

# 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](#)

# WEBINAR HIGHLIGHT

## The University of Iowa Chat from the Old Cap

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### [AI's Impact on Healthcare](#)



**HOST:**

**Milan Sonka, PhD**

*Director of the Iowa Initiative of Artificial Intelligence*

*Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering*



**GUESTS:**

**Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD**

*Director, Program in Bioethics and Humanities*

*Richard M. Caplan Chair in Biomedical Ethics and Medical Humanities*

*Professor, Internal Medicine*



**Lindsey Knake, MD, MS**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics—Neonatology*

*Associate Chief Medical Information Officer, Pediatrics*



**Lemuel Non, MD**

*Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine—Infectious Diseases*



[PLAY WEBINAR](#)

# HUMANITIES CORNER



This month's spotlight is on **Natalie Nguyen, a fourth year medical student**. Her creative work is a written reflection. She 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.

## Reflection on the surgical clerkship

*By Natalie Nguyen*

As I walk through the bustling hospital door at 4:45AM every day, though tired, I am surrounded by a sense of purpose and determination. The fear and uncertainty around these halls are palpable. It's often clear on the faces of those walking around it. Yet I strive to be a small light of hope and a steady presence among the chaos.

My role as a sub surgical intern on the floor is not merely about learning and acquiring knowledge; it's also about providing comfort in an environment that can often feel cold and intimidating. I am eager to witness many interesting medical cases no longer from the screen of my computer, but above all, I feel privileged to be here for each of my patients in their most vulnerable moments. I am honored to witness the essence of humanity and the magical work in the skilled hands of surgeons and the compassionate care of nurses and many others on the care team.

## HUMANITIES CORNER (CONTINUED)

Fourteen-hour workdays can be an overwhelming physical and emotional strain. Yet, there is a profound sense of fulfillment that comes from aiding in each patient in their healing process; that feeling eclipses all the exhaustion. I remember holding the hand of Mr. H in the operating room: this sterile bustling place can feel cold and uneasy. I remember fetching a warm blanket for Miss R in the trauma room where a lot of people are trying to help her and I can see the fear and loneliness in her eyes. The joy, warmth and gratitude I received from being here for the past 4 weeks is a gift that transcends any material reward.

Not all patients are accompanied by family members, so in the down hours with no emergency surgery, I often check in on my patients to help answer any questions they have, help them order meals, and offer reassurance, a friendly smile, and a moment of companionship. Though these small gestures may seem seemingly insignificant, my hope is that I can help alleviate their worries and make their stay a little more bearable.

Every day, the honor I feel being a part of this profession is growing. I am trusted by patients to share in their pain, to aid in their healing, and to provide comfort in their time of need. I am privileged to witness these raw moments of humanity, to be a part of someone's journey from their weakest moment through to their road to recovery. The joy I derive from helping others with care and compassion—even in small things—is immeasurable. This is my reflection on my journey so far, a journey marked by learning, empathy, and the relentless pursuit of healing.

# BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Auriemma CL, Song A, Walsh L, et al. Classification of documented goals of care among hospitalized patients with high mortality risk: A mixed-methods feasibility study. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2024; 39: 1839-1849.
- ⇒ Crean D, Gordijn B, Kearns AJ. Impact and assessment of research integrity teaching: A systematic literature review. [Sci Eng Ethics](#). 2024; 30: 30.
- ⇒ Dehghani A. Development and validation of a questionnaire on human dignity in nursing cares: An exploratory sequential mixed study. [Invest Educ Enferm](#). 2024; 42: e05.
- ⇒ Devinney MJ, Treggiari MM. The role of advance directives and living wills in anesthesia practice. [Anesthesiol Clin](#). 2024; 42: 377-392.
- ⇒ Diegel KJ, Barth TM, Lord CG. Developing an ethical perspectives scale. [Psychol Rep](#). 2024 Jul 26. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ DuBois JM. The bioethicist as healer. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2024 Aug 13. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Gaba A, Munjal S. "I don't want to live like this anymore": The role of psychiatry and clinical ethics in withdrawing life-sustaining treatment. [Prim Care Companion CNS Disord](#). 2024; 26: 24cr03715.
- ⇒ Goodman KE, Yi PH, Morgan DJ. AI-generated clinical summaries require more than accuracy. [JAMA](#). 2024; 331: 637-638.
- ⇒ Gula AL, Walter JK, Morrison W, et al. Exploring ethical dimensions in neuropalliative care. [Semin Neurol](#). 2024 Jun 24. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Hawkins J. Affect, values and problems assessing decision-making capacity. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2023; 24: 71-82.
- ⇒ Jackson JL, Murphy MG, Fletcher KE. The "difficult" inpatient, a qualitative study of physician perspectives. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2024; 39: 1858-1869.
- ⇒ Jeong S, Knackstedt A, Linebarger JS, et al. Moral distress and pediatric palliative care. [Children \(Basel\)](#). 2024; 11: 751.
- ⇒ Jurgens V, Librizzi J, Shah N, et al. Pediatric hospital medicine fellows' perspectives on autonomy through time. [Hosp Pediatr](#). 2024; 14: 682-689.
- ⇒ Lin GL, Priest KC, Sossenheimer PH, et al. Contextualizing the resurgence of U.S. housestaff union activity. [Acad Med](#). 2024 Jul 16. [Online ahead of print].



# BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Lund S, Griffeth EM, Williamson A, et al. Gender differences in autonomy granted to residents and fellows during procedural training: A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Acad Med](#). 2024; 99: 922-930.
- ⇒ Matchett CL, Usher EL, Ratelle JT, et al. Physician humility: A review and call to revive virtue in medicine. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2024 Jul 30. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Mohammadzadeh Z, Shokri M, Saeidnia HR, et al. Principles of digital professionalism for the metaverse in healthcare. [BMC Med Inform Decis Mak](#). 2024; 24: 201.
- ⇒ Shogren KA. Reflections on how what we say, do, and acknowledge as intellectual and developmental disability researchers matters. [Intellect Dev Disabil](#). 2024; 62: 247-259.
- ⇒ Snyder Sulmasy L, Burnett JR, Carney JK, et al. Ethics and academic discourse, scientific integrity, uncertainty, and disinformation in medicine: An American College of Physicians position paper. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2024 Jul 30. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Sullivan BA, Beam K, Vesoulis ZA, et al. Transforming neonatal care with artificial intelligence: Challenges, ethical consideration, and opportunities. [J Perinatol](#). 2024; 44: 1-11.
- ⇒ Tackney MS, Steele A, Newman J, et al. Digital endpoints in clinical trials: Emerging themes from a multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange event. [Trials](#). 2024; 25: 521.
- ⇒ Thornton A. Credentialing character: A virtue ethics approach to professionalizing healthcare ethics consultation services. [HEC Forum](#). 2024; 36: 317-339.
- ⇒ Welch HG. Dollars and sense: The cost of cancer screening in the united states. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2024 Aug 6. [Online ahead of print].

*“Promoters assert that cancer screening ‘saves lives.’ Yet its effect is so small that randomized trials must enroll tens of thousands of participants to reliably detect a change in cancer-specific mortality—not all-cause mortality. General population screening is a long run for a short slide: As few as 1 person per 1000 who are screened over 10 years will benefit.”*

(Welch)

- ⇒ Wocial LD, Miller G, Montz K, et al. Evaluation of interventions to address moral distress: A multi-method approach. [HEC Forum](#). 2024; 36: 373-401.
- ⇒ Zuljevic MF, Hren D, Storman D, et al. Attitudes of European psychiatrists on psychedelics: A cross-sectional survey study. [Sci Rep](#). 2024; 14: 18716.

# BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Private equity: health care's vampire. [STAT News](#), August 19, 2024.
- ⇒ Editing fetal genomes is on the horizon—a medical anthropologist explains why ethical discussions with the target communities should happen sooner rather than later. [The Conversation](#), August 16, 2024.
- ⇒ This researcher wants to replace your brain, little by little. [MIT Technology News](#), August 16, 2024.
- ⇒ 'Scared to death:' Nurses and residents confront rampant violence in dementia care facilities. [CNN Health](#), August 15, 2024.
- ⇒ Ruling: Fetus can be referred to as 'unborn human being' in Arizona abortion measure voter pamphlet. [AP News](#), August 14, 2024.
- ⇒ Unresponsive brain-damaged patients may have some awareness. [The New York Times](#), August 14, 2024.
- ⇒ FDA rejects MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD treatment—a drug researcher explains the challenges psychedelics face. [The Conversation](#), August 12, 2024.
- ⇒ Native American public health officials are stuck in data blind spot. [KFF Health News](#), August 6, 2024.
- ⇒ End-of-life decisions are difficult and distressing. Could AI help? [MIT Technology Review](#), August 1, 2024.



# BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [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](#)
- ⇒ Office for Human Research Protections [Luminaries Lecture Series](#)
- ⇒ [Health Ethics](#) podcast with host Bryan Pilkington, PhD (Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine): Discuss a wide variety of ethical issues associated with health and healthcare, including AI, academic freedom, research ethics, medical education, public health, global health, and much more. You can find the *Health Ethics* podcast on Google Podcasts, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Audible.

# 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](#).