

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](#)



Journal Club - Ethics and AI in Healthcare

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS JOURNAL CLUB :

Sponsor: Program in Bioethics and Humanities, Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa

Moderator: Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD

Coordinators: Laura Shinkunas, MS and Suzanne Streitz, BA

Purpose: Provide a platform for professional discussion at UI Health Care to clarify ethical issues and highlight human implications associated with AI technologies in healthcare.

Objectives:

1. Provide a forum to discuss ethical issues in the development and use of AI in healthcare.
2. Consider implications of AI for medical education, patient care, research, and administration.
3. Review recent, peer-reviewed journal articles that raise ethical issues about AI in healthcare.
4. Engage faculty in bioethics and clinical informatics as discussion facilitators.
5. Encourage dialogue among practitioners in healthcare, bioethics, and clinical informatics.

For more information about the journal club and registering for sessions, [click here](#).

September 8, 2026—AI in Medical Education

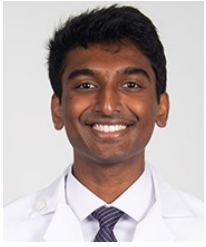
Presenter: Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD

Articles:

- Abdunour RE et al. Educational strategies for clinical supervision of artificial intelligence use. [N Engl J Med. 2025;393\(8\):786-97.](#)
- McMahon GT. When the algorithm teaches – Promise and peril of AI in physician learning. [JAMA. 2026;335\(24\):2105-6.](#)

Register Now

HUMANITIES CORNER



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

Between Orders

The phone rings
Before I finish the note

Room 7W19 needs blood
4W39 is hypotensive
5E25 wants to go home

I learn to move quickly
To speak in numbers
Like they are answers

Hemoglobin 6.8
Sodium 127
Creatinine improving

But at the bedside
He looks past the screen
And asks me,
"Am I getting better?"

No order set holds that

I pause
Longer than I feel I should

HUMANITIES CORNER (CONTINUED)

“Yes,” I say,
“But it will take time”

And for a moment,
The numbers were not enough

Reflection:

During my rotation, as I became more comfortable with the workflow and expectations, I found myself falling into a rhythm that at times felt increasingly algorithmic, prioritizing efficiency, tasks and objective data. In one encounter, after reviewing labs and discussing management, a patient asked me, “Am I getting better?” Although I had been engaged in his care, the question made me pause and recognize how easily the human side of medicine can be overshadowed by clinical momentum. Taking a moment to respond honestly reminded me to realign with the kind of physician I strive to be, one who balances efficiency and clinical reasoning with presence, transparency and compassion. This experience reinforced the importance of maintaining that balance as I continue to grow in my training.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Blumenthal-Barby J, Bibler TM, Kaplan H, Omelianchuk A, Smolenski J. Can I get a witness? The ethical dimensions of family presence in patient suffering. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2026 Jul-Aug; 56: 19-24.
- ⇒ Brender TD, Detsky AS, Yourman L. Artificial intelligence and the financialization of medical knowledge. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2026 Jul 27. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Candrian C, Tjia J, Cloyes, KG. Breaking the script in healthcare to improve care for LGBTQ+ people with serious illness. [BMC Palliat Care](#). 2026 Jul; 25: 220.
- ⇒ Carr BR. Delusion is not a bug: AI, psychiatry, and the ethics of uncertainty. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2026 Jul-Aug; 56: 7-12.
- ⇒ Char D, Downing NL, Youssef A, Mello MM. Ethical assessment of generative AI tools for clinical summarization tasks. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2026 Aug; 26: 72-80.
- ⇒ DePew R, Turnbull J, Bonnet K, Schlundt D, Propper R. "I just really don't know how to answer:" Ethical dilemmas in the pediatric intensive care unit. [Am J Hosp Palliat Care](#). 2026 Jul 31. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Emanuel EJ, Baker-Butler A, Khosla N, Khosla V. Will autonomous AI exceed AI-aided physicians as the best medical care? [JAMA](#). 2026 Aug 17. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Fischer SM, Fink RM, Alasmar AY, Campbell EG, DeCamp M. Palliative care physicians' perceptions about using artificial intelligence for prognostication. [J Pain Symptom Manage](#). 2026 Oct; 72: e340-e347.
- ⇒ Hester DM, Schonfeld T. Hidden in plain sight: Professionalization, accreditation, and the legitimacy of clinical ethics. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2026 Jul-Aug; 56: 6.
- ⇒ Jeske M. Organ chips and translational research: Identifying and examining new ethical issues. [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2026 Jul-Aug; 48: 39-45.



