

# Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES, CARVER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
January 2020

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For a list of more upcoming events related to bioethics and humanities, [click here](#).

## QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

“when stories are told about ethical dilemmas in medical practice, the learning takes on a moral dimension and these stories become *phronesis* narratives that facilitate medical ethics education and development”

To read more, click here: Paton & Kotzee. [Health \(London\)](#), 2019.

## 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](#).



**Happy New Year and 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*

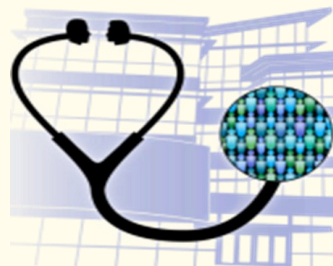
We are committed to helping healthcare professionals explore and understand the increasingly complex ethical questions that have been brought on by advances in medical technology and the health care system. We achieve this through education, research, and service within the Carver College of Medicine,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

[More Details About The Program](#)

## ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE 2020

**\*SAVE THE DATE\* - FOR OUR 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine will host our fifth annual one-day conference focusing on the increasing number and range of challenges in health care.



Friday, May 29th 2020

May 2020						
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31						

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Online registration will open on January 6, 2020.**

For more details, [click here](#) to visit our website.

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](#).

HISTORY OF MEDICINE SOCIETY

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.

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

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

A Brief Video Intervention to Improve Medical Students' Attitudes Toward Prisoners

*Laura A. Shinkunas, Christian M. Simon, Helen A. Scharztz, Laurel J. Lyckholm*  
[J Contempt Med Edu \(2019\)](#)

**Objectives:** Health care professionals may have implicit biases against prisoners. This may lower the quality of care they receive, which is inconsistent with the moral principle of equivalence of care. The purpose of this study was to explore medical student attitudes toward prisoners and test the hypothesis that a brief video intervention that “humanizes” prisoners would improve those attitudes.



**Methods:** Medical students (n=163) at a midwestern academic medical center were randomly assigned to an intervention or control group. All participants completed a brief, electronic survey that included a validated scale in May 2016 at baseline (T1) and 3-4 days later (T2). Immediately after the baseline survey, the intervention group (n=80) viewed a brief clip from a video documentary in which prisoners shared their stories; the control group (n=83) did not view the video.

**Results:** At T2, the intervention group reported significantly more favorable attitudes toward prisoners compared to the control group (p=.02). The intervention group also reported a significantly higher self-perceived attitude change than the control group (p=.044). Analysis of qualitative data revealed that 34% of students thought that the video clip presented a humanizing view of prisoners through their stories.



## BIOETHICS EDUCATIONAL TOPIC OF THE MONTH

### TO ALLOW NOT TO BE?

#### *Take home points*

- ⇒ Humility is very useful in successfully navigating ethical conflicts.
- ⇒ Prevailing opinion's on the ethics of end of life care in Western Medicine have changed significantly over the last 50 years and we still have a plurality of opinions..
- ⇒ You are not obligated to participate in care plans such as terminal extubation of an awake patient, but you may not obstruct a decisional patient who wishes to pursue this.

#### *Key references*

- ⇒ Edwards, MJ. Tolle, SW. Disconnecting a Ventilator at the Request of a Patient Who Knows He Will Then Die: The Doctor's Anguish. *Ann. Int. Med* 1992; 117(3): 254-256.
- ⇒ Asch, D. Christakis, N. Why Do Physicians Prefer to Withdraw Some Forms of Life Support over Others? Intrinsic Attributes of Life-Sustaining Treatments Are Associated with Physicians' Preferences. [Medical Care](#) 1996: 103-111.
- ⇒ Key legal decisions
  - Quinlan, 1976
  - Belchertown St v Saikewicz, 1977
  - Barber v Superior Court, 1980
  - Satz v Perlmutter, 1980
  - Washington v Glucksberg, 1997



