGPT in bioethics: A large language model's moral compass in medicine. [J Med Ethics](#). 2023 Nov 16. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Donaldson T. Human flourishing, the goals of medicine and integration of palliative care considerations into intensive care decision-making. [J Med Ethics](#). 2023 Nov 9. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Groselj U. In ethics a model is important: Interview with Professor Edmund D. Pellegrino. [Theor Med Bioeth](#). 2023; 44: 533-538.
- ⇒ Herington J, McCradden MD, Creel K, et al. Ethical considerations for artificial intelligence in medical imaging: Data collection, development, and evaluation. [J Nucl Med](#). 2023.20231012.
- ⇒ Hernandez AF, Lindsell CJ. The future of clinical trials: Artificial to augmented to applied intelligence. [JAMA](#). 2023 Nov 11. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Jha S. Algorithms at the gate-radiology's ai adoption dilemma. [JAMA](#). 2023; 330: 1615-1616.
- ⇒ Klein E, Goering S. Can I hold that thought for you? Dementia and shared relational agency. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2023; 53: 17-29.
- ⇒ Krishna LKR, Pisupati A, Ong YT, et al. Assessing the effects of a mentoring program on professional identity formation. [BMC Med Educ](#). 2023; 23: 799.
- ⇒ Lemmens T. When death becomes therapy: Canada's troubling normalization of health care provider ending of life. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2023; 23: 79-84.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Maeda S, Morita T, Yokomichi N, et al. Continuous deep sedation for psycho-existential suffering: A multicenter nationwide study. [J Palliat Med.](#) 2023; 26: 1501-1509.
- ⇒ McCoy MS, Allen AL, Kopp K, et al. Ethical responsibilities for companies that process personal data. [Am J Bioeth.](#) 2023; 23: 11-23.
- ⇒ Piquette D. The fuzzy language of critical care clinicians during goals-of-care conversations: (some would say it is probably) time to address intentions and consequences. [Crit Care Med.](#) 2023; 51: 1610-1613.
- ⇒ Pullman D. Slowing the slide down the slippery slope of medical assistance in dying: Mutual learnings for Canada and the US. [Am J Bioeth.](#) 2023; 23: 64-72.
- ⇒ Sawin G, Klasson CL, Kaplan S, et al. Scoping review of restorative justice in academics and medicine: A powerful tool for justice equity diversity and inclusion. [Health Equity.](#) 2023; 7: 663-675.
- ⇒ Short B. Where we came from: Continuing professional development for the 18th century physician and surgeon, the genesis of British medical societies. [Intern Med J.](#) 2023; 53: 1925-1928.
- ⇒ Slade C, McCutcheon K, Devlin N, et al. A scoping review of eProfessionalism in healthcare education literature. [Am J Pharm Educ.](#) 2023; 87: 100124.
- ⇒ Steiner PA. To profit or not? Lessons from the insurance front lines. [Health Aff \(Millwood\).](#) 2023; 42: 1616-1620.
- ⇒ Taylor MR. We grieve too. [JAMA.](#) 2023 Nov 10. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Weidener L, Fischer M. Teaching AI ethics in medical education: A scoping review of current literature and practices. [Perspect Med Educ.](#) 2023; 12: 399-410.
- ⇒ Wesevich AJ, Gulbas LE, Ryder HF. Investigating medical students' navigation of ethical dilemmas: Understanding the breakdown and how to solve it. [AJOB Empir Bioeth.](#) 2023; 14: 227-236.
- ⇒ Wynia MK. Past: Imperfect; future: Tense. [Hastings Cent Rep.](#) 2023; 53: 2.



BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ In death, one cancer patient helps to erase millions in medical debt. [Associated Press](#), November 17, 2023.
- ⇒ Transgender people's neurological needs are being overlooked. [Scientific American](#), November 17, 2023.
- ⇒ How to solve America's shortage of primary care providers? Compensation is key. [CBS News](#), November 15, 2023.
- ⇒ Roland Pattillo helped keep Henrietta Lacks' story alive. It's key to his legacy. [NPR](#), November 14, 2023.
- ⇒ Brain games? [Science](#), November 13, 2023.
- ⇒ Why the godfather of A.I. fears what he's built. [The New Yorker](#), November 13, 2023.
- ⇒ Could creativity transform medicine? These artists think so. [NPR](#), November 11, 2023.
- ⇒ Medical education must include the field's Nazi past, expert panel urges. [Science](#), November 10, 2023.
- ⇒ Parents of a terminally ill baby lose UK legal battle to bring her home. [AP News](#), November 8, 2023.
- ⇒ From morgue to medical school: Cadavers of the poor, Black and vulnerable can be dissected without consent. [The Conversation](#), October 25, 2023.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING

- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Upcoming Webinars and Events](#)
- ⇒ Michigan State University: [2022-2023 Bioethics Public Seminar Series](#)

ONGOING

- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Recent Webinars and Events](#)
- ⇒ American Journal of Bioethics: [YouTube channel](#) containing previous webinars
- ⇒ The MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics: [YouTube channel](#) containing previous lectures
- ⇒ Children's Mercy Kansas City: [Pediatric Ethics Podcast series](#) and [Webinars and Workshops](#)
- ⇒ Office for Human Research Protections [Luminaries Lecture Series](#)

BIOETHICS SERVICES AT THE UIHC

ETHICS CONSULT SERVICE

This service is a clinical resource for UI Health Care personnel who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care. Consults can be ordered through EPIC or by paging the ethics consultant on call. For more information, [click here](#).



CLINICAL RESEARCH ETHICS SERVICE

We provide free consultation on ethical issues related to research design, tissue banking, genetic research results, informed consent, and working with vulnerable patient populations. In particular, we assist clinical investigators in identifying and addressing the ethical challenges that frequently arise when designing or conducting research with human subjects. These include ethical challenges in sampling design; randomized and placebo-controlled studies; participant recruitment and informed consent; return of individual-level research results; community engagement processes; and more. For more information, [click here](#).