

BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



July 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](#)



Program Highlight

[Humanities Distinction Track](#)

On May 14, 2014 we were pleased to recognize the following four graduates of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine Humanities Distinction Track as part of the Distinction Track Recognition Ceremony.

Asitha Jayawardena

Project Title: *Expedited 'Diffusion of Innovation': A reflection on the Ponseti Method to treat club foot in the current era of medicine, and other writings.*

Format: Prose and poetry

Mentor: Jose Morcuende, MD (Orthopaedic Surgery)

Marc A. Polacco

Project Title: *A survey of medical students and physicians regarding hand hygiene, infectious diseases, and professionalism, and other writings*

Format: Research, prose and poetry

Mentors: Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD (Internal Medicine) & Eli Perencevich MD (Internal Medicine)

Upcoming Events

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

Quotation of the Month

Speculation is always doubtful, but if we do not try to think imaginatively about what the convergence of newborn screening and genomic medicine will bring, we may find ourselves overtaken by a future for which we are ill-prepared.

- President's Council on Bioethics (2008)

Lauren Talman

Project Title: *Elle Vie: A Life Transformed*

Format: Non-fiction

Mentor: William Davis, MD (Obstetrics/Gynecology)

Annah Vollstedt

Project Title: *Specimens*

Format: Photography/prose

Mentors: James Snitzer, PhD (Art & History) & Bruce P. Brown, MD (Radiology)

The purpose of the Humanities Distinction Track 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.

Co-Directors of the Humanities Distinction Track:

Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD

Jason T. Lewis, MFA

Publication Highlight

[Ethical Challenges for Accountable Care Organizations: A Structured Review](#)

by Matthew DeCamp, Neil Farber, Alexia Torke, Maura George, Zackary Berger, Carla Keirns, and Lauris Kaldjian (Lauris Kaldjian is a Faculty member in the Program)

Accountable care organizations (ACOs) are proliferating as a solution to the cost crisis in American health care, and already involve as many as 31 million patients. ACOs hold clinicians, group practices, and in many circumstances hospitals financially accountable for reducing expenditures and improving their patients' health outcomes. The structure of health care affects the ethical issues arising in the practice of medicine; therefore, like all health care organizational structures, ACOs will experience ethical challenges. No framework exists to assist key ACO stakeholders in identifying or managing these challenges. We conducted a structured review of the medical ACO literature using qualitative content analysis to inform identification of ethical challenges for ACOs.

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](#).

UIHC Ethics Consult Service

This new 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](#).

Resource Highlight



[Virtual Mentor – American Medical Association](#)

Founded in 1999, *Virtual Mentor* explores the ethical issues and challenges that students, residents, and other physicians are likely to confront in their training and daily practice. Each monthly issue of *Virtual Mentor* contains original articles and commentary on a given theme (e.g., access to care; quality-of-life considerations in clinical decision making; public roles of physicians; ethical issues in endocrinology; conflict of values in the clinic). *Virtual Mentor* is student- and resident-driven. It is published by the Ethics unit of the American Medical Association.

Bioethics in the Literature

- Weise KL, Daly BJ. Exploring accountability of clinical ethics consultants: practice and training implications. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2014 Jun;14(6):34-41.
 - Press MJ, Judson TJ, Detsky AS. A piece of my mind. Filling buckets. [JAMA](#). 2014 May;311(18):1859-60.
 - Riess H, Kraft-Todd G. E.M.P.A.T.H.Y.: A tool to enhance nonverbal communication between clinicians and their patients. [Acad Med](#). 2014 May 13. [Epub ahead of print]
 - Minkoff H. Teaching ethics: when respect for autonomy and cultural sensitivity collide. [Am J Obstet Gynecol](#). 2014 Apr;210(4):298-301.
 - Murray TH. Genetics. Stirring the simmering "designer baby" pot. [Science](#). 2014 Mar;343(6176):1208-10.
 - Walter JK, Ross LF. Relational autonomy: moving beyond the limits of isolated individualism. [Pediatrics](#). 2014 Feb;133 Suppl 1:S16-S23.
 - Swetz KM, Mansel JK. Ethical issues and palliative care in the cardiovascular intensive care unit. [Cardiol Clin](#). 2013 Nov;31(4):657-68, x.
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