

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

We Need Role Fidelity and Integrity to Avoid Moral Compartmentalization, Not Sphere or Role Moralities

Lauris Christopher Kaldjian
[The American Journal of Bioethics](#)

This piece is an open peer commentary to the article by Doernberg and Truog entitled "[Spheres of Morality: The Ethical Codes of the Medical Profession.](#)"

The commentary begins:

The article by Doernberg and Truog (2023) suggests that five different medical spheres have five distinctive sets of moral norms based on the ends of those spheres, implying that different roles in healthcare can justify contrasting role moralities. The topic of their concern is of great interest, because our professional and personal lives are marked by competing obligations which can challenge our sense of moral direction. But their proposal suffers from serious problems that signal the need for moral principles and virtues that are broadly normative and coherent across sphere-specific contexts. A virtue-based approach can meet this need by emphasizing moral agency, role fidelity, integrity, and practical wisdom—without which moral responsibility becomes compartmentalized across spheres, and practices within spheres may become insulated and self-justifying.

(Kaldjian)

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

BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

SHARED DECISION MAKING FOR ECMO DISCONTINUATION

Key Articles and Resources

- ⇒ Childress A, Bibler T, Moore B, et al. From bridge to destination? Ethical considerations related to withdrawal of ECMO support over the objections of capacitated patients. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2023; 23: 5-17.
- ⇒ Courtwright AM, Robinson EM, Feins K, et al. Ethics committee consultation and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. [Ann Am Thorac Soc](#). 2016; 13: 1553-1558.
- ⇒ DeMartino ES, Braus NA, Sulmasy DP, et al. Decisions to withdraw extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support: Patient characteristics and ethical considerations. [Mayo Clin Proc](#). 2019; 94: 620-627.
- ⇒ Jaramillo C, Braus N. How should ECMO initiation and withdrawal decisions be shared? [AMA J Ethics](#). 2019; 21: E387-393.
- ⇒ Machado DS, Garros D, Montuno L, et al. Finishing well: Compassionate extracorporeal membrane oxygenation discontinuation. [J Pain Symptom Manage](#). 2022; 63: e553-e562.
- ⇒ Makdisi T, Makdisi G. Extra corporeal membrane oxygenation support: Ethical dilemmas. [Ann Transl Med](#). 2017; 5: 112.
- ⇒ Ramanathan K. Ethical challenges of adult ECMO. [Indian J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg](#). 2021; 37: 303-308.
- ⇒ Smith A, Morgan C, Ledot S, et al. Veno-venous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for the acute respiratory distress syndrome: A bridge too far? [Acta Cardiol](#). 2021; 76: 455-458.
- ⇒ Wirpsa MJ, Carabini LM, Neely KJ, et al. Mitigating ethical conflict and moral distress in the care of patients on ECMO: Impact of an automatic ethics consultation protocol. [J Med Ethics](#). 2021; 47: e63-e63.



HUMANITIES CORNER

This month's spotlight is on **Tanner Kempton, a 4th year medical student**. His creative work is a poem and reflection. He 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.

I want...

I want to be loved

I want to be the strongest human alive

I want to look like a model with perfectly proportional, symmetric features

I want to have longer legs, a wider chest, a narrower waist

I want to be sculpted to perfection

I want elite function and form

I want to be attractive

I want to look more like her

I want to look more like him

I want to have normal looking features, why did I draw the short straw?

I want to fit in to the crowd

Why does

my hair,

my nose,

my chin,

my skin,

my hand,

my belly,

my butt,

my foot

have to look weird?

HUMANITIES CORNER (CONTINUED)

I want my body to match my spirit
I want to look in the mirror without seeing a stranger
I want to feel at peace with my physical body
I want to others to see me how I see myself

I want to move without severe pain
I want to experience life outside of my chair
I want to shower myself without help

I want people to treat me as a person and not a curiosity or a monster
I want children to reach out to me for comfort, not run from me in fear
I want to be human again
I want to be loved

Reflection:

There is a continuum of suffering and discomfort based on the physical structure of our body. How do we determine what is “medically necessary” to surgically modify? I’ve thought about this a lot while on the plastic surgery service. What is unreasonable suffering or unhappiness? When is the answer to change our bodies and when is it to change our perspective or psychological approach? It’s a little easier to justify, at least on an intuitive level, the extremes. If one has severe deformities since birth or is disadvantaged from an aesthetic and functional level compared to almost everyone else, few people would have reservations about medical or surgical interventions that could improve that condition. However, if a 5’11” male wants to be over 6 feet tall, to reach some arbitrary childhood goal, I don’t think anyone would agree to surgically altering their height. Where is the transition point on the spectrum between desire and need?

