

BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



Inside this issue:

SAVE THE DATE: 2
Ethics in Healthcare, May 30, 2025

Bioethics Topic of the Month: Shared 3
Decision Making and the Ethics of Persuasion

Humanities Corner: 4
Poem by Rachael Hart, M4 student

Bioethics in the Literature 5-6

Bioethics in the News 7

Bioethics Opportunities 8

Bioethics Services at the UIHC 8

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.

BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH

SHARED DECISION MAKING IN HEALTHCARE AND THE ETHICS OF PERSUASION

Key Articles and Resources

- ⇒ Alfandre D, Schumann JH. What is wrong with discharges against medical advice (and how to fix them). [JAMA](#). 2013; 310: 2393-2394.
- ⇒ Appelbaum PS. Clinical practice. Assessment of patients' competence to consent to treatment. [N Engl J Med](#). 2007; 357: 1834-1840.
- ⇒ Appelbaum PS, Lidz CW, Meisel A. *Informed consent: Legal theory and clinical practice*. Oxford University Press; 1987.
- ⇒ Basic right to consent to medical care—[Schoendorff v. Society of New York Hosp.](#), 105 N.E. 92, 93 (N.Y. 1914)
- ⇒ Charles C, Whelan T, Gafni A. What do we mean by partnership in making decisions about treatment? [BMJ](#). 1999; 319: 780-782.
- ⇒ Gillon R. Defending the four principles approach as a good basis for good medical practice and therefore for good medical ethics. [J Med Ethics](#). 2015; 41: 111-116.
- ⇒ Jonsen AR, Siegler M, Winslade WJ. *Clinical ethics: A practical approach to ethical decisions in clinical medicine*. New York: McGraw Hill. 8th ed., 2015.
- ⇒ Kaldjian LC. To inform, recommend, and sometimes persuade: The ethics of physician influence in shared decision making. [South Med J](#). 2022; 115: 244-246.
- ⇒ Labrie NH, Schulz PJ. Exploring the relationships between participatory decision-making, visit duration, and general practitioners' provision of argumentation to support their medical advice: Results from a content analysis. [Patient Educ Couns](#). 2015; 98: 572-577.
- ⇒ Mackenzie C. Relational autonomy, normative authority and perfectionism. [Journal of Social Philosophy](#). 2008; 39: 512-533.
- ⇒ Pellegrino ED. The anatomy of clinical judgments: Some notes on right reason and right action. In: Engelhardt HT, Spicker SF, Towers B, eds. *Clinical judgment: A critical appraisal: Proceedings of the fifth trans-disciplinary symposium on philosophy and medicine held at Los Angeles, California, April 14–16, 1977*. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands; 1979. p. 169-194.
- ⇒ Terry PB. Informed consent in clinical medicine. [Chest](#). 2007; 131: 563-568.



HUMANITIES CORNER



This month's spotlight is on **Rachael Hart, a fourth year medical student**. Her creative work is a poem. 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.

Attached

The world demands efficiency
at the expense of connection.
It echoes those who cautioned me
"You can't get too attached."

Some days I fear they're right.
How can I practice unbiased medicine
when I lie awake at night,
praying for healing
the way I would for my own father
my own grandfather
my own aunt
lying in that bed?

Other days I know they're wrong.
What does it matter
how many patients are seen in a day
if it demands we leave any of them alone
with only tears and a troubled heart?

It is all right
Good, even
to let their tears become my own,
to take an extra moment to hold a frail hand
on its last day earthside,
to fall behind
by being present.

How can it be better
to refrain from the very thing
that makes us human?

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Ansari N, Warner E, Taylor-Swanson L, et al. Nurses navigating moral distress, resilience, and team dynamics: A literature review. [Nurs Ethics](#). 2024 Sept 27. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Auckland C. Allowing for open debate in medical ethics. [J Med Ethics](#). 2024; 50: 723-724.
- ⇒ Basu S, Venkataramani AS, Schillinger D. The risk of perpetuating health disparities through cost-effectiveness analyses. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2024; 43: 1165-1171.
- ⇒ Bedi S, Liu Y, Orr-Ewing L, et al. Testing and evaluation of health care applications of large language models: A systematic review. [JAMA](#). 2024 Oct 15. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Chen Y, Okereke OI, Kim ES, et al. Gratitude and mortality among older us female nurses. [JAMA Psychiatry](#). 2024; 81: 1030-1038.
- ⇒ Dean EE, Hagiwara M, Brunson L, et al. Self-advocate and family member experiences with supported decision making. [Intellect Dev Disabil](#). 2024; 62: 392-405.
- ⇒ DeCamp M, Kao D. Adaptive machine learning as research: Does the cure fit the disease? [Am J Bioeth](#). 2024; 24: 70-72.
- ⇒ Howe EG. Should providers ask family members what they want when establishing surrogate decision-making? [J Clin Ethics](#). 2024; 35: 147-154.
- ⇒ Kass NE, Faden RR, Angus DC, et al. Making the ethical oversight of all clinical trials fit for purpose. [JAMA](#). 2024 Oct 19. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Lee SS, Walker A, Callier SL, et al. Racial equity, diversity and inclusion in bioethics: Recommendations from the association of bioethics program directors presidential task force. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2024; 24: 3-14.
- ⇒ Lu W, Wong DSW. The encounter of two worlds: Divided narratives of decision-making on cancer treatment between physicians and patients. [Health Expect](#). 2024; 27: e70029.
- ⇒ Minkoff H, Marshall MF. The role of physicians on ethics committees after Dobbs. [N Engl J Med](#). 2024; 391: 1075-1077.
- ⇒ Patel MR, Balu S, Pencina MJ. Translating AI for the clinician. [JAMA](#). 2024 Oct 15. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Pruett TL, Wolf SM, McVan CC, et al. Governing new technologies that stop biological time: Preparing for prolonged biopreservation of human organs in transplantation. [Am J Transplant](#). 2024 Sept 19. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Resneck JS, Jr. Revisions to the Declaration of Helsinki on its 60th anniversary: A modernized set of ethical principles to promote and ensure respect for participants in a rapidly innovating medical research ecosystem. [JAMA](#). 2024 Oct 19. [Epub ahead of print]



