

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.

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HUMANITIES CORNER



This month's spotlight is on **Aditya Alluri, a third year medical student**. His creative work is a haiku and 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.

Laying in his bed

Thinking of home with longing

A tube in his throat

This haiku is about a patient I cared for who had a prolonged hospitalization and intubation. Eventually he was extubated and had a tracheostomy placed and he was able to communicate with me that he just wanted to go home. I thought about how this was the first time he was able to communicate his wishes for the past few weeks. For a lot of this time, he was conscious and likely had these thoughts throughout but had no choice other than to bear it. This was something that had not crossed my mind until he was able to tell me. I had been preoccupied with the medical management of his care instead, and suspect this was true for most members of his team as well.

BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

PALLIATIVE SEDATION

- ⇒ Arantzamendi M, Belar A, Payne S, Rijpstra M, Preston N, Menten J, et al. Clinical aspects of palliative sedation in prospective studies. A systematic review. [J Pain Symptom Manage](#). 2021 Apr; 61: 831-844.
- ⇒ Beauverd M, Mazzoli M, Pralong J, Tomczyk M, Eychmüller S, Gaertner J. Palliative sedation - revised recommendations. [Swiss Med Wkly](#). 2024 Feb; 154: 3590.
- ⇒ Kirk TW, Mahon MM, Palliative Sedation Task Force of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Ethics Committee. National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Ethics Committee (NHPCO) position statement and commentary on the use of palliative sedation in imminently dying terminally ill patients. [J Pain Symptom Manage](#). 2010 May; 39: 914-923.
- ⇒ Maeda I, Morita T, Yamaguchi T, Inoue S, Ikenaga M, Matsumoto Y, et al. Effect of continuous deep sedation on survival in patients with advanced cancer (J-Proval): A propensity score-weighted analysis of a prospective cohort study. [Lancet Oncol](#). 2016 Jan; 17: 115-122.
- ⇒ Maltoni M, Scarpi E, Rosati M, Derni S, Fabbri L, Martini F, et al. Palliative sedation in end-of-life care and survival: A systematic review. [J Clin Oncol](#). 2012 Apr; 30: 1378-1383.
- ⇒ Potter J, Shields S, Breen R. Palliative sedation, compassionate extubation, and the principle of double effect: An ethical analysis. [Am J Hosp Palliat Care](#). 2021 Dec; 38: 1536-1540.
- ⇒ Rodrigues P, Crokaert J, Gastmans C. Palliative sedation for existential suffering: A systematic review of argument-based ethics literature. [J Pain Symptom Manage](#). 2018 Jun; 55: 1577-1590.
- ⇒ Surges SM, Brunsch H, Jaspers B, Apostolidis K, Cardone A, Centeno C, et al. Revised European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) recommended framework on palliative sedation: An international Delphi study. [Palliat Med](#). 2024 Feb; 38: 213-228.
- ⇒ Tomczyk M, Jaques C, Jox RJ. Palliative sedation: Ethics in clinical practice guidelines - systematic review. [BMJ Support Palliat Care](#). 2024 Jan; 13: e651-e663.
- ⇒ van Delden JJM, Heijltjes MT, Harwood RH. Should we all die asleep? The problem of the normalization of palliative sedation. [Age Ageing](#). 2023 Aug; 52.



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Amir R, Ravitsky V. Should parents of the deceased have standing to initiate posthumous sperm retrieval? Analyzing developments in Israel. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2026 Mar-Apr; 56: 6-13.
- ⇒ Carmona-Díaz G, Jiménez-Leal W, Grisales MA, Sripada C, Amaya S, Inzlicht M, et al. An AI-powered research assistant in the lab: A practical guide for text analysis through iterative collaboration with LLMs. [Behav Res Methods](#). 2026 Mar; 58: 99.
- ⇒ Childress J, Kahn J. A tribute to Tom L. Beauchamp (1939–2025). [Am J Bioeth](#). 2025 ; 26: 1-3.
- ⇒ Choi SR, Yoon S, Lee SB, Park HR, Ko HR, Jung YS, et al. Development of an AI chatbot to support shared decision-making in rheumatoid arthritis: A two-phase usability study. [BMC Med Inform Decis Mak](#). 2026 Apr 4. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Gagne-Julien AM, Friesen P. Why should people with lived experience be included in the DSM revision process? [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2026 Mar-Apr; 56: 46-56.
- ⇒ Gottlieb M. Mandatory training modules in health care-time to reassess. [JAMA](#). 2026 Apr 16. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Landon S, Savage T, Greysen SR, Bressman E. Variation in large language model recommendations in challenging inpatient management scenarios. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2026 Apr; 41: 1286-1291.
- ⇒ Lee MG. The age illusion - limitations of chronologic age in medicine. [N Engl J Med](#). 2026 Apr; 394: 1251-1253.

“Clinicians making decisions primarily on the basis of chronologic age may miss important biologic factors that could affect long-term outcomes.”

(Lee)

- ⇒ Lynch HF, Mohammad T. Institutional review board obligations regarding study funding sufficiency. [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2026 Mar-Apr; 48: 23-30.
- ⇒ Mee T, Choi JJ, Baduashvili A. Same prompt, different answer: Why AI disagrees with itself. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2026 Apr; 41: 1283-1285.

“Taken together, these studies converge on a central lesson for clinicians: LLM outputs are not neutral second opinions but probabilistic expressions of collective human reasoning, with their attendant flaws (e.g., cognitive biases), internalizing and reproducing patterns from the vast, imperfect corpus of human-generated text on which they are trained.”

