

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.

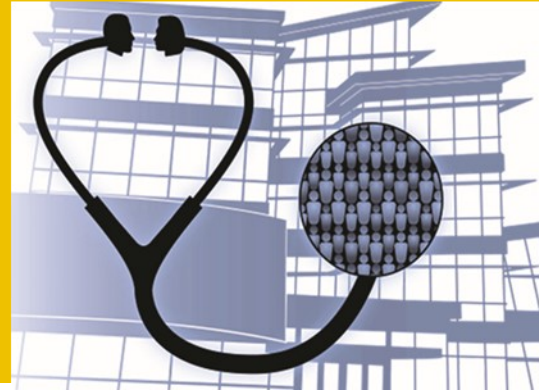
[More Details About
The Program](#)

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 **Shradha Kumar, a fourth year medical student**. Her creative work is a painting and 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.



For many families, having a child is supposed to be a joyous moment. However, that celebration can be clouded by uncertainty if their newborn is transferred to the NICU. This painting, titled "Care in the Chaos", reminds us that as healthcare providers, we not only hold our patient's lives on a daily basis, but all of their family's hopes and dreams for their future as well.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Adams Hillard PJ. Learning to communicate with patients about potentially painful gynecologic procedures. [AMA J Ethics](#). 2025; 27: E91-97.
- ⇒ Aggarwal S, Youn N, Albashayreh A, et al. Symptom representations in people with multimorbidity undergoing treatment for cancer: A qualitative descriptive study. [Support Care Cancer](#). 2025; 33: 121.
- ⇒ Bosompim Y, Aultman J, Pope J. Specific trends in pediatric ethical decision-making: An 18-year review of ethics consultation cases in a pediatric hospital. [HEC Forum](#). 2025; 37: 9-25.
- ⇒ Boulware LE, Mohottige D, Purnell TS. Focusing on systems and policies to solve the kidney transplant equity crisis. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2025; 185: 195-196.
- ⇒ Brandfonbrener PB, Lowenstein DH. A calling no longer? When medicine is redefined as a job. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2025 Feb 4. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Cadigan RJ, Watson S, Prince AER. From data to harm: Exploring ethical and social implications of polygenic scores for social traits. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2025; 25: 82-84.
- ⇒ Chapman CR, Quinn GP, Natri HM, et al. Consideration and disclosure of group risks in genomics and other data-centric research: Does the common rule need revision? [Am J Bioeth](#). 2025; 25: 47-60.
- ⇒ Cheung A, O'Leary ST, Temte JL. Deciding whether to accept an unvaccinated child into a pediatric practice. [N Engl J Med](#). 2025; 392: 510-512.
- ⇒ Creutzfeldt CJ, Bu J, Comer A, et al. Palliative and end-of-life care in stroke: A scientific statement from the American Heart Association. [Stroke](#). 2025; 56: e75-e86.
- ⇒ Enck G, Condley B. Agent-regret in healthcare. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2025; 25: 6-20.
- ⇒ Fisher B, Cormack CL, Haskamp AC, et al. A rapid review on shared decision making in pediatric palliative care and end-of-life care: Implications for clinical practice, research, and policy. [J Hosp Palliat Nurs](#). 2025; 27: 12-19.
- ⇒ Gallagher A. 30 years of nursing ethics: Reflections on progress in the field. [Nurs Ethics](#). 2025; 32: 7-14.
- ⇒ Giaume L, Lamblin A, Pinol N, et al. Evaluating cognitive bias in clinical ethics supports: A scoping review. [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2025; 26: 16.
- ⇒ Hull SC, Angoff NR. Proposed framework for setting practical and ethical boundaries in medicine. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2025 Feb 3. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Kelley AE, Blumenthal-Barby J. Digital doppelgangers, grief bots, and transformational challenges. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2025; 25: 1-2.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Kestenbaum A, Gilchrist D, Dunlop BC. Palliative care spiritual assessment and goals-of-care discussions in the neurocritical care unit: Collaborating with chaplains. [Neurocrit Care](#). 2025.20250123.