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Rooke-Ley H, Song Z, Zhu JM. Value-based payment and vanishing small independent practices. [JAMA](#). 2024; 332: 871-872.

“Small independent practices are rapidly vanishing. Value-based payment models, despite their intended benefits, may present a different reality to those remaining independent practices compared with their corporate-consolidated counterparts—most notably as an additional threat to independence in a modern practice landscape.”

(Rooke-Ley et al.)

- ⇒ Shaw JA. The revised Declaration of Helsinki-considerations for the future of artificial intelligence in health and medical research. [JAMA](#). 2024 Oct 19. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Snyder KB, Stewart RA, Hunter CJ. Ethics of pediatric surgical innovation: Considerations, controversies, and pitfalls. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2024; 35: 180-189.
- ⇒ Somasundaram N, Ibrahim H, Govindasamy R, et al. Caring for terminally ill patients: The impact on oncologists. [BMC Palliat Care](#). 2024; 23: 231.
- ⇒ Sparrow R, Hatherley J, Oakley J, et al. Should the use of adaptive machine learning systems in medicine be classified as research? [Am J Bioeth](#). 2024; 24: 58-69.
- ⇒ Tessler MH, Bakker MA, Jarrett D, et al. AI can help humans find common ground in democratic deliberation. [Science](#). 2024; 386: eadq2852.
- ⇒ Uberoi D, Dalpe G, Cheung K, et al. The key features of a genetic nondiscrimination policy: A Delphi consensus statement. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2024; 7: e2435355.
- ⇒ Unnikumaran Y, Lietsch M, Brower A. Charting the ethical frontier in newborn screening research: Insights from the NBSTRN ELSI researcher needs survey. [Int J Neonatal Screen](#). 2024; 10.
- ⇒ Westermair AL, Reiter-Theil S, Wäscher S, et al. Ethical concerns in caring for persons with anorexia nervosa: Content analysis of a series of documentations from ethics consultations. [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2024; 25: 102.
- ⇒ White DB, Wicclair M. Navigating clinicians' conscience-based refusals to provide lawful medical care. [N Engl J Med](#). 2024 Oct 19. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Writing Group of the EEC, Pennings G, Dondorp W, et al. Ethical considerations on the moral status of the embryo and embryo-like structures. [Hum Reprod](#). 2024 Sept 30. [Epub ahead pf print]
- ⇒ Youssef A, Nichol AA, Martinez-Martin N, et al. Ethical considerations in the design and conduct of clinical trials of artificial intelligence. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2024; 7: e2432482.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Philadelphia-area health systems end use of four race-based algorithms to guide care. [STAT News](#), October 21, 2024.
- ⇒ Psychologist behind the 'Stanford Prison Experiment' dies at 91. [MedPage Today](#), October 21, 2024.
- ⇒ Informed consent, inclusion prioritized in revised ethics for human trials. [MedPage Today](#), October 19, 2024.
- ⇒ Doctors, not AI, should authorize treatments. [MedPage Today](#), October 18, 2024.
- ⇒ AI mediation tool may help reduce culture war rifts, says researchers. [The Guardian](#), October 17, 2024.
- ⇒ 'Horrorifying' mistake to take organs from a living person was averted, witnesses say. [NPR](#), October 17, 2024.
- ⇒ Palliative and hospice care: Why society cannot ignore the needs of terminally ill patients, and their loved ones. [The Conversation](#), October 16, 2024.
- ⇒ The doctor behind the 'suicide pod' wants AI to assist at the end of life. [Wired](#), October 15, 2024.
- ⇒ Takeaways from AP's report on euthanasia, doctors and ethics in Canada. [AP News](#), October 15, 2024.
- ⇒ I went for a mastectomy and they offered me assisted dying, Canadian cancer patient reveals. [The Telegraph](#), October 14, 2024.
- ⇒ TV medical dramas are not like real life. Maybe they should be. [The New York Times](#), October 9, 2024.
- ⇒ Hospitals take steps to conserve IV fluid supply after Helene strikes critical factory. [NBC News](#), October 3, 2024.
- ⇒ New analysis reveals postpartum sterilization rates are higher among U.S. women with sickle cell. [STAT News](#), October 2, 2024.
- ⇒ Naming the dead: Hundred of unclaimed bodies were sent to a Texas medical school. [NBC News](#), October 2, 2024.
- ⇒ That message from your doctor? It may have been drafted by A.I. [The New York Times](#), September 24, 2024.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING

- ⇒ [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](#).