

# Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES, CARVER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

May 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

“Ultimately, we want to encourage and empower potential living donors, not only in seeing the benefits of living donation in saving the lives of their loved ones and strangers but also in better understanding the risks and making more informed choices when deciding to become living donors.”

To read more, click here: [Chen et al. \(JAMA Netw Open; 2019\)](#)

## 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](#).



*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.

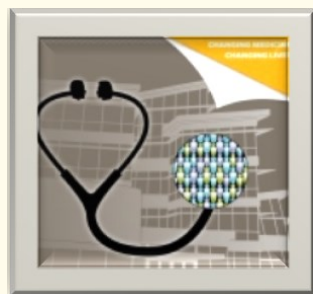
### **Program in Bioethics and Humanities:** *Our Mission*

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](#)

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

### ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE



## *4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethics in Healthcare Conference 2019*

**Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

**REGISTER NOW!**

The Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Roy and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, in cooperation with the College of Nursing, will host its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ethics in Healthcare Conference on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 in the Medical Education and Research Facility (MERF). For more information, please check out 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](#).

## READING ETHICS AT UIHC

If you are interested to see what the UIHC Ethics Subcommittee was reading in April, click on the following links ([article 1](#); [article 2](#); [article 3](#)).



## 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, such as [Notes from the Rare Book Room](#).

For a list of the University of Iowa History of Medicine Society 2019-2020 Presentations and Events, [click here](#).

## PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Prospect Theory Concepts Applied to family Members of Nursing Home Residents with Cancer: A Good Ending is a Gain

*Mercedes Bern-Klug, Jaswinder Singh, Jinyu Liu, & Laura Shinkunas*

*[Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care \(2019\)](#)*

Family members are often involved in medical decision-making on behalf of a nursing home resident. Prospect theory provides a framework for understanding how people weigh decisions. In the current study, prospect theory concepts are used to build understanding about how family members weigh medical decisions for an NH resident diagnosed with cancer. This is a secondary analysis of qualitative interview data from 24 family members of nursing home residents. Prospect theory concepts of gain, loss, risk, and reference point were used deductively in qualitative content analysis. Themes were developed by comparing content related to these four concepts, across the transcripts from the 24 participants. Three themes comprise the main findings, including "Don't prolong this," "A good ending is a gain," and "Experience can facilitate seeing the big picture." Prospect theory concepts applied to decisions faced by family members were useful in building an understanding of what participants considered as gains, losses, risks, and reference points. Many participants framed the medical decisions within the larger context of the resident's life and concluded that jeopardizing the chance for a peaceful dying process was too high a risk. Medical interventions were selected or avoided because of the impact on a comfortable dying process; considered a gain. Advance care planning discussions and goals of care discussions can benefit by directly addressing what residents/patients, families, and health practitioners consider outcomes worth pursuing and avoiding.

## AFFILIATE FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Mariola Espinosa is an Associate Professor and Director of Global Health Studies as well as an Affiliate Faculty member of the Program in Bioethics and Humanities. Recently, her work on the history of yellow fever in the Caribbean during the colonial period was highlighted in a short profile piece by the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies. [Click here](#) to read the piece and learn more about Mariola Espinosa and her research.

**AMA JOURNAL OF ETHICS**  
**CALL FOR THEME ISSUE EDITORS**

The *AMA Journal of Ethics'* Call for Theme Issue Editors is now open. They invite medical students, residents, and fellows (MDs or DOs) in United States-based programs to apply to serve as theme issue editors for monthly issues to be published in 2021. [Click here](#) for more information on eligibility, duties, how to apply, and selection.



