

# BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



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MD/PhD student

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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](#)

# ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Program in Bioethics and Humanities,  
Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa



**Save  
the  
Date**



*Friday, May 30, 2025*

## **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 and speakers:

- Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide (EAS) Policies Around the World: Ethical, Legal, and Clinical Considerations (Scott Kim, MD, PhD, NIH)
- Workplace Culture and the Ethics of Interpersonal Interactions (Erica Carlisle, MD, University of Iowa)
- Ethics and Artificial Intelligence in Health Care: Our Choices and Our Selves (Matthew DeCamp, MD, PhD, University of Colorado)
- Should We Sometimes Try to Change a Patient's Mind? Examining the Ethics of Persuasion in Shared Decision Making in Healthcare (Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD, University of Iowa)

**Additional information will be coming in the next few months.**

# HUMANITIES CORNER



This month's spotlight is on **Matthew Miller, an MD/PhD student**. His creative work is a written 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.

## *Echoes of discord*

### *Specialists' paths diverge wide*

### *Patient's needs still guide*

This haiku captures the essence of the challenges and responsibilities an internist faces when managing complex cases involving multiple specialists. The phrase "Echoes of discord" illustrates the reality of conflicting opinions and recommendations from various experts, especially in complicated conditions. Despite these divergent paths, the internist's role is to navigate this discord, ensuring that the patient's needs remain the central focus. The final line, "Patient's needs still guide" emphasizes the unwavering commitment to patient-centered care, highlighting the internist's duty to reconcile these differences and advocate for the best possible outcome for the patient. This reflection underscores the importance of maintaining a holistic view of the patient's wellbeing, prioritizing their needs above all, and fostering collaboration and communication among the care team to achieve this goal.

I was inspired to write this haiku by a particularly challenging patient case that required consultation with multiple specialties. The specialist teams had different interpretations of the patient's condition, leading to disagreements between proposed treatment plans. The difficulty in getting these experts to agree on a common path forward was daunting, yet it was essential to ensure the best possible care for the patient. This experience highlighted the critical role of the internist in mediating these differences, synthesizing the various expert opinions, and ultimately guiding the care team towards a unified, patient-centered approach. This haiku reflects the perseverance needed to keep the patient's needs at the forefront amidst the complexity and discord of multidisciplinary care.

# BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Aller A, Shirazi A, Pedell L, et al. What matters most: The documented goals, values and motivators of advanced cancer patients. [Am J Hosp Palliat Care](#). 2024; 41: 1297-1306.
- ⇒ Brender TD, Smith AK, Block BL. Can artificial intelligence speak for incapacitated patients at the end of life? [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2024; 184: 1005-1006. ([Editor's Note](#) by D. Grady)
- ⇒ Bugaj TJ, Schwarz TA, Friederich HC, et al. The curious physician: Exploring the role of curiosity in professionalism, patient care, and well-being. [Ann Med](#). 2024; 56: 2392887.
- ⇒ Chochinov HM, Fins JJ. Is medical assistance in dying part of palliative care? [JAMA](#). 2024 Sept 11. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Cohn F. Understanding clinical ethics consultation: What stories reveal. [Narrat Inq Bioeth](#). 2024; 14: 31-37.
- ⇒ Davies N, Sampson EL, Aworinde J, et al. Co-designing a palliative dementia care framework to support holistic assessment and decision making: The embed-care framework. [Health Expect](#). 2024; 27: e70011.
- ⇒ Donaldson T. Enhancing the moral space offered by critical dialogue: Negotiating shared goals and target-centred virtue ethics. [J Med Ethics](#). 2024 Sept 18. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Findley MG, Ghosn F, Lowe SJ. Vulnerability in research ethics: A call for assessing vulnerability and implementing protections. [Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A](#). 2024; 121: e2322821121.
- ⇒ Gaba A, Dorsett A, Martin SO, et al. Transcultural psychiatry in medical ethics: Assessing decision-making capacity within the lens of an East African refugee. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2024; 35: 190-198.
- ⇒ Jennings LA, Mold JW. Person-centered, goal-oriented care helped my patients improve their quality of life. [J Am Board Fam Med](#). 2024; 37: 506-511.
- ⇒ Johansson M, Niklasson A, Albarqouni L, et al. Guidelines recommending that clinicians advise patients on lifestyle changes: A popular but questionable approach to improve public health. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2024 Sept 10. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Ma JE, Schlichte L, Haverfield M, et al. Do goals of care documentation reflect the conversation?: Evaluating conversation-documentation accuracy. [J Am Geriatr Soc](#). 2024; 72: 2500-2507.
- ⇒ McGeehan CB, Berninger L. Autonomous by extension: Balancing patient autonomy and vulnerability in surrogate decision-making. [AACN Adv Crit Care](#). 2024; 35: 228-237.



# BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Moore B. Beyond the hospital walls: The role of the ethicist in community healthcare settings. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2024; 35: 208-216.
- ⇒ Murphy NB, Slessarev M, Basmaji J, et al. Ethical issues in normothermic regional perfusion in controlled organ donation after determination of death by circulatory criteria: A scoping review. [Transplantation](#). 2024 Aug 28. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Palmer J. How to harness AI's potential in research - responsibly and ethically. [Nature](#). 2024; 632: 1181-1183.
- ⇒ Perlis RH, Ognyanova K, Uslu A, et al. Trust in physicians and hospitals during the covid-19 pandemic in a 50-state survey of us adults. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2024; 7: e2424984.
- ⇒ Rooke-Ley H, Song Z, Zhu JM. Value-based payment and vanishing small independent practices. [JAMA](#). 2024; 332: 871-872.

***“Directly owned by clinicians, independent practices are often well positioned to deliver high-quality, lower-cost care. Evidence suggests that, on average, they exhibit lower per-patient spending, fewer preventable admissions, and lower readmissions compared with their hospital-owned counterparts. Physician-led ACOs have demonstrated more savings than other types of ACOs. However, independent practices are often less equipped to participate in value-based contracts....”***

(Rooke-Ley et al.)

- ⇒ Salloch S, Eriksen A. What are humans doing in the loop? Co-reasoning and practical judgment when using machine learning-driven decision aids. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2024; 24: 67-78.
- ⇒ Sanders WR, Barber JK, Temkin NR, et al. Recovery potential in patients who died after withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment: A TRACK-TBI propensity score analysis. *J Neurotrauma*. 2024 May 13. [Online ahead of print].
- ⇒ Sirgiovanni E. Should doctor robot possess moral empathy? [Bioethics](#). 2024 Aug 24. [Online ahead of print]
- ⇒ Stalter L, Hanlon BM, Bushaw KJ, et al. Best case/worst case-ICU: Protocol for a multisite, stepped-wedge, randomised clinical trial of scenario planning to improve communication in the ICU in US trauma centres for older adults with serious injury. [BMJ Open](#). 2024; 14: e083603.

# BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ That message from your doctor? It may have been drafted by A.I. [The New York Times](#), September 24, 2024.
- ⇒ Coming alive: The letters of Oliver Sacks. [The New Yorker](#), September 23, 2024.
- ⇒ New HHS rules can't address the primary reason for research misconduct. [STAT News](#), September 23, 2024.
- ⇒ Why is it so hard to get drugs approved for use during pregnancy? [The Conversation](#), September 16, 2024.
- ⇒ Doctors give Black women unneeded C-sections to fill operating rooms, study suggests. [The New York Times](#), September 10, 2024.
- ⇒ Embedded bias: Doctors use problematic race-based algorithms to guide care every day. Why are they so hard to change? [STAT News](#), September 3, 2024.
- ⇒ The Nuremberg Code isn't just for prosecuting Nazis—its principles have shaped medical ethics to this day. [The Conversation](#), August 20, 2024.

# BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

## UPCOMING

- ⇒ Artificial Intelligence: [Level-1 HawkAI Certificate](#) (no experience required): These four short courses are open to University of Iowa faculty, staff, and students and will be offered online during Fall 2024. As a holder of the Level-1 HawkAI Certificate, you will be able to navigate the rapidly emerging field of AI, boost your productivity by leveraging AI tools, efficiently participate in AI collaboration activities, and gain an understanding of the complex ethical landscape of AI.
- ⇒ [Midwest Physician Writers Retreat](#) (April 25-27, 2025): A new weekend conference for physicians and medical trainees on the shores of Lake Mendota in Wisconsin.

## ONGOING

- ⇒ 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](#).