

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 2020

5th Annual Conference

Friday, May 29th 2020

May 2020						
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The Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine will host its 5th annual Ethics in Healthcare Conference on Friday, May 29, 2020 in the Medical Education Research Facility (MERF).

For more details and to register, [click here](#).



BIOETHICS EDUCATIONAL TOPIC OF THE MONTH: PALLIATIVE SEDATION IN END OF LIFE CARE

Take Home Points

- Palliative sedation (PS) is an intervention of last resort to treat severe, refractory pain or other clinical symptoms that have not been relieved by aggressive, symptom-specific palliation for a terminal disease. PS is legal in the US and does not shorten survival. In contrast, the intention of medical aid in dying and euthanasia is to hasten death, which is not legal in certain places.
- PS is used for delirium, dyspnea, pain, vomiting, and can be used for existential suffering. There are defined protocols for using PS, including having an interdisciplinary approach, informed consent, and ongoing support for the patient and family. Typical medications for PS include benzodiazepines, antipsychotics, barbiturates, and short-acting anesthetics.
- It is important to discuss with the patient/family and document the intention, purpose, expected effect, method (respite vs continuous vs proportional), risks vs benefits, other initial treatments attempted, and defined time of using PS.

Key References

- *Ethics in Palliative Care: A Complete Guide*, 1st edition. Robert C. Macauley, Oxford University Press, 2018.
- AAHPM. [Statement on Palliative Sedation](#).
- Nelson P. Key Elements of Palliative Sedation Protocols and Guidelines. *J Hosp Pall Nursing*. Volume 19 (5) Oct 2017.

Tools and Resources

- American Medical Association (AMA) [Code of Medical Ethics](#).
- American Medical Association (AMA) [Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs](#).



PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Becoming a Role Model

Erica M. Carlisle

[Narrat Inq Bioeth \(2019\)](#)

As a general surgery resident on an off-site vascular rotation, I rounded early to assure all dressing changes were complete prior to going to the OR. One morning, I entered the room of an 80-year-old patient status post debridement of a leg wound. The physical therapist had also arrived early that day, and he was working with the patient when I entered the room. MSNBC news was blaring on the television—reporters were highlighting the upcoming presidential election. ...

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



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Brick C, Kahane G, Wilkinson D, et al. Worth living or worth dying? The views of the general public about allowing disabled children to die. [J Med Ethics](#). 2020 Jan; 46: 7-15.
- ⇒ Bryan CS, Podolsky SH. Sir William Osler (1849-1919) - The uses of history and the singular beneficence of medicine. [N Engl J Med](#). 2019 Dec; 381: 2194-2196.
- ⇒ Coller BS. Ethics of human genome editing. [Annu Rev Med](#). 2019 Jan 27; 70: 289-305.
- ⇒ Macklin R, Natanson C. Misrepresenting "usual care" in research: An ethical and scientific error. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2020 Jan; 20: 31-39.
- ⇒ Miller FG. On collaboration in bioethics scholarship. [Perspect Biol Med](#). 2019; 62: 31-40.
- ⇒ Mokuwa E, Richards P. How should public health officials respond when important local rituals increase risk of contagion? [AMA J Ethics](#). 2020 Jan 1; 22: E5-9.
- ⇒ Morain SR, Weinfurt K, Bollinger J, et al. Ethics and collateral findings in pragmatic clinical trials. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2020 Jan; 20: 6-18.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Nair-Collins M, Miller FG. Commentary: False positives in the diagnosis of brain death. [Camb Q Healthc Ethics](#). 2019 Oct; 28: 648-656.

“Clearly, there are evidence-based challenges to the claim that brain death is a credible, reliable diagnosis. It does not deserve the infallible status that many practitioners seem to believe it has.”
(Nair-Collins and Miller)

