
BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



March 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

[Clinical Research Ethics Consultation Service](#)

The Clinical Research Ethics Consultation Service provides free consultation on ethics issues related to research design, tissue banking, genetic research results, informed consent, and working with vulnerable patient populations. In particular, this Service assists 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.

Consultations are available weekdays during normal business hours, by appointment only. For more information, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

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

Quotation of the Month

... a person's work is part of a person's life, and the two combined as lifework must be seen as constantly responsive to the moral decisions that we never stop making, day in and day out.

- Robert Coles in *Medical Ethics and Living a Life* (New England Journal of Medicine, 1979)

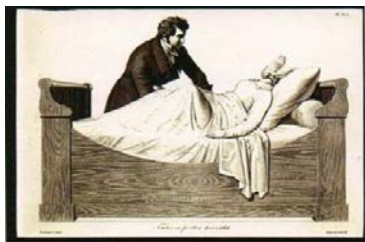
Publication Highlight**[A conceptual model of family surrogate end-of-life decision-making process in the nursing home setting: Goals of care as guiding stars](#)****By Mercedes Bern-Klug, PhD, MSW**

(Dr. Bern-Klug is an affiliate faculty member of the Program.)

An increasing proportion of dying is occurring in America's nursing homes (NH). Family members are involved in (and affected by) medical decision-making on behalf of NH residents approaching the end of life, especially when the resident is cognitively impaired. This article proposes an empirically derived conceptual model of the key factors NH family surrogate decision-makers consider when establishing or changing goals of care and the iterative process as applied to the NH setting. This model also establishes the importance of family social role expectations toward their loved one as well as the concept, "stance toward dying," as key in establishing or changing the main goal of care. NH staff and physicians can use the model as a framework for providing information and support to family members. Research is needed to better understand how to prepare staff and settings to support family surrogate decision-makers, in particular around setting goals of care. The model can be generalized beyond nursing homes.

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](#).

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society
and the University Libraries
invite you to an

[Open House in the John Martin Rare Book Room](#)*Birthing, Midwifery, and Obstetrics through History*

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society
announces the

2015 R. Palmer Howard Dinner



*Medicinal Plants of the Mediterranean:
A Unique Tradition*

Alain Touwaide

Research Associate, History of Science and
Medicine, Smithsonian Institution; Scientific
Director, Institute for Preservation of Medical
Traditions

Date: Friday, April 24, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Carver Room, Sheraton Hotel



The Examined Life Conference

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

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

*Featured presentations are free and open to the public. To
participate fully, it is recommended that you register for the
conference.*

Dates: April 16-18, 2015

Location: Carver College of Medicine

Resource Highlight

[American College of Physician's *Ethics Manual* \(6th Edition\)](#)

The American College of Physician's (ACP's) *Ethics Manual* is intended to guide physicians in making ethical decisions in clinical practice, teaching and medical research. The sixth edition of the ACP *Ethics Manual* covers emerging issues in medical ethics and revisits older ones that are still very pertinent. It reflects on many of the ethical tensions in medicine and attempts to shed light on how existing principles extend to emerging concerns. In addition, by reiterating ethical principles that have provided guidance in resolving past ethical problems, the ACP *Ethics Manual* may help physicians avert future problems.

[More Details](#)

Bioethics in the Literature

- Appelbaum PS, Waldman CR, Fyer A, et al. Informed consent for return of incidental findings in genomic research. [Genet Med](#). 2014 May; 16: 367-373.
 - Fourie C. Moral distress and moral conflict in clinical ethics. [Bioethics](#). 2015 Feb; 29: 91-97.
 - Hein IM, Troost PW, Broersma A, et al. Why is it hard to make progress in assessing children's decision-making competence? [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2015 Jan; 16: 1.
 - Hickman SE, Keevern E, Hammes BJ. Use of the physician orders for life-sustaining treatment program in the clinical setting: A systematic review of the literature. [J Am Geriatr Soc](#). 2015 Feb; 63: 341-350.
 - Sacks CA, Warren CE. Foreseeable risks? Informed consent for studies within the standard of care. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 Jan; 372: 306-307.
 - Spencer C. Having and fighting Ebola – Public health lessons from a clinician turned patient. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 Feb 25. [Epub ahead of print]
 - Wilson J. Embracing complexity: theory, cases and the future of bioethics. [Monash Bioeth Rev](#). 2014 Mar-Jun; 32: 3-21.
 - Wolf SM, Berlinger N, Jennings B. Forty years of work on end-of-life care--from patients' rights to systemic reform. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 Feb 12; 372: 678-682.
-



To unsubscribe from the Bioethics and Humanities monthly Newsletter,
[please click here.](#)

Laura Shinkunas
Editor, Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter
Program in Bioethics and Humanities
500 Newton Road, 1-110 MEB
(319) 384-4654
laura-shinkunas@uiowa.edu