

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.

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PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Attending to the Existential Experience in Oncology: Dignity and Meaning Amid Awareness of Death

William E. Rosa, Harvey M. Chochinov, Nessa Coyle, **Rachel A. Hadler**,
William S. Breitbart
[*ICO Glob Oncol*](#) (2022)

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply challenged the integrity of the human spirit. Health systems worldwide have seen a marked escalation in health-related suffering and uncertainty about the future. Beyond these broader collective concerns, patients with cancer continue to confront treatment disruptions and increased isolation from support systems. Moral distress and burnout are leading to clinical staff exhaustion and depletion across settings. As cancer clinicians adapt to a rapidly changing world characterized by viral variants and global inequities, we call for a widespread commitment to recognize and prioritize the existential experience of all persons with cancer as a moral standard of care.

To read more, [click here](#).



BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH: PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES IN HEALTHCARE

Key Articles and Resources

- ⇒ Doel M., Allmark P, Conway P, Cowburn M, Flynn M, Nelson P, Tod A. (2010). Professional boundaries: Crossing a line or entering the shadows? [British Journal of Social Work](#), 40(6), 1866-1889.
- ⇒ Gutheil TG, Gabbard GO. The concept of boundaries in clinical practice: Theoretical and risk-management dimensions. [Am J Psychiatry](#). 1993 Feb;150(2):188-96.
- ⇒ National Council of State Board of Nursing (2018): [A Nurse's Guide to Professional Boundaries](#).
- ⇒ ONS Voice (2018 May 15): [The case of the blurred boundaries](#).
- ⇒ Mazzullo JM. (2015). Does helping a patient find a job violate professional boundaries? [AMA J Ethics](#). 17(5):425-427.
- ⇒ Reamer FG. Boundary issues in social work: managing dual relationships. [Soc Work](#). 2003 Jan;48 (1):121-33.
- ⇒ RSAT-TTA Webinar (2019): [Ethical issues and professional boundaries with justice-involved individuals](#).
- ⇒ Schiff GD. (2013). Crossing boundaries—Violation or obligation? [JAMA](#). 2013;310(12):1233–1234.
- ⇒ Systems of Care Institute (2019): [Zone of helpfulness](#).
- ⇒ Thompson E. (2015). Necessary boundary crossings in pediatrics. [AMA J Ethics](#). 17(5):461-464.



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Childers JW. Goals of care. [JAMA](#). 2022 Apr 19; 327: 1449-1450.
- ⇒ Earp BD. Meta-surrogate decision making and artificial intelligence. [J Med Ethics](#). 2022; 48: 287-289.
- ⇒ Hassan S, Shlobin NA, Mahmoud A. A call for a more personalized oath for entering medical students. [Acad Med](#). 2022 May 1; 97: 625.
- ⇒ Havlik JL, Mercurio MR, Hull SC. The case for ethical efficiency: A system that has run out of time. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2022 Mar; 52: 14-20.
- ⇒ Jardas E, Wasserman D, Wendler D. Autonomy-based criticisms of the patient preference predictor. [J Med Ethics](#). 2022; 48: 304-310.
- ⇒ Jongerius C, Twisk JWR, Romijn JA, et al. The influence of face gaze by physicians on patient trust: An observational study. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2022 May; 37: 1408-1414.
- ⇒ Kok N, Zegers M, van der Hoeven H, et al. Morisprudence: A theoretical framework for studying the relationship linking moral case deliberation, organisational learning and quality improvement. [J Med Ethics](#). 2022 May 18. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Lanphier E, Anani UE. Trauma informed ethics consultation. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2022 May; 22: 45-57.
- ⇒ Lee RY, Kross EK, Downey L, et al. Efficacy of a communication-priming intervention on documented goals-of-care discussions in hospitalized patients with serious illness: A randomized clinical trial. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2022 Apr 1; 5: e225088.
- ⇒ McCradden MD, Anderson JA, E AS, et al. A research ethics framework for the clinical translation of healthcare machine learning. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2022 May; 22: 8-22.



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Michaels JA. Value assessment frameworks: Who is valuing the care in healthcare? [J Med Ethics](#). 2021 Mar 9. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Rosenbaum L. Metric myopia - trading away our clinical judgment. [N Engl J Med](#). 2022 May 5; 386: 1759-1763.

“And though such [screening] efforts might identify people for whom we can meaningfully intervene, examining any seemingly beneficial requirement in isolation risks overlooking the cumulative toll this check-the-box approach to medicine has taken on both clinicians and patients. Once these well-intentioned interventions are codified into an electronic health record box-click, a perfunctory dynamic often ensues, potentially undermining the trust that is the cornerstone of good care.”

(Rosenbaum)

- ⇒ Shulman KS, Fins JJ. Before the birth of bioethics: James M. Gustafson at Yale. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2022 Mar; 52: 21-31.
- ⇒ van Driessche A, Gilissen J, De Vleminck A, et al. The boost paediatric advance care planning intervention for adolescents with cancer and their parents: Development, acceptability and feasibility. [BMC Pediatr](#). 2022 Apr 15; 22: 210.
- ⇒ Verberne WR, Stiggelbout AM, Bos WJW, et al. Asking the right questions: Towards a person-centered conception of shared decision-making regarding treatment of advanced chronic kidney disease in older patients. [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2022 Apr 27; 23: 47.
- ⇒ Victor E, Luna F, Guidry-Grimes L, et al. Vulnerability in practice: Peeling back the layers, avoiding triggers, and preventing cascading effects. [Bioethics](#). 2022 Apr 28. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Williams B. Vaccine mandates need a clear rationale to identify which exemptions are appropriate. [J Med Ethics](#). 2022. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Wu Q, Jin Z, Wang P. The relationship between the physician-patient relationship, physician empathy, and patient trust. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2022 May; 37: 1388-1393.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Should institutions enjoy freedom of conscience? [BioEdge](#), May 22, 2022.
- ⇒ 'I can feel your pain' - should we feel good after hearing this? [BioEdge](#), May 22, 2022.
- ⇒ NEJM, other journals: Provide more transparency about conflicts of interest or don't publish conflicted articles. [STAT News](#), May 19, 2022.
- ⇒ New documents show how drug companies targeted doctors to increase opioid prescriptions. [ProPublica](#), May 17, 2022.
- ⇒ Ethical challenges in microbiome research. [Science Daily](#), May 16, 2022.
- ⇒ No prison time for Tennessee nurse convicted of fatal drug error. [Kaiser Health News](#), May 13, 2022.
- ⇒ What is 'personhood?' The ethics question that needs a closer look in abortion debates. [The Conversation](#), May 13, 2022.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING

- ⇒ **The Kennedy Institute of Ethics & The Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics** Intensive Bioethics Course at Georgetown University, Washington DC, June 9-11, 2022. For more information, [click here](#).
- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Upcoming Webinars and Events](#)

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](#)

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](#).