**BIOETHICS LITERATURE**

- ⇒ Adams JM, Giroir BP. Opioid prescribing trends and the physician's role in responding to the public health crisis. [JAMA Intern Med.](#) 2019 Feb 11. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Andersen LW, Holmberg MJ, Berg KM, et al. In-hospital cardiac arrest: A review. [JAMA.](#) 2019 Mar; 321: 1200-1210.
- ⇒ Chen J, Bhattacharya S, Sirota M, et al. Assessment of postdonation outcomes in US living kidney donors using publicly available data sets. [JAMA Netw Open.](#) 2019 Apr; 2: e191851.
- ⇒ Duivenbode R, Padela AI. Female genital cutting (FGC) and the cultural boundaries of medical practice. [Am J Bioeth.](#) 2019 Mar; 19: 3-6.
- ⇒ Emanuel EJ. When is the price of a drug unjust? The average lifetime earnings standard. [Health Aff \(Millwood\).](#) 2019 Apr; 38: 604-612.
- ⇒ Fried TR. Communication about treatment options and shared decision making in the intensive care unit. [JAMA Intern Med.](#) 2019 Apr 1. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Glickman A, DiMagno SSP, Emanuel EJ. Next phase in effective cost control in health care. [JAMA.](#) 2019 Mar 7. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Picozzi M, Grossi AA, Ferioli E, et al. Donation after circulatory death: When withdrawing life-sustaining treatments is ethically acceptable. [Transplant Proc.](#) 2019 Jan - Feb; 51: 117-119.
- ⇒ Scheunemann LP, Ernecoff NC, Buddadhumaruk P, et al. Clinician-family communication about patients' values and preferences in intensive care units. [JAMA Intern Med.](#) 2019 Apr 1. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Spector-Bagdady K, Lombardo PA. U.S. Public health service STD experiments in Guatemala (1946-1948) and their aftermath. [Ethics Hum Res.](#) 2019 Mar; 41: 29-34.
- ⇒ Sugrue LP, Desikan RS. What are polygenic scores and why are they important? [JAMA.](#) 2019 Apr 8. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Thomas JM, Cooney LM, Jr., Fried TR. Prognosis reconsidered in light of ancient insights-from Hippocrates to modern medicine. [JAMA Intern Med.](#) 2019 Apr 8. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Ursin LO. Withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment: Ethically equivalent? [Am J Bioeth.](#) 2019 Mar; 19: 10-20.
- ⇒ Wilkins JM. Narrative interest standard: A novel approach to surrogate decision-making for people with dementia. [Gerontologist.](#) 2018 Nov 3; 58: 1016-1020.

## BIOETHICS LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Wilkinson D, Butcherine E, Savulescu J. Withdrawal aversion and the equivalence test. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2019 Mar; 19: 21-28.
- ⇒ Wolf-Meyer M. Neurological disorders, affective bioethics, and the nervous system: Reconsidering the Schiavo case from a materialist perspective. [Med Humanit](#). 2019 Apr 6. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Yan E, Kuo DJ. 'I just need an opiate refill to get me through the weekend'. [J Med Ethics](#). 2019 Apr; 45: 219-224.



## BIOETHICS NEWS AND EVENTS

- ⇒ [U.S. researcher says he's ready to start four pregnancies with 'three-parent' embryos](#). STAT News, April 18, 2019.
- ⇒ [Scientists restore some function in the brains of dead pigs](#). NPR, April 17, 2019.
- ⇒ [Facing up to injustice in genome science](#). Nature, April 16, 2019.
- ⇒ [He Jiankui, embryo editing, CCR5, the London patient, and jumping to conclusions](#). STAT News, April 15, 2019.
- ⇒ ['Three-person' baby boy born in Greece](#). BBC News, April 11, 2019.
- ⇒ [Missing voices in America's rural health narrative](#). Health Affairs Blog, April 10, 2019.
- ⇒ [Dr. de Blasio's timely prescription: He and his health officials are right to demand vaccinations in the throes of a measles outbreak](#). New York Daily News, April 9, 2019.
- ⇒ [Another conundrum: Euthanasia and anatomy programs](#). BioEdge, April 7, 2019.
- ⇒ [Memorial Sloan Kettering leaders violates conflict-of-interest rules, report finds](#). The New York Times, April 4, 2019.
- ⇒ [Death by a thousand clicks: Where electronic health records went wrong](#). Fortune, March 18, 2019.

The Iowa Institute of Human Genetics (IIHG) in the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine will be hosting their 2nd Annual Genomic Medicine Conference on May 2, 2019. For more information, [click here](#).

Terry Altilio, LCSW will be speaking on "The Power of Our Words: Cultivating Word Choice in Patient-Centered Care" on May 3, 2019 from 11am-noon. For more information, [click here](#).

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