

BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



Inside this issue:

SAVE THE DATE:	2
Ethics in Healthcare, May 28, 2027	
Program Highlight:	3
Ethics and AI in Healthcare Journal Club	
Publication Highlight:	4
Virtues and Narratives in Medicine	
Bioethics Topic of the Month:	5
History of Ethics Consultation	
Humanities Corner:	6
Simran Sarin, fourth year medical student	
Bioethics in the Literature	7-8
Bioethics in the News	9
Bioethics Opportunities	10
Bioethics Services at the UIHC	10

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.

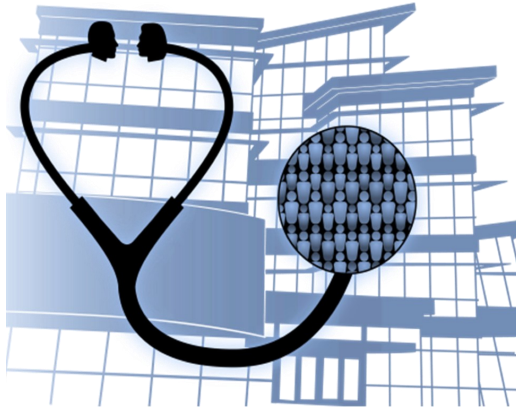
Program in Bioethics and Humanities: *Our Mission*

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



Friday, May 28, 2027

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:

- **Institutional Ethics in the Healthcare Workplace**
 - Erica Carlisle, MD, University of Iowa
- **AI and Clinical Ethics Consultation**
 - Andrew Hantel, MD, MPH, Harvard Medical School
- **Navigating the Limits of Autonomy**
 - Megan Hsu, MD, University of Iowa
- **Narrative Ethics in Healthcare**
 - Brittany Bettendorf, MD, MFA, University of Iowa

Additional information will be coming in the next few months.



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](#).

October 13, 2026—Predictions about the Impact of AI on Clinical Care

Presenter: Graeme Pitcher, MBBCh

Articles:

- Emanuel EJ, Baker-Butler A, Khosla N, Khosla V. Will autonomous AI exceed AI-aided physicians as the best medical care? [JAMA. 2026 Sep 15; 336: 915-918.](#)
- Khullar D. Artificial intelligence and the future of the clinical workforce. [N Engl J Med. 2026 Sep 17; 395: 1041-1043.](#)

Register Now

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Virtues and Narratives in Medicine: An Analysis and Collection of Virtue-Illustrating Stories in Medical Journals

Lauris C. Kaldjian, Brittany A. Bettendorf, Fabrice Jotterand
[The Journal of Medical Humanities](#)

This paper draws from a framework of virtue ethics and narrative medicine to present a content analysis and teaching resource of virtue-illustrating stories found in medical journals. As acquired dispositions, virtues are cultivated not merely by listening to lectures but through reflection, experience, role-modeling, practice, and internalization. One way to encourage such cultivation is to use narratives to illustrate moral virtues in action. With this in mind, we identified a literature-based taxonomy of 12 core virtues in medicine, selected a sample of 180 narratives published in medical journals to perform a content analysis and frequency calculation of core virtues they illustrate, and identified a collection of 24 of these narratives to illustrate the 12 core virtues. In decreasing order of frequency, the 12 core virtues found in these narratives were benevolence, humility, practical wisdom, courage, respectfulness, trustworthiness, altruism, cooperativeness, temperance, honesty, integrity, and justice. The taxonomy and bibliographic resource we offer can help medical educators utilize medical narratives to reflect on and discuss core moral virtues in medicine, and the 24 virtue-illustrating narratives are short, accessible, and practical for time-constrained teachers and learners interested in the way stories manifest virtues in medicine. This taxonomical framework and narrative collection can help shine practical light on ethical challenges in medicine-which so often are complex, multilayered, uncertain, and fluid-and on the virtues that enable physicians and other healthcare professionals to respond well to those challenges.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

respectfulness
courage
honesty
humility
cooperativeness
justice
benevolence
integrity
temperance
practical
wisdom
altruism
trustworthiness

BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

HISTORY OF ETHICS CONSULTATION

- ⇒ Core Competencies Task Force. Core competencies for healthcare ethics consultation (2nd ed). Glenview: American Society for Bioethics and Humanities; 2011.
- ⇒ Harvard Medical School to Examine the Definition of Brain Death. A definition of irreversible coma. [JAMA](#). 1968;205(6):337-340.
- ⇒ Jonsen AR. The God Squad and the origins of transplantation ethics and policy. [J Law Med Ethics](#). 2007;35(2):238-240.
- ⇒ Jonsen AR, Siegler M, Winslade WJ, eds. *Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine*, 9e. McGraw-Hill; 2022.
- ⇒ Lo B. Clinical medical ethics: How did we start? Where are we heading? [J Clin Ethics](#). 2022 Summer; 33: 124-129.
- ⇒ Nair-Collins M. Expanding the social status of “corpse” to severely comatose: Henry Beecher and the Harvard Brain Death Committee. *Perspect Biol Med*. 2022;65(1):41-58.
- ⇒ Patuzzo S, Goracci G, Ciliberti R. Thomas Percival. Discussing the foundation of medical ethics. [Acta Biomed](#). 2018 Oct 8; 89: 343-348.
- ⇒ Purtilo RB. Ethics consultations in the hospital. [N Engl J Med](#). 1984 Oct 11; 311: 983-986.
- ⇒ Siegler M. Clinical medical ethics: Its history and contributions to American medicine. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2019 Spring; 30: 17-26.
- ⇒ Tapper EB. Consults for conflict: The history of ethics consultation. [Proc \(Bayl Univ Med Cent\)](#). 2013 Oct; 26: 417-422.
- ⇒ Teel K. The physician's dilemma: A doctor's view--what the law should be. [Bayl Law Rev](#). 1975 Winter; 27: 6-9.



HUMANITIES CORNER



This month's spotlight is on **Simran Sarin, a fourth year medical student**. Her creative work is a photograph and a written 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.



Rock Garden

The morning is quiet. One dotted arrow on the board, no pink asterisks. Today is long call, implying looming chaos in the afternoon. But with a full board and only one possible discharge, the team is nearly guaranteed to have a quiet day. There's relief in the air intertwined with palpable tension. We don't have space for new admissions or the opportunity to care for more patients who need a bed, but it's all in exchange for a moment of calmness: a few less consults, H&Ps, admission orders, discharge reconciliations, notes pended, notes signed, patients staffed. The humanity that interlaces our professionalism withers with each administrative task. It needs active tending to, lest it dissipate altogether. So today we tend to our rock garden, basking in the calmness to nourish our humanity. We bolster the professionalism we bring each day to care for our patients, yet the day is tinged with the guilt of not taking more new patients.

I took this photo while on a hike in Grindelwald, Switzerland. The ruggedness of the weather and peaceful surroundings of that day felt complementary to this piece.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Akturan S, Kurt AK, Kumlu G, Güner Y. Development of a self-reported clinical decision-making competence scale for medical students. [Ir J Med Sci](#). 2026 Sep 5. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Alasmar AY, Gunn-Sandell L, Fischer SM, Fink RM, Juarez-Colunga E, Campbell EG, et al. Ethics of artificial intelligence prognostication in palliative care: Perspectives from a national survey of palliative care physicians. [BMJ Support Palliat Care](#). 2026 Aug 20. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Bassil K, Prins D, Os HV, Starke G, Groot E, Dols A, et al. A shift in trust: An analysis of the use of AI chatbots among people living with bipolar disorder. [Bipolar Disord](#). 2026 Sep; 28: e70176.
- ⇒ Cox T, Columbus C, Higginbotham J, Reynolds E, Crowe M. Clicks, credibility, and consequences: Social media's impact on medical professionalism. [Proc \(Bayl Univ Med Cent\)](#). 2026 Sep; 39: 915-917.
- ⇒ Daly T, da Silva JAT. The ethics of prompting large language models in academic publishing. [Ann Biomed Eng](#). 2026 Aug 31. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ DeCamp M, Snyder Sulmasy L, Karches KE. Ethics and professionalism in artificial intelligence and medical practice: A position paper from the American College of Physicians. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2026 Sep 1. [Epub ahead of print]

“Now is the time for physicians to consider how to harness AI’s transformative potential while avoiding patient harm. Ethical principles and guideposts of relationality, self-governance, and competence must shape AI’s use in medical practice ...”

(DeCamp et al.)