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Batbold S, Duke JD, Riggan KA, et al. Decision-making for hospitalized incarcerated patients lacking decisional capacity. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2023 Dec 4. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Benedetti DJ, Wilfond BS. Careful the things you say, children will listen: Parents, adolescents, and fairytales. [Perspect Biol Med](#). 2023; 66: 552-565.
- ⇒ Cattaneo RA, Gonzalez N, Leafe A, et al. Pediatric resident perceptions of a narrative medicine curriculum. [J Med Humanit](#). 2023.20231205.
- ⇒ da Graca B, Borries T, Polk H, et al. Ethical issues in donation following circulatory death: A scoping review examining changes over time from 1993 to 2022. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2023; 14: 237-277.
- ⇒ Doernberg S, Truog R. Spheres of morality: The ethical codes of the medical profession. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2023; 23: 8-22.
- ⇒ Durbhakula S, Fortin AH. Turning down the flame on medical gaslighting. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2023; 38: 3426-3427.
- ⇒ Fiester A. Reducing moral distress by teaching healthcare providers the concepts of values pluralism and values imposition. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2023; 34: 296-306.
- ⇒ Haring LV, Hall JT, Janssen A, et al. Developing a digital informed consent app: Opportunities and challenges of a new format to inform and obtain consent in public health research. [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2023; 24: 97.
- ⇒ Hughes MT. How to "do ethics" in pediatrics practice: A framework for addressing everyday ethics issues. [Pediatr Clin North Am](#). 2024; 71: 9-26.
- ⇒ Kane J, Munn L, Kane SF, et al. Defining speaking up in the healthcare system: A systematic review. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2023; 38: 3406-3413.
- ⇒ Koch PM. What's the harm in cardiopulmonary resuscitation? [J Med Philos](#). 2023; 48: 603-612.
- ⇒ Manson D. Against an inflexible, prioritized list for default surrogate selection. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2023; 34: 307-319.
- ⇒ Maristany D, Hauer KE, Leep Hunderfund AN, et al. The problem and power of professionalism: A critical analysis of medical students' and residents' perspectives and experiences of professionalism. [Acad Med](#). 2023; 98: S32-S41.



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Nair A, Berryessa CM, Dubljevic V. A scoping review of ethical and legal issues in behavioural variant frontotemporal dementia. [Canadian Journal of Bioethics](#). 2023; 6: 120-132.
- ⇒ Pasha AS, Silbert R. Challenges and opportunities in modernizing clinical trial recruitment. [J Law Med Ethics](#). 2023; 51: 314-321.
- ⇒ Real de Asua DR, Olaciregui Dague K, Arriaga A, et al. Animating clinical ethics: A structured method to teach ethical analysis through movies. [HEC Forum](#). 2023; 35: 325-335.

“This stepwise method encourages students to identify the main ethical problem of a selected scene, reflect on the principles involved, and emphasize the application of these norms and values to the given context..”

(Real de Asua et al.)

- ⇒ Richards N, Fried M, Svirsky L, et al. Clinician perspectives on opioid treatment agreements: A qualitative analysis of focus groups. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2023.20231114. 1-12.
- ⇒ Rothstein MA. Should chatbots be used to obtain informed consent for research? [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2023; 45: 46-50.
- ⇒ Trapman ES, Braam AW. The existential dimension of the experience of seclusion: A qualitative study among former psychiatric inpatients. [BMC Psychiatry](#). 2023; 23: 715.
- ⇒ Truog RD, Magnus DC. The unsuccessful effort to revise the uniform determination of death act. [JAMA](#). 2023 Dec 7. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Venter B, Ruck Keene A, Cronin AJ. Teenager and the transplant: How the case of William Verden highlights action is needed to optimise equitable access to organs for patients with impaired decision-making. [J Med Ethics](#). 2023; 49: 803-807.
- ⇒ Waltz M, Lyerly AD, Fisher JA. Exclusion of women from phase i trials: Perspectives from investigators and research oversight officials. [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2023; 45: 19-30.
- ⇒ Ward M. When and how should clinicians view discharge planning as part of a patient’s care continuum? [AMA J Ethics](#). 2023; 25: 866-872.
- ⇒ Williams C, Meyer L, Kawam O, et al. The faces of financial toxicity: A qualitative interview study of financial toxicity in advanced cancer patients in phase I oncology trials. [Mayo Clin Proc Innov Qual Outcomes](#). 2023; 7: 524-533.
- ⇒ Wolfe ID. Beyond the consult question: Nurse ethicists as architects of moral spaces. [Nurs Ethics](#). 2023; 30: 710-719.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Doctors call out ableism in cancer care: ‘The biggest accommodation is attitude.’ [STAT News](#), December 13, 2023.
- ⇒ Pharmacies share medical data with police without a warrant, inquiry finds. [The Washington Post](#), December 12, 2023.
- ⇒ A New York hospital pushed weight loss surgeries on prisoners and left some malnourished, report says. [Business Insider](#), December 10, 2023.
- ⇒ Texas Supreme Court pauses lower court’s order allowing pregnant woman to have an abortion. [The Associated Press](#), December 9, 2023.
- ⇒ FDA approves first gene-editing treatment for human illness. [NPR](#), December 8, 2023.
- ⇒ When research study materials don’t speak their participants’ language, data can get lost in translation. [The Conversation](#), December 7, 2023.
- ⇒ Opinion: The life-and-death history lesson that doctors aren’t learning. [CNN](#), December 7, 2023.
- ⇒ A nurse’s fatal last visit to patient’s home renews calls for better safety measures. [The Associated Press](#), December 6, 2023.
- ⇒ The *New England Journal of Medicine* kicks off a historical series looking at its troubled past. [Science](#), December 6, 2023.
- ⇒ The 23andMe data breach keeps spiraling. [Wired](#), December 5, 2023.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING

- ⇒ Kern Institute Grand Rounds: [Building the Arc of Medical Education Toward Flourishing](#) (January 16, 2024, 9-10 AM)
- ⇒ 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](#).