

Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES, CARVER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

November 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

“Clinicians who think and act as team players in concert with others who do the same enhance healing relationships with patients and families because they are better able to keep express or implied promises regarding their commitment to the patient's and family's well-being. Sometimes these promises can be kept only through good teamwork.”

To read more, click here:
Chen et al. [Hastings Cent Rep. 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](#)

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 2019-2020 Presentations and Events, [click here](#).

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Ethical Issues Encountered During the Medical Student Surgical Clerkship

Katharine A. Marsden, Lauris C. Kaldjian, Erica M. Carlisle
[Journal of Surgical Research, 2019: 244: 272-277](#)

Background: Data regarding ethical issues encountered by medical students during the surgical clerkship are sparse. Identification of such issues facilitates development of an ethics curriculum that ensures student preparation for issues most frequently encountered on the surgical rotation. To better understand these issues, we performed content analysis of reflections written by medical students about ethical issues encountered during their surgical clerkship.

Materials and Methods: All medical students on the surgical clerkship at a university hospital from 4/2017 to 6/2018 submitted a written reflection regarding an ethical issue encountered during the clerkship. Two investigators performed content analysis of each reflection. References to ethical principles (beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, autonomy) were tabulated. Ethical issues were classified into main categories and subcategories, based on a modified version of a previously published taxonomy.

Results: 134 reflections underwent content analysis. Nonmaleficence was the most frequently mentioned ethical principle. 411 specific ethical issues were identified. Ethical issues were distributed across ten main categories: decision-making (28%), communication among health care team members (14%), justice (12%), communication between providers, patients, and families (9%), issues in the operating room (9%), informed consent (9%), professionalism (5%), supervision/student-specific issues (5%), documentation (1%), and miscellaneous/other (8%). We identified two ethical issues infrequently discussed in previous reports: delivery of efficient yet high-quality care and poor communication between services/consultants.

Conclusions: Students encounter diverse ethical issues during their surgical clerkships. Ethical and contextual considerations related to these issues should be incorporated into a preclinical/clinical surgical ethics curriculum to prepare students to understand and engage the challenges they face during the clerkship.

For the full text of this article, [click here](#).

HISTORY OF MEDICINE SOCIETY

NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society

invites you to hear:



Donna's Adventures in the John Martin Room, or Through the Door to Room 446 and What Donna Found

Donna Hirst
Curator, John Martin Rare Book Room
University of Iowa

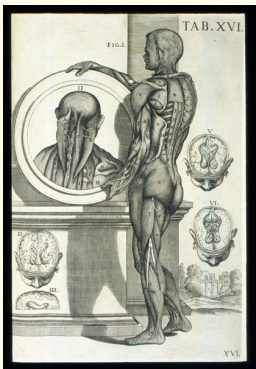
Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019

Time: 5:30-6:30 pm

Location: Hardin Library, Room 401



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](#).

SUMMER ETHICS FELLOWSHIP FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

FASPE (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics) is now accepting applications for its 2020 Medical program.

FASPE Medical is a fully-funded, two-week summer program that uses the conduct of doctors and other medical professionals in Nazi Germany as a launching point and backdrop for an intensive study of contemporary medical ethics. FASPE Medical is predicated upon the power of place. Fellows visit Auschwitz and other sites in Germany and Poland where they consider how to apply the lessons of history to the ethical challenges in medicine today.

In 2020, the program will take place from June 12 to June 26. All program costs are covered, including travel, lodging, and food.

FASPE Medical is open to all current MD and DO students.

The logo for FASPE, consisting of the letters 'FASPE' in a white, serif font, centered within a dark blue rectangular background.

To learn more about FASPE and to apply, please visit: www.faspe-ethics.org.

Completed applications are due by Monday, December 20, 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Thorsten Wagner, Executive Director of FASPE, at twagner@faspe-ethics.org.

