

# BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



April 2015

**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](#)

## Program Highlight

### Interactive Multimedia Consent for Biobanking

Congratulations to **Christian Simon, Ph.D.**, (Program faculty member), **Helen Schartz, J.D., Ph.D.**, and **David Klein, Ph.D.** (Law, Health Policy & Disability Center, College of Law) for recently receiving an R01 award for their work on **Interactive Multimedia Consent for Biobanking**. The three-year grant begins early this summer and will focus on the ethics and cost-effectiveness in designing and using electronic consents for biobanks, in collaboration with three other institutions. Specifically, the researchers are compiling empirical evidence to guide best practices for using interactive multimedia to inform potential volunteers about participation in research involving biospecimens and health information. The researchers expect that electronic consent processes can be applied to other (clinical and translational) research as well. The study is funded by the NIH/National Human Genome Research Institute.

## Upcoming Events

For a listing of upcoming events related to bioethics and humanities, please click [here](#).

## Quotation of the Month

*Identifying and encouraging reflection on the impact of the factors beyond the formal curriculum that can influence students and residents... may contribute to professional identity formation by deepening students' understanding of who they are and who they wish to be.*

- Cruess, Cruess, Boudreau et al., from their article in [Academic Medicine](#) (2015)

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## Publication Highlight

### [See One, Do One, Teach One: Hand Hygiene Attitudes Among Medical Students, Interns, and Faculty](#)

Marc Polacco, MD, **Laura Shinkunas, BA**, Eli Perencevich, MD, MS, **Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD**, **Heather Schacht Reisinger PhD**

An anonymous, online survey of medical students, interns, and faculty at a university hospital was conducted in 2013 to examine self-reported adherence to hand hygiene opportunities. Variation in self-reported adherence ranged from frequencies of 60%-100%. Such variation suggests the need to direct education toward hand hygiene opportunities with lower reported rates of adherence, especially toward those opportunities that are difficult to monitor.

## Clinical Research Ethics Consultation 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, [please click here](#).

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The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society announces the

### [2015 R. Palmer Howard Dinner](#)



*Medicinal Plants of the Mediterranean:  
A Unique Tradition*

#### **Alain Touwaide**

Research Associate, History of Science and Medicine, Smithsonian Institution; Scientific Director, Institute for Preservation of Medical Traditions

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Carver Room, Sheraton Hotel

**Register by April 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## UIHC Ethics Consult Service

This service is a resource for patients, family members, or health professionals at UIHC who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care. Consults can be ordered by UIHC clinicians through EPIC. Consults can also be requested by calling (319) 356-1616 and asking for the ethics consultant on call. For more information, [please click here](#).

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The  
**Examined Life**  
conference  
The Writing, Humanities, and Arts of Medicine

### [The Examined Life Conference](#)

The University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine will host its ninth annual three-day conference focusing on the links between the arts and the science of medicine.

The program seeks to encourage healthcare professionals, medical educators, patients and their family members to define methods for incorporating writing and humanities into medical education, patient care, and/or professional development schemes; identify the role that

humanities activities can play in such activities; identify avenues to pursue that can improve their creative or reflective writing; and describe and utilize the mechanics of writing for publication. Upon completion of this conference the participant will be able to: identify tools to enhance their understanding of patients' needs; discuss the ethical, emotional, and psychological requirements of their professions; describe methods that can be used to increase the well-being and communication skills of medical learners, healthcare providers, and patients; and examine publication practices.

*Featured presentations are free and open to the public. To participate fully, it is recommended that you register for the conference.*

**Dates: April 16-18, 2015**

**Location: Carver College of Medicine**

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## Resource Highlight

### [VitalTalk](#)

VitalTalk is a nonprofit with the mission of nurturing healthier connections between patients and clinicians. They specialize in developing and facilitating advanced communication skills focused on balancing honesty with empathy when discussing serious illness and end-of-life care.

[More Details](#)

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## Bioethics in the Literature

- Bell SK, Mann KJ, Truog R, et al. Should we tell parents when we've made an error? [Pediatrics](#). 2015 Jan; 135: 159-163.
- Blair A, Wasson K. Professionalism and appropriate expression of empathy when breaking bad news. [Virtual Mentor](#). 2015 Feb; 17: 111-115.
- Cruess RL, Cruess SR, Boudreau JD, et al. A Schematic Representation of the Professional Identity Formation and Socialization of Medical Students and Residents: A Guide for Medical Educators. [Acad Med](#). 2015 Mar 17.[Epub ahead of print].
- DeCamp M, Lehmann LS. Guiding choice--ethically influencing referrals in ACOs. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 Jan; 372: 205-207.
- Holm IA, Savage SK, Green RC, et al. Guidelines for return of research results from pediatric genomic studies: deliberations of the Boston Children's Hospital Gene Partnership Informed Cohort Oversight Board. [Genet Med](#). 2014 Jul; 16: 547-552.
- Lewis-Newby M, Wicclair M, Pope T, et al. An official American Thoracic Society policy statement: managing conscientious objections in intensive care medicine. [Am J Respir Crit Care Med](#). 2015 Jan; 191: 219-227.



- Rodriguez M, Morrow J, Seifi A. Ethical implications of patients and families secretly recording conversations with physicians. [JAMA](#). 2015 Mar 12. [Epub ahead of print].
- You JJ, Dodek P, Lamontagne F, et al. What really matters in end-of-life discussions? Perspectives of patients in hospital with serious illness and their families. [CMAJ](#). 2014 Dec; 186: E679-687.

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