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

Introducing a new Ethics Consult Service at UIHC
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.

An Ethics Consult involves trained ethics consultants who respond to requests for help from individuals directly involved in a patient’s care at UIHC.

Ethics Consults are advisory and can be requested to:

- Identify ethical problems in the care of a patient
- Clarify ethical problems through a careful analysis of the ethical beliefs and values involved
- Promote discussion of ethical beliefs and values with persons directly involved in a patient’s care
- Help resolve ethical problems through a process of shared decision-making

More Details About the Service

Upcoming Events
For a listing of upcoming events related to bioethics and humanities, please click here.

Quotation of the Month
To understand human actions, we need the fullness of detail the narrative affords; to judge these actions and choose among them, we need to prescind from these particularities. We are compelled, therefore, to cultivate both accounts – the standard and the narrative – at least in part, for each grasps some part of the unbelievably complex fabric of moral reality.

- Edmund Pellegrino (1977)
Program Highlight

Christian Simon, a primary Faculty member in the Program, along with David Klein and Helen Schartz in the Law, Health Policy, and Disability Center received funding for one year from the Rural Health Research Center and VA CADRE for a project titled “Electronic consent for rural VA patients: A pilot project”.

Interactive multimedia has the potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of informed consent processes for VA-based research, particularly with rural VA patients. This pilot project will provide novel data on the feasibility and potential value of implementing interactive multimedia to support VA clinical trial recruitment, with emphasis on participation of rural and highly rural VA patients who are eligible for clinical research.

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.

UI History of Medicine Society Highlight

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society and the Iowa Women’s Archives invite you to hear:

Greta Nettleton
University of Iowa Press author and historian
Resident of NY

*Nineteenth century Davenport as a Hotbed of Controversial Alternative Medical Schools*

Thursday, June 19, 2014
5:30pm-6:30pm
2117 MERF
To practice medicine and ethics, physicians need wisdom and integrity to integrate scientific knowledge, patient preferences, their own moral commitments, and society's expectations. This work of integration requires a physician to pursue certain goals of care, determine moral priorities, and understand that conscience or integrity require harmony among a person's beliefs, values, reasoning, actions, and identity. But the moral and religious pluralism of contemporary society makes this integration challenging and uncertain. How physicians treat patients will depend on the particular beliefs and values they and other health professionals bring to each instance of shared decision making. This book offers a framework for practical wisdom in medicine that addresses the need for integrity in the life of each health professional. In doing so, it acknowledges the challenge of moral pluralism and the need for moral dialogue and humility as professionals fulfill their obligations to patients, themselves, and society.

Resource Highlight

The Belmont Report

The Belmont Report was created by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, who were directed to consider: (i) the boundaries between biomedical and behavioral research and the accepted and routine practice of medicine, (ii) the role of assessment of risk-benefit criteria in the determination of the appropriateness of research involving human subjects, (iii) appropriate guidelines for the selection of human subjects for participation in such research and (iv) the nature and definition of informed consent in various research settings. The Belmont Report summarizes the basic ethical principles and guidelines for research involving human subjects identified by the Commission in the course of its deliberations.
Bioethics in the Literature


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