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Kaplow K, Buster A, Gordon EJ, Wall AE, Flower T, Sidoti CN, et al. Organ procurement organization perspectives on normothermic regional perfusion practices: A qualitative interview study. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2026 Aug 19: 1-10.
- ⇒ Leeper BJ, Robinson RE, Stevens K, Cleveland LM, Edwards DN, Geske NL, et al. The gift remembered: The human anatomy and physiology society (HAPS) anatomical donor stewardship's ethical and practical handbook for anatomy donor tributes. [Anat Sci Educ](#). 2026 Jul 16. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ LeMalefant R, Einberger C, Cooper KJ, Murray SB, La Rosa AJ. What to do when incapacitated patients resist treatment: Ethical considerations in weighing beneficence versus patient autonomy. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2026 Fall; 37: 249-256.
- ⇒ Madrigal VN, Detwiler K, Seltzer RR, Shepard J, Sveen W, Greenberg TB, et al. Understanding a clinical ethics consult: Survey of parents. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2026 Fall; 37: 257-267.
- ⇒ Marks CM, Baptista P, Gaines C, Jones CW, Remboski L, Nyce A, et al. Machine learning to identify physician actions associated with patient experience of compassion. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2026 Aug; 41: 2694-2701.

“... patients reported a higher experience of compassion when they reported their physician demonstrated traits such as staying focused and truly listening, getting to know them and understanding their concerns, communicating hope, and staying non-judgmental.”

(Marks et al.)

- ⇒ McNamara M, Wolfe ID. Uncertainty and ethical permissibility in youth gender care. [JAMA Pediatr](#). 2026 Aug 3. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ 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 Aug; 26: 16-36.
- ⇒ Scharf A, Voigt L, Dulu A. When requests for non-beneficial treatment confront standards of care: Time to update ethical considerations. [J Intensive Care Med](#). 2026 Aug 1. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Wolf SM, Roehrig GH, Pruett TL, Uygun K, Koch A, McVan CC, et al. Filling the network gap in research ethics: Analyzing ethical issues at scale in big team science. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2026 Jul-Aug; 56: 32-43.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Powers of persuasion: AI chatbots are becoming experts at changing people's minds. What gives them an edge? [Science](#), August 20, 2026.
- ⇒ How much of a cancer drug is too much? Patients, researchers challenge FDA-approved dosages. [KFF Health News](#), August 20, 2026.
- ⇒ No nation has escaped healthcare rationing. Some just hide it better. [MedPage Today](#), August 19, 2026.
- ⇒ The promise and peril of gene editing. [MedPage Today](#), August 18, 2026.
- ⇒ She told no one about her agony except ChatGPT. What her death reveals about AI risks. [NPR](#), August 18, 2026.
- ⇒ What happens when your hospital is also your insurance company? We're starting to see the effects. [The Conversation](#), August 18, 2026.
- ⇒ 8 steps to making surrogacy more ethical for everyone involved. [STAT News](#), August 18, 2026.
- ⇒ Health AI should be assistive, not autonomous. [MedPage Today](#), August 16, 2026.
- ⇒ Baby with heart defect born to surrogate must receive treatment, Texas court rules, amid multistate legal battle. [CBS News](#), August 13, 2026.
- ⇒ Blood tests to predict Alzheimer's are causing confusion and distress. [The New York Times](#), August 12, 2026.
- ⇒ A midwife crosses 'maternity deserts' to make a difference for Black moms and babies. [NPR](#), August 11, 2026.
- ⇒ He saw specialist after specialist. He died when no one gave him a flu shot. [The New York Times](#), August 10, 2026.
- ⇒ These doctors perform daily miracles, no hospital in sight. [The New York Times](#), August 9, 2026.
- ⇒ U.S. cuts ties with organ donor group after reports of abuses. [The New York Times](#), August 5, 2026.
- ⇒ Privacy risks from medical AI tools are not shared equally. [Nature](#), August 4, 2026.
- ⇒ Balancing autonomy, quality of life, and long-term planning in multiple myeloma. [MedPage Today](#), August 4, 2026.
- ⇒ I told my patient she'd never go home. I was wrong. [The New York Times](#), August 3, 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](#).