

BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



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Ethics in Healthcare, May 30, 2025

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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.

BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH

UNIQUE CHALLENGES AT THE END OF LIFE FOR INTERACTIVE PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

Key Articles and Resources

- ⇒ American Academy of Pediatrics (2021). [Resilience curriculum: Resilience in the face of grief and loss](#).
- ⇒ [Courageous Parents Network](#)
 - Parents perspectives talking with children about serious illness and death
 - ◇ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynbbpp3sWOM>
 - ◇ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApGoVDWsh5s>
- ⇒ Doust J, Del Mar C. Why do doctors use treatments that do not work? [BMJ](#). 2004; 328: 474-475.
- ⇒ Harrison C, Kenny NP, Sidarous M, et al. Bioethics for clinicians: Involving children in medical decisions. [CMAJ](#). 1997; 156: 825-828.
- ⇒ Risco J, Kelly A. [Improving medical decisions](#). *Neuropalliative Care: A Guide to Improving the Lives of Patients and Families Affected by Neurologic Disease*. (2019):171-185.
- ⇒ Rudolph CD, Rudolph AM, Lister GE, First LR, Gershon AA. eds. [Rudolph's Pediatrics](#), 22e. The McGraw-Hill Companies; 2011.
- ⇒ van der Geest IM, van den Heuvel-Eibrink MM, van Vliet LM, et al. Talking about death with children with incurable cancer: Perspectives from parents. [J Pediatr](#). 2015; 167: 1320-1326.



LITERARY HIGHLIGHT FROM A CCOM FACULTY MEMBER

[How to Find a Comet](#)

This is a short lyric essay by UI professor emeritus Dr. Carol Scott-Connor that was recently published in *Intima*.



HUMANITIES CORNER



This month's spotlight is on **Akansha Jain, an MD/PhD student**. Her creative work is a reflection and etching. 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.

This is the face of a man forever etched in my memory. The first day I met him in the hospital, he told me that the last two weeks had been the best of his life. Now, he sat before me on a hospital bed, relying on supplemental oxygen due to a severe flare-up of his lung disease. I could not have anticipated what lay ahead. Our team administered a heavy regimen of antibiotics and steroids, hoping he would turn a corner. Each morning, I hoped his oxygen needs would decrease, only to be disappointed as they crept up. One day, he required the hospital's maximum oxygen supply. Sitting beside him, I inquired about his night and any concerns. He then asked me a question that left me speechless: "Am I about to leave the planet soon?" My heart sank, struggling to comfort him without offering false hope. The next day, when I visited his room, I found only a freshly made bed, awaiting its next occupant as if nothing had happened.

The etching is not depicted in order to protect patient confidentiality.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Agledahl KM, Pedersen R. Ethics in the operating room: A systematic review. [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2024; 25: 128.
- ⇒ Baker R. Show and slow codes: A historical analysis of clinicians' adaptations to ethical overreach. [Bioethics](#). 2024 Oct 23. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Barnes C, Aboy MR, Minssen T, et al. Enabling demonstrated consent for biobanking with blockchain and generative ai. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2024 Nov 5. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Brown SD, Marron JM, Frader JE, et al. Prognosis-based definitions for potentially inappropriate treatment: Still flawed, if not futile. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2024; 35: 224-228.
- ⇒ Durieux BN, Gramling R, Sanders JJ. Reprogramming healthcare: Leveraging ai to strengthen doctor-patient relationships. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2024; 39: 3082-3083.
- ⇒ Elsner AM, Frank CE, Keller M, et al. Language matters: The semantics and politics of "assisted dying". [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2024; 54: 3-7.
- ⇒ Hernandez-Ojeda J, Symons X. The role of conscience and virtue: Contrasting two models of medicine. [Med Health Care Philos](#). 2024; 27: 545-553.
- ⇒ Howe EG. Should providers engage in religious discussions, and if they should, then with whom? [J Clin Ethics](#). 2024; 35: 217-223.
- ⇒ Jones JC, Mohammed A. How should clinicians share decision making with patients interested in using psychedelics to feel psychologically safe? [AMA J Ethics](#). 2024; 26: E842-849.
- ⇒ Jorgensen T, Wallingford G. Bringing music and its benefits to patients at the bedside: An endearing approach. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2024; 39: 3089-3090.

“The power of music to help patients facing serious illness continues to astound us. In addition to demonstrated benefits with pain, anxiety, and emotional well-being, it helps us to connect and align with our patients in therapeutic relationships. Anecdotally, hearing our patients’ music in the midst of busy clinical workdays grounds us and promotes our well-being, too!”

