

BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



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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](#)

BIOETHICS RESOURCES

COVID-19 ETHICS RESOURCES

- ⇒ [2020 Survey of America's Physicians: Covid-19 Impact Edition](#)
- ⇒ The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP): [Ethical principles for allocating initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine—United States, 2020—NEW!](#)
- ⇒ The AMA Journal of Ethics: [Covid-19 Ethics Resource Center](#)
- ⇒ Bioethics.net and the American Journal of Bioethics: [Bioethics Toolkit Resources for COVID-19](#)
- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Ethics Resources on the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- ⇒ The [Hasting Center Report May/June 2020 Issue](#) (dedicated to COVID-19)
- ⇒ Health Affairs: [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus Disease\) Resource Center](#)
- ⇒ Johns Hopkins University : [Coronavirus Ethics and Policy Insights and Resources](#)
- ⇒ John's Hopkins University: [An ethical framework for the COVID-19 reopening process](#)
- ⇒ John's Hopkins University Center for Health Security: [Interim Framework for COVID-19 vaccine allocation and distribution in the United States](#)
- ⇒ UIHC Ethics Rounds (6/17/20): [Life, liberty, and COVID-19: An ethical examination of social distancing](#)
- ⇒ UNC Center for Bioethics: [Pandemic Ethics Resources](#)
- ⇒ World Health Organization: [Ethics and Covid-19: Resource allocation and priority-setting](#)



RESOURCES ON CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE, RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND TRIAGE DECISION MAKING

- ⇒ ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection: [Crisis Standards of Care](#)
- ⇒ Institute of Medicine (2012): [Crisis Standards of Care: A Systems Framework for Catastrophic Disaster Response](#)
- ⇒ Minnesota Department of Health (2019): [Patient Care Strategies for Scarce Resource Situations](#)
- ⇒ Minnesota Department of Health (2020): [Minnesota Crisis Standards of Care Framework](#)
- ⇒ New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, New York State Department of Health (2015): [Ventilator Allocation Guidelines](#)
- ⇒ The Pandemic Influenza Ethics Initiative Work Group of the Veteran's Health Administration's National Center for Ethics in Health Care (2010): [Meeting the Challenge of Pandemic Influenza: Ethical Guidance for Leaders and Health Care Professionals in the Veterans Health Administration](#)

EDITORIAL WRITING FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

AN ADVANCED ELECTIVE FOR CCOM STUDENTS
(MAR. 8-APR. 2, 2021)

Editorial Writing for Medical Students (IM:8449) is an Advanced Elective directed by Dr. Brittany Bettendorf. This four-week elective will allow students to understand and practice the skill of writing Opinion Editorials aimed at improving the public's understanding of health and healthcare. Students will learn how to effectively engage a broad, non-medical audience through their writing, with the goal of producing an Opinion Editorial piece that could be submitted for publication to a local or national newspaper.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Describe what an Op-Ed is and how this format can be a valuable tool for a physician to engage the general public with issues in healthcare.
- Critically read and discuss published Opinion Editorials, mining the work for tools that can be used in their own piece of persuasive writing.
- Gain experience writing, editing, and providing and receiving feedback on an Op-Ed piece.
- Pursue publication of an original Op-Ed piece that serves to educate a general or medical audience. The rotation director will be available outside of the duration of the elective if needed to mentor individuals on the logistics of publishing.

Students who are interested can email [Dr. Bettendorf](#) for more information or can register by contacting the CCOM Registrar's Office.



Photo Credit: <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/2018/09/13/oped-editorial-opinion-section-journalism-terms-defined-des-moines-register/1224898002/>

BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

ETHICAL ISSUES SURROUNDING AUTONOMY-LIMITING DIAGNOSES SUCH AS ANOREXIA NERVOSA

Key References

- ⇒ Appelbaum PS. Clinical practice. Assessment of patients' competency to consent to treatment. [N Engl J Med](#). 2007;357:1834-1840.
- ⇒ Bradley A. Positive rights, negative rights and health care. [J Med Ethics](#). 2010;36(12):838-841.
- ⇒ Campbell AT, Aulisio MP. The stigma of "mental" illness: End stage anorexia and treatment refusal. [Int J Eat Disord](#). 2012;45(5):627-34.
- ⇒ Campbell L. Kant, autonomy and bioethics. [Ethics, Medicine and Public Health](#). 2017;3(3):381-92.
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- ⇒ National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (UK). Self-Harm: Longer-Term Management. Leicester (UK): British Psychological Society; 2012.
- ⇒ Pollice C, Kaye WH, Greeno CG, Weltzin TE. Relationship of depression, anxiety, and obsessionality to state of illness in anorexia nervosa. [Int J Eat Disord](#). 1997;21:367-376.