- ⇒ Puri K, Malek J, de la Uz CM, et al. Allowing adolescents to weigh benefits and burdens of high-stakes therapies. [Pediatrics](#). 2019 Jul; 144.
- ⇒ Santen SA, Hemphill RR, Pusic M. The responsibility of physicians to maintain competency. [JAMA](#). 2019 Dec 26. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Shaw D. The consent form in the Chinese CRISPR study: In search of ethical gene editing. [J Bioeth Inq](#). 2020 Jan 3.2020/01/05.
- ⇒ Snyder J, Cohen IG. Medical crowdfunding for unproven medical treatments: Should Gofundme become a gatekeeper? [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2019 Nov; 49: 32-38.
- ⇒ VanderWeele TJ. Suffering and response: Directions in empirical research. [Soc Sci Med](#). 2019 Mar; 224: 58-66.
- ⇒ Woods M. Moral distress revisited: The viewpoints and responses of nurses. [Int Nurs Rev](#). 2020 Jan 2. [Epub ahead of print]



BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ [Diagnosed with dementia, she documented her wishes. They said no.](#) Kaiser Health News, January 21, 2020.
- ⇒ [‘Cyborg’ technology aims to reduce the opioid epidemic one chip at a time.](#) USA Today, January 20, 2020.
- ⇒ [‘Donation after cardiac death’: New heart transplant method being tested for the first time in the U.S.](#) STAT News, January 16, 2020.
- ⇒ [Human gene editing: who decides the rules?](#) The Conversation, January 15, 2020.
- ⇒ [My 92-year-old father didn’t need more medical care.](#) The Atlantic, January 2, 2020.
- ⇒ [Ethical curriculum feasible for OB/GYN faculty.](#) Medical Ethics Advisor, January 1, 2020.
- ⇒ [He Jiankui is going to jail. Would the U.S. criminally prosecute a rogue gene-editing researcher?](#) STAT News, December 31, 2019.



HISTORY OF MEDICINE SOCIETY

FEBRUARY PRESENTATION



TITLE: History of the University of Iowa Psychiatry Department

PRESENTER: James Bass, Freelance Editor/Writer

DATE/TIME: Thursday, February 27, 2020, 5:30-6:30

LOCATION: 2117 MERF (Medical Education Research Facility)



For a list of the University of Iowa History of Medicine Society 2020 Presentations and Events, [click here](#).

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society invites you to visit the [John Martin Rare Book Room website](#). On this website you will find resources, [digital exhibits](#), [videotaped lectures](#), and news/highlights.

BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

ROBERT D. SPARKS WRITING CONTEST

The purpose of this contest is to examine the influences of history, ethics, culture, literature, philosophy, sociology, or related frameworks on medicine, the practice of medicine, and the human condition.

Two \$1,200 awards will be given to the best submissions that examine a significant issue in medicine using ethical, historical, or cultural perspectives. In case of a tie, judges reserve the right to split a prize. This competition is open to all medical students and physician assistant students enrolled in the UI Carver College of Medicine.



Submissions should be 2500-5000 words in length, double spaced with 1-inch margins in a 12 point font (approximately 12 to 20 pages).

Deadline for entry: March 24, 2020

For more information, [click here](#).



PEDIATRIC ETHICS WEBINARS

Registration is now open for a series of pediatric ethics webinars hosted by Children's Mercy Kansas City Bioethics Center. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

NARRATIVE INQUIRY IN BIOETHICS

Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics seeks first-person stories from people who, as patients, are currently or have negotiated challenges in discharged planning about their experience. In writing your story, consider the following questions: (1) What surprised you about the experience of developing a plan to leave the hospital? Were there things you did not anticipate? (2) How has the experience affected you physically, emotionally, or economically? (3) What conversations did you have with your doctor, nurse, or discharge team about the plan for discharge? Did they have the information needed to create an appropriate plan? Did you feel your wishes and perspectives were taken into appropriate consideration? (4) Did a doctor, nurse, or member of the discharge team raise concerns in the planning process? Did you raise concerns? What were they? Were those concerns addressed? (5) Were you comfortable with the discharge plan offered? If not, what were the barriers to your preferred plan? (6) What would you like to tell doctors, nurses, and others involved in discharge planning? (7) What would you like people who develop policies and laws to know about discharge planning?

Deadline for entry: February 24, 2020

For more information, [click here](#).



BIOETHICS SERVICES AT THE UIHC

ETHICS CONSULT SERVICE

This service is a resource for patients, family members, or health professionals at UIHC who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care. Consults can be ordered by UIHC clinicians through EPIC. Consults can also be requested by calling (319) 356-1616 and asking for 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](#).

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Questions or comments? Email the [Newsletter Editor](#).