(Jorgensen and Wallingford)

- ⇒ Kious BM, Vick JB, Ubel PA, et al. Talking about suffering in the intensive care unit. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2024 Sept 9. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Knight S, Viberg O, Mavrikis M, et al. Emerging technologies and research ethics: Developing editorial policy using a scoping review and reference panel. [PLoS One](#). 2024; 19: e0309715.
- ⇒ Kohane IS. Compared with what? Measuring AI against the health care we have. [N Engl J Med](#). 2024; 391: 1564-1566.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Li LZ, Yang P, Singer SJ, et al. Nurse burnout and patient safety, satisfaction, and quality of care: A systematic review and meta-analysis. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2024; 7: e2443059.
- ⇒ Morris A. Against their wishes: The gift of a goodbye. [Narrat Inq Bioeth](#). 2024; 14: 5-7.
- ⇒ Myers J, Steinberg L, Incardona N, et al. Simplifying serious illness communication: Preparing or deciding. [Curr Oncol](#). 2024; 31: 5832-5837.
- ⇒ Pergert P, Molewijk B, Bartholdson C. Positioning ethics when direct patient care is prioritized: Experiences from implementing ethics case reflection rounds in childhood cancer care. [HEC Forum](#). 2024 Nov 2. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Post SG, Basile MA, Iuli RJ, et al. A tripartite taxonomy of character strengths & virtues: Toward professional identity formation in medical students & physicians. [BMC Med Educ](#). 2024; 24: 1220.
- ⇒ Reede JY, Rubin EJ, Jones DS, et al. Eugenics, Nazism, and the journal. [N Engl J Med](#). 2024; 391: e50.
- ⇒ Rotenstein LS, Hendrix N, Phillips RL, et al. Team and electronic health record features and burnout among family physicians. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2024; 7: e2442687.
- ⇒ Saver RS. Medical board discipline of physicians for spreading medical misinformation. [JAMA Network Open](#). 2024; 7: e2443893-e2443893.
- ⇒ Semler LR, Robinson EM, Cremens MC, et al. An end-of-life ethics consult in the ICU: Who has the final say- the patient or the family? [Chest](#). 2024 Oct 25. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Shahzad S, Sajid R, Fakhar J, et al. Survey of moral distress and self-awareness among health care professionals. [HEC Forum](#). 2024 Sept 27. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Shirai N, Koven S, Schwartz AW. "Oh i suppose i should": A poem on the pressures of perfectionism in medicine? [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2024; 39: 3091-3092.
- ⇒ Straub VJ, Burton JW, Geers M, et al. Public attitudes towards social media field experiments. [Sci Rep](#). 2024; 14: 26110.
- ⇒ Toomey J, Lewis J, Hannikainen IR, et al. Advance medical decision-making differs across first- and third-person perspectives. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2024; 15: 237-245.
- ⇒ Wolman RL, Kras JF. Ethical approach to the abusive/disruptive physician. [Anesthesiol Clin](#). 2024; 42: 661-671.
- ⇒ Wu A, Giannitrapani KF, Ruiz Colón GD, et al. Cross-cultural serious neurological illness communication: Qualitative analysis of multidisciplinary perspectives. [Ann Palliat Med](#). 2024; 13: 1172-1182.
- ⇒ Zhou H, Liao H, Huang Y, et al. Moral distress in pediatric nurses: A scoping review protocol. [PLoS One](#). 2024; 19: e0312808.



BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Court rules that patients have a right to disbelieve doctors. [The Conversation](#), November 21, 2024.
- ⇒ Ex-eye bank workers say pressure, lax oversight led to errors. [KFF Health News](#), November 20, 2024.
- ⇒ Nationwide IV fluid shortage changing how hospitals manage patient hydration. [NPR](#), November 19, 2024.
- ⇒ New guidance endangers the rights of people with disabilities. [STAT News](#), November 18, 2024.
- ⇒ OpenAI's transcription tool Whisper makes up words patients have never said. [Healthcare Brew](#), November 18, 2024.
- ⇒ Texas medical school ordered to stop liquifying bodies after using them for training. [NBC News](#), November 15, 2024.
- ⇒ Pay first, deliver later: Some women are being asked to prepay for their baby. [KFF Health News](#), November 15, 2024.
- ⇒ New FDA rules for TV drug ads: Simpler language and no distractions. [Associated Press](#), November 14, 2024.
- ⇒ Can AI review the scientific literature—and figure out what it all means? [Nature](#), November 13, 2024.
- ⇒ AI-assisted genome studies are riddled with errors. [The Scientist](#), November 13, 2024.
- ⇒ How I addressed racial bias in my company's AI algorithm. [STAT News](#), November 13, 2024.
- ⇒ Wisconsin Supreme Court grapples with whether state's 175-year-old abortion ban is valid. [Associated Press](#), November 11, 2024.
- ⇒ More young people are surviving cancer. Then they face a life altered by it. [NPR](#), November 11, 2024.
- ⇒ This scientist treated her own cancer with viruses she grew in the lab. [Nature](#), November 8, 2024.
- ⇒ Is AI dominance inevitable? A technology ethicist says no, actually. [The Conversation](#), November 8, 2024.
- ⇒ Atheist chaplains are forging a new path in a changing world. [CNN](#), November 7, 2024.
- ⇒ Will South Africa become first country to accept controversial form of human genome editing? [Nature](#), November 7, 2024.
- ⇒ Key global bioethics guidelines get 'dramatic' update. [Science](#), October 29, 2024.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING

- ⇒ [Midwest Physician Writers Retreat](#) (April 25-27, 2025): A new weekend conference for healthcare professionals on the shores of Lake Mendota In Wisconsin. A few scholarships available to sponsor registration for medical students. CME available.

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](#).