

BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



June 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

[Meet One of Our Ethics Consultants](#)

Rebecca J. Benson, MD, PhD



Dr. Benson is the Director of the Ethics Consult Service at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, where she is also a clinical assistant professor in the Stead Family Department of Pediatrics. She received her MD and PhD in Immunology from the University of Iowa, and stayed on to complete her residency in Pediatrics. She served as a Chief Resident before joining the Division of General and Adolescent Medicine and becoming the Medical Director for the Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Program. She completed a Pediatric Bioethics Certificate Program at the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Dr. Benson currently works as a pediatric hospitalist as well as in pediatric pain and palliative care.

Dr. Benson is on the Ethics Subcommittee of the Hospital Advisory Committee and on the steering committee for Schwartz Center Rounds for Compassionate Healthcare. She was involved in the

Upcoming Events

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

Quotation of the Month

If autonomy were the only value to be taken into account in medical decision making, the idea of informed consent would be a good deal less controversial than it is.

- Appelbaum, Lidz, and Meisel (*Informed Consent: Legal Theory and Clinical Practice*, 1987, pp. 28-29)

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](#).

implementation of the hospital's Ethics Consultation Service and became the Director of the service in July of 2014, as well as serving as one of its consultants. She is involved in ethics education at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Dr. Benson is a fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics and is a member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Publication Highlight

[Interactive Multimedia Consent for Biobanking: A Randomized Trial](#)

Christian Simon, PhD, David Klein, PhD, & Helen Schartz, PhD, JD

Purpose: The potential of interactive multimedia to improve biobank informed consent has yet to be investigated. The aim of this study was to test the separate effectiveness of interactivity and multimedia at improving participant understanding and confidence in understanding of informed consent compared with a standard, face-to-face (F2F) biobank consent process. **Methods:** A 2 (face-to-face versus multimedia) × 2 (standard versus enhanced interactivity) experimental design was used with 200 patients randomly assigned to receive informed consent. All patients received the same information provided in the biobank's nine-page consent document. **Results:** Interactivity ($F(1,196) = 7.56, P = 0.007, \text{partial } \eta^2 = 0.037$) and media ($F(1,196) = 4.27, P = 0.04, \text{partial } \eta^2 = 0.021$) independently improved participants' understanding of the biobank consent. Interactivity ($F(1,196) = 6.793, P = 0.01, \text{partial } \eta^2 = 0.033$), but not media ($F(1,196) = 0.455, \text{not significant}$), resulted in increased participant confidence in their understanding of the biobank's consent materials. Patients took more time to complete the multimedia condition (mean = 18.2 min) than the face-to-face condition (mean = 12.6 min). **Conclusion:** This study demonstrated that interactivity and multimedia each can be effective at promoting an individual's understanding and confidence in their understanding of a biobank consent, albeit with additional time investment. Researchers should not assume that multimedia is inherently interactive, but rather should separate the two constructs when studying electronic consent.

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](#).

Resource Highlight

[Bioethics for Clinicians Series](#)

The Bioethics for Clinicians Series is intended to elucidate key concepts in bioethics and to help clinicians integrate bioethical knowledge into daily practice. The articles are written by scholars in medicine, ethics and law and are published on a monthly basis in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Bioethics in the Literature

- Bernacki RE, Block SD, American College of Physicians High Value Care Task Force. Communication about serious illness care goals: A review and synthesis of best practices. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2014 Dec; 174: 1994-2003.
- Bhatia HL, Patel NR, Choma NN, et al. Code status and resuscitation options in the electronic health record. [Resuscitation](#). 2015 Feb; 87: 14-20.
- Blumenthal D, Abrams M, Nuzum R. The Affordable Care Act at 5 years. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 May 6. [Epub ahead of print]
- Khan A, Capps BJ, Sum MY, et al. Informed consent for human genetic and genomic studies: A systematic review. [Clin Genet](#). 2014 Sep; 86: 199-206.
- Nelson JE, Mathews KS, Weissman DE, et al. Integration of palliative care in the context of rapid response: A report from the Improving Palliative Care in the ICU advisory board. [Chest](#). 2015 Feb; 147: 560-569.
- Rysavy MA, Li L, Bell EF, et al. Between-hospital variation in treatment and outcomes in extremely preterm infants. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 May; 372: 1801-1811.
- Tam NT, Huy NT, Thoa le TB, et al. Participants' understanding of informed consent in clinical trials over three decades: Systematic review and meta-analysis. [Bull World Health Organ](#). 2015 Mar; 93: 186-198H.
- Tarzian AJ, Wocial LD. A code of ethics for health care ethics consultants: Journey to the present and implications for the field. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2015 May; 15: 38-51.
- Tolle SW, Back AL, Meier DE. Clinical decisions. End-of-life advance directive. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 Feb; 372: 667-670.
- Wallace SE, Gourna EG, Laurie G, et al. Respecting autonomy over time: Policy and empirical evidence on re-consent in longitudinal biomedical research. [Bioethics](#). 2015 May 9. [Epub ahead of print]



A Call For Papers

[The Rutgers Journal of Bioethics](#)

DEADLINE: August 30, 2015

The Rutgers Journal of Bioethics is now accepting papers for their Fall issue. Some example topics are medical treatment, biological warfare, research ethics, medical sociology, social justice, history of medicine/science, medical case analysis, eugenics, gene therapy, human cloning, medical malpractice, and healthcare policy. Please click [here](#) if you would like to browse through past issues.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR SUBMISSION:

Cover Sheet: Article title, author name(s), institutional affiliation, date of submission, abstract and contact information (e-mail, phone number and mailing address).

Submissions: Papers should be submitted as Microsoft Word Documents (.doc/.docx), in double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font. The following types of papers will be accepted: opinion editorials (1-3 pages in length), long and short book reviews (1-10 pages, include bibliographic information on book) and research papers (6-15 pages in length of content, not including citations).

Citations: Please use the style guidelines outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA).

ATTACH YOUR SUBMISSION AS AN E-MAIL TO:

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ATTN: ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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