#### *Tools and Resources*

- ⇒ The Sulmasy test on applying the “Rule of Double Effect”: *If the patient were **not** to die after my actions, would I feel that I had failed to accomplish what I had set out to do?* If you answer “yes” to this question then the Rule of Double Effect does not apply.
- ⇒ *Ethics in Palliative Care: A Complete Guide*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Robert C. Macauley, Oxford University Press, 2018.
- ⇒ [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (2012)

*Provided by Daniel Miller, MD*

## 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](#).

## BIOETHICS LITERATURE

- ⇒ Bryan CS, Podolsky SH. Sir William Osler (1849-1919) – The uses of history and the singular beneficence of medicine. [N Eng J Med](#). 2019; 381: 2194-2196.
- ⇒ Byju AS, Mayo K. Medical error in the care of the unrepresented: Disclosure and apology for a vulnerable patient population. [J Med Ethics](#). 2019 Dec; 45: 821-823.
- ⇒ Childers J, Arnold B. The inner lives of doctors: Physician emotion in the care of the seriously ill. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2019 Dec; 19: 29-34.
- ⇒ Doty MM, Tikkanen R, Shah A, et al. Primary care physicians' role in coordinating medical and health-related social needs in eleven countries. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2019 Dec 10. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Fernando SM, Tran A, Cheng W, et al. Pre-arrest and intra-arrest prognostic factors associated with survival after in-hospital cardiac arrest: Systematic review and meta-analysis. [BMJ](#). 2019 Dec 4; 367: l6373.
- ⇒ Haines L, Rahman OK, Sanders JJ, et al. Factors that impact family perception of goal-concordant care at the end of life. [J Palliat Med](#). 2019 Aug; 22: 927-932.
- ⇒ Halpern SD. Goal-concordant care - searching for the Holy Grail. [N Engl J Med](#). 2019 Oct 24; 381: 1603-1606.
- ⇒ Kemper KJ, Wilson PM, Schwartz A, et al. Burnout in pediatric residents: Comparing brief screening questions to the Maslach Burnout Inventory. [Acad Pediatr](#). 2019 Apr; 19: 251-255.



## BIOETHICS LITERATURE

- ⇒ Kube T, Blease C, Ballou SK, et al. Hope in medicine: Applying multidisciplinary insights. [Perspect Biol Med](#). 2019; 62: 591-616.
- ⇒ Kumar B, Swee ML, Suneja M. The ecology of program director leadership: Power relationships and characteristics of effective program directors. [BMC Med Educ](#). 2019 Nov 21; 19: 436.
- ⇒ Noseworthy J. The future of care – preserving the patient–physician relationship. [N Eng J Med](#). 2019; 381: 2265-2269.
- ⇒ Paton A, Kotzee B. The fundamental role of storytelling and practical wisdom in facilitating the ethics education of junior doctors. [Health \(London\)](#). 2019 Nov 18. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Rhodes R. Why not common morality? [J Med Ethics](#). 2019 Sep 11. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Siegler M. Recollections of Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross at the University of Chicago (1965-70). [Am J Bioeth](#). 2019 Dec; 19: 1-2.
- ⇒ Sinclair C, Gersbach K, Hogan M, et al. "A real bucket of worms": Views of people living with dementia and family members on supported decision-making. [J Bioeth Inq](#). 2019 Dec 12. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Wang XM, Swinton M, You JJ. Medical students' experiences with goals of care discussions and their impact on professional identity formation. [Med Educ](#). 2019 Dec; 53: 1230-1242.

## BIOETHICS NEWS AND EVENTS

- ⇒ [Hereafter: What does it mean to create new life when one parent is dying?](#) The Washington Post Magazine, December 9, 2019.
- ⇒ [As his wife's caregiver, a doctor discovers what's missing at health care's core.](#) Kaiser Health News, December 5, 2019.
- ⇒ [A 'rare case where racial biases' protected African-Americans.](#) The New York Times, December 2, 2019.
- ⇒ [A doctor gave me false hope about my dad's cancer survival. It made his death much more devastating.](#) The Washington Post, November 24, 2019.



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](#).

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