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Aaronson EL, Petrillo L, Stoltenberg M, et al. The experience of emergency department providers with embedded palliative care during covid. [J Pain Symptom Manage](#). 2020 Nov; 60: e35-e43.
- ⇒ Bollinger JM, Geller G, Weinfurt K, et al. Patients' views about the disclosure of collateral findings in pragmatic clinical trials: A focus group study. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2020 Dec; 35: 3436-3442.
- ⇒ Butler SM. Four covid-19 lessons for achieving health equity. [JAMA](#). 2020 Dec 8; 324: 2245-2246.
- ⇒ Detsky AS. Finding out your doctor made a mistake. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2020 Dec; 35: 3432-3433.
- ⇒ Dyer C. Some care home residents may have died because of blanket DNR orders, says regulator. [BMJ](#). 2020 Dec 3; 371: m4733.
- ⇒ El-Nahal W. An overview of Medicare for clinicians. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2020 Dec; 35: 3702-3706.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (*continued*)

- ⇒ Jeste DV. Coronavirus, social distancing, and global geriatric mental health crisis: Opportunities for promoting wisdom and resilience amid a pandemic. [Int Psychogeriatr](#). 2020 Oct; 32: 1097-1099.

Risk of Covid-19 infection “has led to heightened fear and anxiety among older adults, and unfortunately, greater ageism in others by encouraging avoidance of seniors. As if that were not enough, the social distancing requirements to contain the spread of infection are impacting older adults disproportionately more. Many older adults do not have access to the Internet, email, social media, or videoconferencing, which are widely used by younger generations to compensate for the lack of in-person social contacts. Moreover, reliance on technology solutions places a higher burden on older adults with cognitive or sensory impairments. Additionally, most seniors miss aspects of in-person human interactions like a touch and a three-dimensional perspective.”

(Jeste)

- ⇒ Lemmon ME, Truog RD, Ubel PA. Allocating resources across the life span during covid-19 - integrating neonates and children into crisis standards of care protocols. [JAMA Pediatr](#). 2020 Dec 14.
- ⇒ Mackey K, Anderson J, Bourne D, et al. Benefits and harms of long-term opioid dose reduction or discontinuation in patients with chronic pain: A rapid review. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2020 Dec; 35: 935-944.
- ⇒ Meier DE. The treatment of patients with unbearable suffering-the slippery slope is real. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2020 Dec 7.
- ⇒ Mitchell AP, Trivedi NU, Gennarelli RL, et al. Are financial payments from the pharmaceutical industry associated with physician prescribing? : A systematic review. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2020 Nov 24.
- ⇒ Pickell Z, Gu K, Williams AM. Virtual volunteers: The importance of restructuring medical volunteering during the covid-19 pandemic. [Med Humanit](#). 2020 Dec; 46: 537-540.
- ⇒ Rid A, Lipsitch M, Miller FG. The ethics of continuing placebo in sars-cov-2 vaccine trials. [JAMA](#). 2020 Dec 14.
- ⇒ Rothstein MA, Brothers KB. Banning genetic discrimination in life insurance - time to follow Florida's lead. [N Engl J Med](#). 2020 Nov 26; 383: 2099-2101.
- ⇒ Truog RD, Morrison W, Kirschen M. What should we do when families refuse testing for brain death? [AMA Journal of Ethics](#). 2020; 22: 986-994.
- ⇒ van den Berg V, van Thiel G, Zomers M, et al. Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide in patients with multiple geriatric syndromes. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2020 Dec 7.
- ⇒ Volpp KG, Loewenstein G, Buttenheim AM. Behaviorally informed strategies for a national covid-19 vaccine promotion program. [JAMA](#). 2020 Dec 14.
- ⇒ Wendler D, Ochoa J, Millum J, et al. Covid-19 vaccine trial ethics once we have efficacious vaccines. [Science](#). 2020 Dec 11; 370: 1277-1279.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ [Covid-19 vaccines are being hoarded by rich countries—poor ones are missing out.](#) NBC News, December 16, 2020.
- ⇒ [Black volunteers give Covid-19 vaccine trials a shot in the arm.](#) The Seattle Times, December 14, 2020.
- ⇒ [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine is first to win U.S. authorization.](#) Scientific American, December 11, 2020.
- ⇒ [What the chaos in hospitals is doing to doctors.](#) The Atlantic, December 8, 2020.
- ⇒ [Leg-lengthening: The people having surgery to be a bit taller.](#) BBC News, December 5, 2020.
- ⇒ [Continuing COVID-19 vaccine trials may put some volunteers at unnecessary risk. Is that ethical? USA Today,](#) December 4, 2020.
- ⇒ [Albert R. Jonsen, 89, dies; brought medical ethics to the bedside.](#) The New York Times, November 16, 2020.
- ⇒ [The vulnerable can wait. Vaccinate the super-spreaders first.](#) Wired. November 18, 2020.



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](#).