(Mee et al)

- ⇒ Mosetti S. Telling is caring: Prioritizing the best interests of dying children. [HEC Forum](#). 2026 Apr 4. [Epub ahead of print]

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Omelianchuk A, Smolenski J, Kaplan H, Shea M, Smith JN, Bibler T, et al. Reflecting on principlism: Explaining, but not guiding, clinical ethics analysis. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2026 Mar; 26: 19-25.
- ⇒ Park S, Yu SY. Healthcare utilization and end-of-life care based on life-sustaining treatment decisions in patients with cancer. [Support Care Cancer](#). 2026 Mar; 34: 363.
- ⇒ Perlis RH. Artificial intelligence and the potential transformation of mental health. [JAMA Psychiatry](#). 2026 Apr; 83: 409-413.

“Tools incorporating AI could dramatically improve access to mental health care and enhance the safety and quality of that care. However, these tools also pose substantial and underappreciated risks.”

(Perlis)

- ⇒ Peterson A, Largent EA, Karlawish J. Mind care: The moral significance of the dementia caregiving dyad. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2026 Apr; 26: 37-48.
- ⇒ Pierson L, Orszag L, Gibert S, Sullivan H, Fei RY, Largent EA, et al. Bioethicists' perspectives on ethical research: Results of the "views in bioethics survey." [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2026 Mar-Apr; 48: 6-15.
- ⇒ Rentzepis P, Snyder DL, Baker T, Bierer BE. Use of AI as a research recruitment tool: Ethical elements, considerations, and recommendations. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2026 Apr 10. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Rotenstein LS, Holmgren AJ, Thombley R, Sriram A, Dbouk RH, Jost M, et al. Changes in clinician time expenditure and visit quantity with adoption of artificial intelligence-powered scribes: A multisite study. [JAMA](#). 2026 Apr 1. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Smrithy GS, Chandrasekaran B, Omana J. Ethics and bias in emotional AI. [Front Artif Intell](#). 2026; 9: 1768696.

“Emotional Artificial Intelligence (Emotional AI) is a branch of artificial intelligence that combines machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision to perceive and react to human feelings. Emotional AI will enhance more intuitive and personal human-machine interactions by analyzing facial expressions, speech patterns, physiological factors, and behavioural expressions, and find applications in healthcare, education, customer service, and other fields. Although this field is promising, it comes with serious ethical issues especially on privacy, transparency, accountability and fairness.”

(Smrithy et al)

- ⇒ Tierney AA, Lee K, Liu VX. Ambient AI scribes and the quintuple aim: What is counted-and what matters. [JAMA](#). 2026 Apr 1. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Toomey J. Consent and consents in contemporary healthcare. [J Med Ethics](#). 2026 Mar; 52: 213-214.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ I'm a fourth-year med student, but I only learned one historical example of medical racism. [STAT News](#), April 27, 2026.
- ⇒ A 'barbaric' problem in American hospitals is only getting bigger. [KFF Health News](#), April 24, 2026.
- ⇒ Physicians beat AI scribes on clinical note quality, study shows. [MedPage Today](#), April 17, 2026.
- ⇒ Medical schools must continue to teach students about structural barriers to care. [STAT News](#), April 15, 2026.
- ⇒ Dozens of AI disease-prediction models were trained on dubious data. [Nature](#), April 15, 2026.
- ⇒ Former UCLA gynecologist pleads guilty to sex abuse after conviction was overturned. [MedPage Today](#), April 15, 2026.
- ⇒ You can order your own blood work now. Interpreting the results is another story. [NPR](#), April 14, 2026.
- ⇒ Surgeon who removed wrong organ from patient is charged in his death. [The New York Times](#), April 14, 2026.
- ⇒ Physician-assisted suicide isn't healthcare. [The Wall Street Journal](#), April 13, 2026.
- ⇒ Vegetative patients may be more aware than we knew. [The New York Times Magazine](#), April 13, 2026.
- ⇒ Kentucky standardizes organ donation with new 'pause' law. [WDKY Lexington via Yahoo!](#), April 9, 2026.
- ⇒ As a palliative care physician, I'm nervous about the Medicare infusion of \$100 million for 'functional or lifestyle medicine.' [STAT News](#), April 9, 2026.
- ⇒ Artificial intelligence and biology: AI's potential for launching a novel era for health and medicine. [The Conversation](#), April 8, 2026.
- ⇒ Scientists invented a fake disease. AI told people it was real. [Nature](#), April 7, 2026.
- ⇒ Idaho cut services for people with schizophrenia. Then the deaths began. [The New York Times](#), April 7, 2026.
- ⇒ MAID: No evidence base for futility and irremediability in psychiatric disorders. [Psychiatric Times](#), April 6, 21026.
- ⇒ What the Pitt's ICE episode gets right (and wrong). [The Hastings Center Bioethics Forum](#), April 2, 2026.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

ONGOING

- ⇒ American Journal of Bioethics: [YouTube channel](#) containing previous webinars
- ⇒ Children's Mercy Kansas City: [Pediatric Ethics Podcast series](#)
- ⇒ Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences: [Events](#)
- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Webinars](#) and [Events](#)
- ⇒ [Health Ethics](#) podcast with host Bryan Pilkington, PhD (Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine): Find on Google Podcasts, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Audible.
- ⇒ The MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics: [YouTube channel](#) containing previous lectures
- ⇒ Michigan State University Center for Bioethics and Social Justice: [Recorded Webinars](#)
- ⇒ Office for Human Research Protections [Luminaries Lecture Series](#)
- ⇒ University of Minnesota Center for Bioethics: [Events](#)

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](#).