

Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES, CARVER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

August 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

Among families of patients with chronic critical illness, the use of palliative care–led informational and emotional support meetings compared with usual care did not reduce anxiety or depression symptoms and may have increased posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms. These findings do not support routine or mandatory palliative care–led discussion of goals of care for all families of patients with chronic critical illness.

Carson et al. (for more, see [JAMA](#); 2016)

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](#).



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 HUMANITIES DISTINCTION TRACK

The purpose of the Humanities Distinction Track (HDT) is to encourage, support, and recognize medical students who pursue scholarship in ethics, writing, or the humanities. This Track will promote students' growth as professionals and also further the promotion of humanism in medicine. Participation in the Track includes the completion of a major project. Past and current projects have involved works of poetry, prose and photographic art, as well as historical research, empirical studies, and policy analysis. To learn more about the Track, [please click here](#).

Co-Directors of the Humanities Distinction Track:
Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD
Jason T. Lewis, MFA

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, please click [here](#).

HISTORY OF MEDICINE SOCIETY

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society invites you to read "[Notes from the John Martin Rare Book Room, July 2016](#)."

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society (HOMS) and the John Martin Rare Book Room now have a large number of video and audio recordings of HOMS lectures from 1985-2015. To access the recordings, please click [here](#).

READING ETHICS AT UIHC

If you are interested to see what the UIHC Ethics Subcommittee was reading in July, please click on the following links ([article 1](#); [article 2](#)).

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

[Flourishing after Depression: Factors Associated with Achieving Complete Mental Health among those with a History of Depression](#)

Esme Fuller-Thomson, Senyo Agbeyaka, Deborah M. LaFond,
Mercedes Bern-Klug

This study investigated factors associated with complete mental health among a nationally representative sample of Canadians with a history of depression by conducting secondary analysis of the 2012 Canadian Community Health Survey- Mental Health (n=20,955). Complete mental health was defined as 1) the absence of mental illness, substance abuse, or suicidal ideation in the past year; 2) happiness or life satisfaction almost every day/ past month, and 3) social and psychological well-being. The prevalence of complete mental health among those with and without a history of depression was determined. In a sample of formerly depressed respondents (n=2528), a series of logistic regressions were completed controlling for demographics, socioeconomic status, health and lifetime mental health conditions, health behaviours, social support, adverse childhood experiences, and religiosity. Two in five individuals (39%) with a history of depression had achieved complete mental health in comparison to 78% of those without a history of depression. In comparison to the formally depressed adults who were not in complete mental health, those in complete mental health were more likely to be female, White, older, affluent, married, with a confidant, free of disabling pain, insomnia, and childhood adversities and without a history of substance abuse. They were also more likely to exercise regularly and use spirituality to cope.

UPDATED RESOURCE

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S (AMA) CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS

The [AMA's Code of Medical Ethics](#) articulates the enduring values of medicine as a profession. As a statement of the values to which physicians commit themselves individually and collectively, the Code is a touchstone for medicine as a professional community. It defines medicine's integrity and the source of the profession's authority to self-regulate. At the same time, the Code of Medical Ethics is a living document, evolving as changes in medicine and the delivery of health care raise new questions about how the profession's core values apply in physicians' day-to-day practice. The Code links theory and practice, ethical principles and real world dilemmas in the care of patients.

On June 13, 2016, the first comprehensive update of the *Code* in more than 50 years was adopted at the annual meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA). This new edition is the culmination of an 8-year project to comprehensively review, update and re-organize guidance to ensure that the *Code* remains a timely, easy to use resource.



HONORING HEALTH CARE PREFERENCES THROUGH CARING CONVERSATIONS

This conference will highlight best practice methods and clinical benefits of advance care planning.

Purpose: To educate health care professionals and community health leaders on the benefits of advance health care planning and the importance of providing a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to care.

Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Time: 7:30 AM—noon

Place: Coralville Center for the Performing Arts,
1301 5th St, Coralville.

For a printable brochure, click [here](#). To register online, click [here](#).



THE EXAMINED LIFE CONFERENCE

Dates: October 6-8, 2016

Location: Medical Education Facility (MERF), Carver College of Medicine

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

The program seeks to encourage healthcare professionals, medical educators, patients and their family members to define methods for incorporating writing, humanities, and the arts into medical education, patient and self care, and/or professional development schemes; identify the role that writing, humanities, and the arts can play in such activities; and identify avenues to pursue that can improve their creative or reflective writing; 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 medical education, patient and self care, and/or professional development needs; discuss the ethical, emotional, and psychological requirements of these needs; describe methods that can be used to increase the well-being and communication skills of medical learners, healthcare provider, patients and family members; and examine publication practices.

For more information about

the conference, click [here](#).



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Blease C, Colloca L, Kaptchuk TJ. Are open-label placebos ethical? Informed consent and ethical equivocations. [Bioethics](#). 2016 Jul; 30: 407-414.
- ⇒ Bonham VL, Callier SL, Royal CD. Will precision medicine move us beyond race? [N Engl J Med](#). 2016 May; 374: 2003-2005.
- ⇒ Bourgois P, Holmes SM, Sue K, et al. Structural vulnerability: Operationalizing the concept to address health disparities in clinical care. [Acad Med](#). 2016 Jul 12. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Brierley J, Shaw D. Premortem interventions in dying children to optimise organ donation: An ethical analysis. [J Med Ethics](#). 2016 Jul; 42: 424-428.
- ⇒ Brotherton S, Kao A, Crigger BJ. Professing the values of medicine: The modernized AMA code of medical ethics. [JAMA](#). 2016 Jul 14. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Carson SS, Cox CE, Wallenstein S, et al. Effect of palliative care-led meetings for families of patients with chronic critical illness: A randomized clinical trial. [JAMA](#). 2016 Jul; 316: 51-62.
- ⇒ Carter SM, Degeling C, Doust J, et al. A definition and ethical evaluation of overdiagnosis. [J Med Ethics](#). 2016 Jul 8. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Crutchfield P. The epistemology of moral bioenhancement. [Bioethics](#). 2016 Jul; 30: 389-396.
- ⇒ Hans DR, Dubé P, Wasserman JA. Experimental evidence showing that physician guidance promotes perceptions of physician empathy. [AJOB Empirical Bioethics](#). 2016; 7: 135-139.
- ⇒ Lipworth W, Axler R. Towards a bioethics of innovation. [J Med Ethics](#). 2016 Jul; 42: 445-449.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ [One of the Fastest Growing Fields in Science Still Makes a lot of People Very Uncomfortable](#). Quartz, July 25, 2016.
- ⇒ [Congress Approves Bill to Address Addiction as a Health Problem](#). NPR, July 13, 2016.
- ⇒ [British Doctors Reject Neutrality on Assisted Dying](#). BioEdge, June 25, 2016.
- ⇒ [Facing a Moral Dilemma over Driveless Cars](#). BioEdge, June 25, 2016.
- ⇒ [Interview: Dissecting the Age of 'Do Harm' Medicine](#). BioEdge, June 21, 2016.