

# BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



November 2013

**Welcome** to the inaugural edition of 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

### *Medicine in the City of Literature*

This article by Dawn Goodlove published in the Summer/Fall 2013 issue of *Medicine Iowa* features information about the many opportunities in the humanities available through the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. As stated by the author, “a healthy dose of humanities is available to physicians in training”.

Information covered in this article includes:

- [The Humanities Distinction Track](#), co-directed by Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD and Jason Lewis, MFA
- [The Writing and Humanities Program](#), directed by Jason Lewis, MFA
- [The Examined Life Conference](#), directed by Jason Lewis, MFA
- The Examined Life Journal
  - Spring 2013 issues includes “Breaking Bad News,” by David Shaha ('13 MD)
- Medical Student Theatre Group

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## Upcoming Events

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

## Quotation of the Month

*Virtue makes us aim at the right target, and practical wisdom makes us use the right means.*

- Aristotle

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## Publication Highlight

*A Closer Look at the Recommended Criteria for Disclosing Genetic Results: Perspectives of Medical Genetic Specialists, Genomic Researchers, and Institutional Review Board Chairs*

Christian Simon, PhD, a Primary Faculty member of the Program, is Senior Author and Co-Principal Investigator for the study, which was supported by an ARRA grant from the National Human Genome Institute of the NIH. This article appeared in the August 2013 edition of the *Journal of Genetic Counseling*.

Next generation sequencing offers benefit of improved health through knowledge, but comes with challenges, such as inevitable incidental findings (IFs). The applicability of recommended criteria for disclosure of individual results when applied to disclosure of IFs is not well known. The purpose of this study was to examine how medical genetic specialists, genomic researchers, and Institutional Review Board (IRB) chairs perceive the importance of recommended criteria when applied to genetic/genomic IFs.

[Read Full Article](#)

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## Resource Highlight

*American Medical Association's (AMA) Code of Medical Ethics*

The AMA's Code of Medical Ethics articulates the enduring values of medicine as a profession. As a statement of the values to which physicians commit themselves individually and collectively, the Code is a touchstone for medicine as a professional community. It defines medicine's integrity and the source of the profession's authority to self-regulate. At the same time, the Code of Medical Ethics is a living document, evolving as changes in medicine and the delivery of health care raise new questions about how the profession's core values apply in physicians' day to day practice. The Code links theory and practice, ethical principles and real world dilemmas in the care of patients.

[More Details](#)

## 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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## UIHC Ethics Consult Service

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) is currently developing an Ethics Consult Service, the implementation of which is expected in 2014. Questions about this service may be directed to UIHC's Medical Director for Clinical Ethics, Dr. Lauris Kaldjian ([lauris-kaldjian@uiowa.edu](mailto:lauris-kaldjian@uiowa.edu)).

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## Bioethics in the Literature

- Bernat JL. Life or death for the dead-donor rule? [N Engl J Med](#). 2013 Oct 3;369(14):1289-91.
- Tilburt JC, Wynia MK, Sheeler RD, Thorsteinsdottir B, James KM, Egginton JS, Liebow M, Hurst S, Danis M, Goold SD. Views of US physicians about controlling health care costs. [JAMA](#). 2013 Jul 24;310(4):380-8.
- Ross LF, Rothstein MA, Clayton EW. Mandatory extended searches in all genome sequencing: “incidental findings,” patient autonomy, and shared decision making. [JAMA](#). 2013 Jul 24;310(4):367-8.
- Wright GE, Koornhof PG, Adeyemo AA, Tiffin N. Ethical and legal implications of whole genome and whole exome sequencing in African populations. [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2013 May 28;14:21.
- Johnston J, Gusmano MK. Why we should all pay for fertility treatment: an argument from ethics and policy. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2013 Mar-Apr;43(2):18-21.
- Grady C. Reflections on two decades of bioethics: where we have been and where we are going. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2013;13(1):8-10.

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## Bioethics in Video

- [PBS NewsHour: Henrietta Lack's 'Immortal' Impact on Medical Research](#). Video aired on August 8, 2013. Approximate run time is 7 minutes.

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