- ⇒ Fox E. Operationalizing organizational ethics: A practical framework for healthcare. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2026 Sep; 26: 45-49.
- ⇒ Frank-Ito W, Eldridge LA, Matthews J. Digital deception: Survey bots and the ethics of data integrity. [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2026 Sep-Oct; 48: 37-45.
- ⇒ Gruhn MA. Mandated reporting and systematic bias in childhood adversity research. [JAMA Pediatr](#). 2026 Sep 14. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Hoffman DI, Lilley EJ, Bartek M. Do surgical patients feel they are adequately informed of decision-making prior to surgery? [Adv Surg](#). 2026 Sep; 60: 233-250.
- ⇒ Jansen LA. Nonmaleficence, professionalism, and the medical relationship. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2026 Fall; 37: 215-221.
- ⇒ Li Y, Long MT. Who defines good and bad? Boundaries of family decision-making in palliative care: Reflections and reconstruction based on eastern culture. [Front Psychol](#). 2026; 17: 1924478.
- ⇒ Moore B, McCoy MS, Nelson RH, Stahl R, Taylor LA, Ubel PA, et al. What can we ask of hospitals? Conceptual foundations for an ethics of healthcare organizations. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2026 Sep; 26: 20-34.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ Nichol AA, Youssef A, Larson DB, Abramoff M, Wolf RM, Char D, et al. Ethics of autonomous AI clinical trials: Delphi study. [J Med Internet Res](#). 2026 Aug 21; 28: e91472.
- ⇒ Pope TM. Hospital bioethics: Ample legal foundations to articulate organizational obligations. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2026 Sep; 26: 35-37.
- ⇒ Robertson-Preidler J, Kim M, Fantus S, Malek J. Facilitating decision making at end of life: How physicians' experiences can inform the work of clinical ethicists. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2026 Jul-Sep; 17: 174-181.
- ⇒ Ross LF. On becoming the "good physician": Lessons from a commencement address. [Perspect Biol Med](#). 2026; 69: 167-173.
- ⇒ Rotenstein LS, Price G, Bates DW, Libby R. Rebuilding trust in the patient-physician relationship. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2026 Sep 8. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Schwartz D, Lanphier E. The new narrative medicine: ethical implications of artificial intelligence on healthcare narratives. [Monash Bioeth Rev](#). 2026 Aug; 44: 155-170.

“LLM-based AI in fact endorses a narrative and humanistic view insofar as it is trained on vast amounts of narrative data, all while technologizing medicine and human interaction, thus masking its reliance on humanistic and narrative input. It affords an opportunity to therefore welcome and join narrative and evidence, humanism and science, too often divided along a falsely constructed dichotomous system rather than understood as integrated.”

(Schwartz and Lanphier)

- ⇒ Tilburt J, Montori VM. We can, but should we? Red flags for hasty, low integrity ai integration into healthcare. [BMJ](#). 2026 Aug; 394: e100589.

“If AI does improve healthcare, it will be because health system leaders consistently notice and respond to red flags. This means having the courage to invite dissent, communicate honestly, and keep care at the center of their operations, no matter the cost..”

(Tilburt and Montori)

- ⇒ Wilson CM, Henshaw AM, Navin MC. The right to function at end of life: Aligning advance care planning with palliative rehabilitation. [Ann Palliat Med](#). 2026 Jul; 15: 60.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Donated livers can be made biologically younger. [MIT Technology Review](#), September 14, 2026.
- ⇒ Ethical questions about health AI? The AMA has guidance. [American Medical Association](#), September 14, 2026.
- ⇒ The dark side of full patient autonomy. [Medscape](#), September 14, 2026.
- ⇒ UK Parliament rejects bill to allow assisted dying for the terminally ill. [The Washington Post via MSN](#), September 11, 2026.
- ⇒ Indigenous groups are exempt from Medicaid work rules, but Native Hawaiians aren't. [KFF Health News](#), September 11, 2026.
- ⇒ Autonomous AI will beat AI-assisted physicians at some medical tasks by 2030. [STAT News](#), September 9, 2026.
- ⇒ A new startup lets you freeze your eggs for free. But is anything ever free? [Wired](#), September 9, 2026.
- ⇒ Huachuma, the Andean psychedelic cactus, is drawing Western seekers and raising ethical questions. [The Conversation](#), September 8, 2026.
- ⇒ The price of privacy when it comes to dementia. [Time](#), September 5, 2026.
- ⇒ You *can* argue with a machine, doctor. [MedPage Today](#), September 5, 2026.
- ⇒ Transplant care can't evolve without research-informed policy. [MedPage Today](#), September 4, 2026.
- ⇒ AI skin cancer detection tools are getting better—but only for people with light skin. [The Conversation](#), September 3, 2026.
- ⇒ Harvard's cadaver scandal broke a covenant medicine depends on. [MedPage Today](#), September 2, 2026.
- ⇒ Study A.I. consciousness? The bots would like a word with you. [The New York Times](#), August 31, 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](#).