BIOETHICS EDUCATIONAL TOPIC OF THE MONTH

PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING – WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT ISN'T

Take home points

- ⇒ Physician-assisted dying (PAD), also called medical aid in dying (MAID), as defined by providing a prescription of a lethal dose of a medication and instructions for use that a terminally ill patient potentially intends to self-administer to end their life, is legal in some states, and ethically still under debate by major medical organizations.
- ⇒ Practices such as stopping life-sustaining treatments, treating symptoms with opioids or other medications, and voluntarily stopping eating and drinking are all felt to be legal and ethical end of life practices.
- ⇒ Voluntary active euthanasia (VAE), as defined by administering a lethal dose of medication at the patient's explicit request with informed consent, is not legal in the US, but is legal in Canada, Columbia, and several European countries.

Key references

- ⇒ *Ethics in Palliative Care: A Complete Guide*, 1st edition. Robert C. Macauley, Oxford University Press, 2018.
- ⇒ Logger ET, Starks H, Shannon-Dudley M et al. Implementing a death with dignity program at a comprehensive cancer center. [N Eng J Med](#). 2013; 368:1417-1424.

BIOETHICS RESOURCE (CONTINUED)

PHYSICIAN AID IN DYING – WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT ISN'T

Tools and Resources

- ⇒ Quill TE, Battin MP. *Physician-assisted dying: Understanding, evaluating, and responding to requests for medical aid in dying*. [UptoDate](#), 2018.
- ⇒ [American Medical Association \(AMA\) Code of Medical Ethics](#).
- ⇒ [American Medical Association \(AMA\) Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs](#).

Provided by Rebecca Benson, MD, PhD



BIOETHICS LITERATURE

- ⇒ Cahan EM. Students shouldn't merely 'survive' medical school. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2019 Sep; 38: 1585-1588.
- ⇒ Chen D, Shepherd L, Muse E, et al. What medical students teach: The healing skill of being a team player. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2019 Sep; 49: 38-47.
- ⇒ Diaz D. Medical aid-in-dying is an ethical and important end-of-life care option. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2019 Oct; 19: 8-9.
- ⇒ Feldman WB, Hey SP, Franklin JM, et al. Public approval of exception from informed consent in emergency clinical trials: A systematic review of community consultation surveys. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2019 Jul; 2: e197591.
- ⇒ Hjelmaas AJ, Vercler CJ. How should a physician respond to a patient's pain when new opioid prescribing laws limit shared decision making? [AMA Journal of Ethics](#). 2019; 21: 838-843.
- ⇒ Innes R, Montgomery H, Bolton J, et al. A practical guide to medical ethics for intensivists. [J Intensive Care Soc](#). 2019 Feb; 20: 66-73.
- ⇒ Innes R, Montgomery H, Bolton J, et al. A practical guide to medical ethics for intensivists: Part 2. [J Intensive Care Soc](#). 2019 May; 20: 98-105.
- ⇒ Kaye DK. The ethical justification for inclusion of neonates in pragmatic randomized clinical trials for emergency newborn care. [BMC Pediatrics](#). 2019 Jul; 19: 218.
- ⇒ Krinsky S. The moral choices on CRISPR babies. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2019 Oct; 19: 15-16.
- ⇒ London AJ. Uncommon misconceptions and common morality. [J Med Ethics](#). 2019 Sep 25.2019/09/27.
- ⇒ Piasecki J, Dranseika V. Research versus practice: The dilemmas of research ethics in the era of learning health-care systems. [Bioethics](#). 2019; 33: 617-624.
- ⇒ Rothstein MA, Harrell HL, Saulnier KM, et al. Broad consent for future research: International perspectives. [IRB: Ethics & Human Research](#). 2018; 40: 7-12.
- ⇒ Tawfik DS, Scheid A, Profit J, et al. Evidence relating health care provider burnout and quality of care: A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2019 Oct 8. [Epub ahead of print]

BIOETHICS NEWS AND EVENTS

- ⇒ An oncologist asks when it's time to say 'enough.' [The New York Times](#), October 15, 2019.
- ⇒ Most genetic studies use only white participants – this will lead to greater health inequality. [The Conversation](#), October 15, 2019.
- ⇒ In a rural Wisconsin village, the doctor makes house calls – and sees some of the rarest diseases on Earth. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), October 13, 2019.
- ⇒ A patient hopes gene-editing can help with pain of sickle cell disease. [NPR](#), October 10, 2019.
- ⇒ “It's very unethical”: Audio shows hospital kept vegetative patient on life support to boost survival rates. [ProPublica](#), October 3, 2019.