“Clinicians of all disciplines can conduct spiritual screening and history that trigger full spiritual assessment conducted by chaplains. Such assessments contribute to a plan of care and goals-of-care discussions that more fully consider the patient’s values, preferences, and key sources of spiritual and emotional support in making health care decisions.”

(Kestenbaum et al.)

- ⇒ Mangione S, Lockwood CJ. Aequanimitas for our time. [Am J Med](#). 2024 Dec 12. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Martin SA, Johansson M, Heath I, et al. Sacrificing patient care for prevention: Distortion of the role of general practice. [BMJ](#). 2025; 388: e080811.

“Primary care needs to be restored with a sharper division between the care of individuals versus the care of populations.... To save primary care, preventive medicine efforts must be made proportionate to their nominal impact and responsibility for prevention of disease must largely return to the public health arena.”

(Martin et al.)

- ⇒ Matheny ME, Goldsack JC, Saria S, et al. Artificial intelligence in health and health care: Priorities for action. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2025; 44: 163-170.
- ⇒ Menikoff J. The second legacy of Henrietta Lacks. [JAMA](#). 2025 Feb 17. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Rezaei MA, Zahiri A, Kianian T, et al. Factors related to patients' readiness for advance care planning: A systematic review. [BMC Public Health](#). 2025; 25: 78.
- ⇒ Robertson-Preidler J, Kim M, Fantus S, et al. Whether to offer interventions at the end of life: What physicians consider and how clinical ethicists can help. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2025 Feb 4. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Tanious MK, Goodrich G, Pedigo V, et al. Prognostic disclosure to dying adolescents against parental wishes: A point-counter point debate. [HEC Forum](#). 2025; 37: 39-45.
- ⇒ Willem T, Fritzsche MC, Zimmermann BM, et al. Embedded ethics in practice: A toolbox for integrating the analysis of ethical and social issues into healthcare ai research. [Sci Eng Ethics](#). 2024; 31: 3.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ The quest to extend human life is both fascinating and fraught moral peril. [The Conversation](#), February 24, 2025.
- ⇒ Iowa DIAL releases information on fetal heartbeat law. [Iowa Medical Society](#), February 21, 2025.
- ⇒ Busy doctors can't get enough of 'The Pitt.' [The New York Times](#), February 19, 2025.
- ⇒ Trump wants to lower the cost of IVF. A new executive order seeks ideas to do that. [NPR](#), February 19, 2025.
- ⇒ An abortion scene gets theater audiences talking, and fainting. [The New York Times](#), February 18, 2025.
- ⇒ Woman loses custody of baby after IVF embryo mix-up. [Newsweek](#), February 18, 2025.
- ⇒ Pain clinics made millions from 'unnecessary' injections into 'human pin cushions.' [KFF Health News](#), February 18, 2025.
- ⇒ Hospitality at the end of life: Owners open their homes to terminally ill. [Washington Post via MSN](#), February 16, 2025.
- ⇒ The abrupt end of USAID-funded clinical trials is profoundly unethical. [STAT News](#), February 16, 2025.
- ⇒ Can A.I. heal our souls? [The New York Times](#), February 7, 2025.
- ⇒ Female genital mutilation is a leading cause of death for girls where it's practiced—new study. [The Conversation](#), February 6, 2025.
- ⇒ Abandoned in the middle of clinical trials, because of a Trump order. [The New York Times](#), February 6, 2025.
- ⇒ What the 'moral distress' of doctors tells us about eroding trust in health care. [The Conversation](#), February 4, 2025.
- ⇒ 'Mind-boggling': US CDC orders gender-related terms cut from scientific papers. [Nature](#), February 4, 2025.
- ⇒ How are researchers using AI? Survey reveals pros and cons for science. [Nature](#), February 4, 2025.
- ⇒ How a leftist activist group helped torpedo a psychedelic therapy. [The New York Times](#), February 4, 2025.
- ⇒ The man who revealed Auschwitz's atrocities to the world. [BBC](#), January 27, 2025.



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): 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](#).