

BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



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](#)

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ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE

IOWA

Carver College
of Medicine

Friday, May 30, 2025 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Medical Education Research Facility (MERF)
Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa



SESSION ONE

*Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide (EAS) Policies Around the World:
Ethical, Legal, and Clinical Considerations*

Scott Kim, MD, PhD

SESSION TWO

Workplace Culture and the Ethics of Interpersonal Interactions

Erica Carlisle, MD

SESSION THREE

Ethics and Artificial Intelligence in Health Care: Our Choices and Our Selves

Matthew DeCamp, MD, PhD

SESSION FOUR

*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

Intended Audience:

Administrators, Advanced Practice Providers, Attorneys, Chaplains,
Nurses, Physicians, Social Workers, Students, Trainees, and Others

**Scan the QR code for full conference
details and a link to registration.**



Space is limited to 60 attendees, please register early.

HUMANITIES CORNER



This month's spotlight is on **Chirayu Shukla, a fourth year medical student**. His creative work is a poem. 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.

The Price of Time

In cold rooms, where white coats lie
We work away, in this race against time
A currency, of days and years
Traded for hope, paid in fears

Life is measured in ticking clocks
In numbered breaths, and static shocks
Every moment you gain, prided as a win
But what happens, to the soul within?

We try to have control, behind some screens
Treat their conditions, but forget their dreams
Pills, labs, sleepless nights
We fight for their time, but we lose their light

What's the point of time, if happiness is rare?
If the spark is lost, in endless care?
A body whole, but a spirit weak
A life prolonged but far from its peak

HUMANITIES CORNER (CONTINUED)

Is all they crave, just more breath?
Evading what happens to all, staving off death
So let us ask, is the point being missed?
Are we helping them live, or just exist?

We're in these battles, in a war already lost
So let us ask, what are we fighting for
Everything we try, takes its toll
Does healing the body precede healing the soul?

So let us ask, where in life is true value found?
Is it in numbered days, that just compound?
What do we call a life well-spent?
One filled with joy, not just extent

Quantity and Quality, a difference often weighed
When we can't have both, a choice is made
For living a life, we deem sublime
Sometimes costs the price of time

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Abgrall G, Monnet X, Arora A. Synthetic data and health privacy. [JAMA](#). 2024 Dec 30 [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Armitage RC. On lateness: The ethics of running behind schedule in general practice. [J Eval Clin Pract](#). 2025; 31: e14293.
- ⇒ Bosack E, Bourne D, Epstein E, et al. Investigating moral distress in clinical research professionals-a deep dive into troubled waters. [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2025; 47: 34-45.
- ⇒ Car J, Topol EJ. Advocating for a master of digital health degree. [JAMA](#). 2025 Jan 16.[Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Celie KB, Symons X, Kochheiser M, et al. Conscientious objection: A global health perspective. [BMJ Glob Health](#). 2024; 9.
- ⇒ Cohen IG, Marks M. Psychedelic medicine exceptionalism. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2025; 25: 6-15.
- ⇒ Diwan TS, Beaman LR. Moral inequity in organ donation: An examination of age-based denial. [Narrat Inq Bioeth](#). 2024; 14: 219-228.
- ⇒ Dolan DD, Pacia DM, Johnston J, et al. Expanding the agenda for a more just genomics. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2024; 54 Suppl 2: S2-s13.
- ⇒ Fiester A. Surrogate wars: The "best interest values" hierarchy & end-of-life conflicts with surrogate decision-makers. [HEC Forum](#). 2024 Dec 26. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Goler E, Mack JW. Ethical tensions in the role of the medical interpreter. [Narrat Inq Bioeth](#). 2024; 14: 189-193.
- ⇒ Hallway A, Isenberg E, Howard R, et al. Medicare coding changes and reported hernia size. [JAMA](#). 2025 Jan 16. [Epub ahead of print].

“CMS coding changes linking abdominal wall hernia size to reimbursement were associated with an increase in documented hernia size by surgeons.”

(Hallway et al.)

