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# BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES

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December 2014

**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](#)



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## Program Highlight

### Electronic Consent for Rural VA Patients: A Pilot Project

In a newly funded study, Dr. Simon is collaborating with Drs. Helen Schartz and David Klein of the University of Iowa's Law, Health Policy and Disability Center to explore rural VA patients' and VA providers' perspectives on interactive multimedia consent for research. They will be asking patients and providers to compare a paper consent to an interactive multimedia consent, to determine their reactions and preferences. The long-term goal of this research is to improve rural VA patients' access to and understanding of materials that address participation in research, so that patients can make well-informed, deliberative decisions about participating.

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## Upcoming Events

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

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## Publication Highlight

### [Living as a Young Adult with a Chronic Complex Medical Condition](#)

By Aly Becker and Becky Benson, MD, PhD  
(Dr. Benson is an Affiliate Faculty member in the Program.)

Dr. Benson co-wrote this piece with a patient (found on pages 8-10). This patient narrative highlights the vulnerability and suffering that a patient faces as they interact with the medical system.

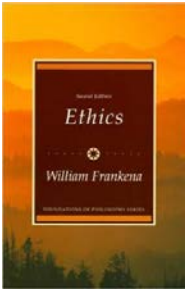
## Quotation of the Month

*A death with dignity ... entails more than the absence of external indignities. Dignity in the face of death cannot be given or conferred from the outside – at least not by other men – but requires a dignity of soul in the human being who faces it.*

- Leon Kass, 1974

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## Resource Highlight



### [Ethics](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

By William K. Frankena

This book is intended to introduce students and general readers to the branch of philosophy called "ethics." The aim in this book is not just to introduce the problems and positions of moral philosophers, but also to do moral philosophy. That is, Frankena puts forward some of his own views and reasoning, and at the same time, provides an introduction to the subject in general.

## 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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## Bioethics in the Literature

- White M, Evert J. Developing ethical awareness in global health: four cases for medical educators. [Dev World Bioeth](#). 2014 Dec; 14: 111-116.
- You JJ, Dodek P, Lamontagne F, Downar J, Sinuff T, Jiang X, et al. What really matters in end-of-life discussions? Perspectives of patients in hospital with serious illness and their families. [CMAJ](#). 2014 Nov 3. [Epub ahead of print].
- Weiner C. Anticipate and communicate: ethical management of incidental and secondary findings in the clinical, research, and direct-to-consumer contexts (December 2013 report of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues). [Am J Epidemiol](#). 2014 Sept; 180: 562-564.
- Hendelman W, Byszewski A. Formation of medical student professional identity: categorizing lapses of professionalism, and the learning environment. [BMC Med Educ](#). 2014 Jul; 14: 139.
- Mansel JK. The diagnostic and healing qualities of story: goals of care. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2014 Jul; 174: 1037.
- Clyde JW, Domenech Rodriguez MM, Geiser C. Medical professionalism: an experimental look at physicians' Facebook profiles. [Med Educ Online](#). 2014 Jun; 19: 23149.
- Gold A, Lichtenberg P. The moral case for the clinical placebo. [J Med Ethics](#). 2014 Apr; 40: 219-224.
- Dupont-Thibodeau A, Barrington KJ, Farlow B, Janvier A. End-of-life decisions for extremely low-gestational-age infants: why simple rules for complicated decisions should be avoided. [Semin Perinatol](#). 2014 Feb; 38: 31-37.

## 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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