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Jayawardhana J, Hou J, Freeman P, et al. Association of state cannabis legalization with cannabis use disorder and cannabis poisoning. [JAMA Psychiatry](#). 2024 Dec 23. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Kass NE, Faden RR, Angus DC, et al. Making the ethical oversight of all clinical trials fit for purpose. [JAMA](#). 2025; 333: 75-80.
- ⇒ Klasson CL, Shibli-Rahhal A, Ortiz E, et al. Restorative justice practices as a foundation for medical education innovation. [Clin Teach](#). 2025; 22: e13852.
- ⇒ Miyata A. When should doctors nudge? Nudging and preference-sensitive care. [J Med Ethics](#). 2025 Jan 2. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Neitzke-Spruill L, Beit C, Averill LA, et al. Supportive touch in psychedelic assisted therapy. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2025; 25: 29-39.
- ⇒ Peralta D, Nanduri N, Bansal S, et al. Discussion of spirituality in family conferences of infants with neurologic conditions. [J Pain Symptom Manage](#). 2025; 69: 34-43.e31.
- ⇒ Perlis R, Rubin R. Researchers tested an ai tool that drafts responses to patient messages-here's what they found. [JAMA](#). 2025 Jan 24. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Purvis Lively CL. Creating barriers to healthcare and advance care planning by requiring hospitals to ask patients about their immigration status. [HEC Forum](#). 2024 Dec 7. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Redahan M, Kelly BD, Gergel T. Advance healthcare directives and advance choice documents in psychiatry: New resources, new legislation, new opportunities. [Int J Law Psychiatry](#). 2024; 97: 102030.
- ⇒ Rieder TN. Moral humility for a complex world. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2024; 54: 2.
- ⇒ Sabuncu MR, Wang AQ, Nguyen M. Ethical use of artificial intelligence in medical diagnostics demands a focus on accuracy, not fairness. [NEJM AI](#). 2025; 2: Alp2400672.



BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ This is what might happen if the US withdraws from the WHO. [MIT Technology Review](#), January 23, 2025.
- ⇒ Legal overreaction to Supreme Court ban on race fueling loss of diversity at medical schools. [STAT News](#), January 23, 2025.
- ⇒ Assisted dying bill: Why fears about coercion may be exaggerated—a philosopher’s view. [The Conversation](#), January 22, 2025.
- ⇒ ‘I had anti-governmental views so they treated me for schizophrenia.’ [BBC](#), January 22, 2025.
- ⇒ Dogs paired with providers at hospitals help ease staff and patient stress. [KFF Health News](#), January 21, 2025.
- ⇒ Texas medical school leader resigns after investigation revealed bodies were used without consent. [NBC News](#), January 21, 2025.
- ⇒ Lawsuit alleges Vermont tracks pregnant women deemed unsuitable for parenthood. [Associated Press](#), January 17, 2025.
- ⇒ Sick prisoners in New York were granted parole but remain behind bars. [The New York Times](#), January 17, 2025.
- ⇒ Should doctors help people die? Global debate hits home in the U.S. [Washington Post via MSN](#), January 16, 2025.
- ⇒ Why some doctors have started asking patients about their spiritual lives. [NPR](#), January 14, 2025.
- ⇒ The terrifying realization that an unresponsive patient is still in there. [The New York Times](#), January 11, 2025.
- ⇒ From anecdotes to AI tools, how doctors make medical decisions is evolving with technology. [The Conversation](#), January 10, 2025.
- ⇒ The long history of distrust for American insurance companies. [STAT News](#), January 7, 2025.
- ⇒ Muslims navigate the tension between psychedelics for mental health and Koran teachings. [NPR](#), January 3, 2025.
- ⇒ 24 and trying to outrun schizophrenia. [The New York Times](#), December 30, 2024.
- ⇒ He dialed 911 to save his baby. Then his children were taken away. [The New York Times](#), December 29, 2024.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING

- ⇒ [Bellevue Literary Review Writing Workshops](#): Creative writing workshops for healthcare students and trainees (Feb 2 and 9)
- ⇒ [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): Find 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](#).