

BIOETHICS & HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



WELCOME...

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](#)

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ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE 2023 CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Program in Bioethics and Humanities,
Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa

Location: 2117 Medical Education Research Facility, Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa

Date and Time: Friday, May 19, 2023, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (check-in opens at 7:30 AM)

Audience: Administrators, Attorneys, Chaplains, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Social Workers, Students, Trainees, and Others

Registration Fee: \$100 (includes continuing education credits)

Conference Coordinator: Noel VanDenBosch, BA (contact: 319-335-6706, noel-vandenbosch@uiowa.edu)

Conference Director: Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD

Objectives:

SESSION ONE (Speaker: Dr. Erica Carlisle)

- Review the ethical principles that guide the allocation of scarce resources.
- Discuss the ethical challenges of triage.
- Explore the moral distress that may occur during triage.

SESSION TWO (Speaker: Dr. Graeme Pitcher)

- Define burnout in healthcare settings.
- Explore ethically controversial aspects of burnout.
- Relate the roots of burnout to healthcare's ethical foundations.

SESSION THREE (Speaker: Dr. Aaron Kunz)

- Explain the goals, benefits, and harms of social distancing.
- Articulate reasons for or against visitor restrictions using bioethical frameworks.
- Propose ethically-conscious, patient-centered strategies for implementing and removing visitor restrictions.

SESSION FOUR (Speaker: Dr. Rebecca Benson)

- Identify key events and issues that have led to the emergence of contemporary clinical ethics consultation.
- Describe the goals and scope of clinical ethics consultation and distinguish it from the roles of an ethics committee or policy review committee.
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of individual, small team, and committee models for providing ethics consultation.

Please see [our website](#) for full details and information about continuing education accreditation.

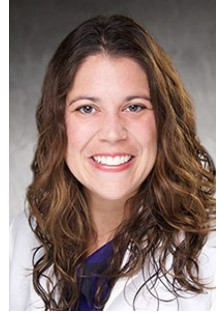
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Listening Lessons

Brittany A. Bettendorf, MD, MFA

[JAMA](#)



In this narrative medicine essay, Dr. Bettendorf describes the importance of paying attention to the deliberate words patients choose and how physicians must seek to understand why they are chosen rather than translating those words to what they expect to hear.

The essay begins:

“I know he didn’t say his ear was ringing, but that is what I heard. I nearly dismissed it—everyone seems to have ringing in their ears at one time or another. But, the fact is, Mr B hadn’t said “ringing.” He said “whooshing.” An unusual word choice. As a physician writer, I felt my 2 professional identities at odds with each other. The physician in me wanted to dismiss this as an all-too-common benign and unrelated concern, while the writer in me could not ignore that ringing was used to describe the sounds made by phones and bells, whereas whooshing might describe a rush of water, a sudden acceleration in the flow of fluid.”

(Bettendorf)

To read the full essay, [click here](#).

HUMANITIES CORNER

This month's spotlight is on **Nicole Hehr, a third year medical student**. Her creative work is a drawing and brief reflection. She completed this creative work as part of the *Ethics and Humanities Sub-Internship Seminar*. During this Seminar students are asked to complete a written reflection or creative work that responds to a situation they encountered during their sub-internship that illustrated values in ethics, professionalism, or humanism.



This piece comes from reflecting on my experiences on the wards with complex patients. In particular, there have been several moments where I was struck by how my team, the patient, and the patient's family could all be in the same room having a shared experience, and yet see and understand the situation so differently. This piece is a reflection of that disconnect and how very different our experiences can be.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Past SARS-CoV-2 infection protection against re-infection: A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Lancet](#). 2023 Mar 11; 401: 833-842.
- ⇒ Boulay RM. Looking after our own. [N Engl J Med](#). 2023 Feb 16; 388: 581-583.
- ⇒ Bowman-Smart H, Gyngell C, Mand C, et al. Non-invasive prenatal testing for “non-medical” traits: Ensuring consistency in ethical decision-making. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2023 Mar 4; 23: 3-20.
- ⇒ Brummett A, Salter EK. Mapping the moral terrain of clinical deception. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2023 Jan; 53: 17-25.
- ⇒ de Melo-Martín I. Disclosing conflicts of interest to potential research participants: Good for nothing? [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2023; 45: 2-13.
- ⇒ Eichelberger M, Wertli MM, Tran NT. Equivalence of care, confidentiality, and professional independence must underpin the hospital care of individuals experiencing incarceration. [BMC Med Ethics](#). 2023 Feb 21; 24: 13.
- ⇒ Ferrario A, Gloeckler S, Biller-Andorno N. Ethics of the algorithmic prediction of goal of care preferences: From theory to practice. [J Med Ethics](#). 2023 Mar; 49: 165-174.
- ⇒ Flanagin A, Bibbins-Domingo K, Berkwitz M, et al. Nonhuman "authors" and implications for the integrity of scientific publication and medical knowledge. [JAMA](#). 2023 Feb 28; 329: 637-639.
- ⇒ Gilbertson L, Savulescu J, Oakley J, et al. Expanded terminal sedation in end-of-life care. [J Med Ethics](#). 2023; 49: 252-260.
- ⇒ Heynemann S, Lipworth W, McLachlan SA, et al. When research becomes practice: The concept of the therapeutic misconception and challenges to consent in clinical trials. [Intern Med J](#). 2023 Feb; 53: 271-274.
- ⇒ Hofmann B. Biases in bioethics: A narrative review. [BMC Medical Ethics](#). 2023 Mar 6; 24: 17.
- ⇒ Incze MA. Redesigning opioid pain agreements to promote patient-centered care. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2023 Mar 1; 183: 179-180.



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

- ⇒ King NMP. An uncommonly good foundation for research ethics. [Ethics Hum Res](#). 2023; 45: 40-42.
- ⇒ London AJ, Seymour CW. The ethics of clinical research: Managing persistent uncertainty. [JAMA](#). 2023 Mar 21; 329: 884-885.
- ⇒ McTernan E. Against visitor bans: Freedom of association, covid-19 and the hospital ward. [J Med Ethics](#). 2023; 49: 288-291.
- ⇒ Meyers C. Justifying clinical deception: Some amendments to Brummett and Salter. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2023 Jan; 53: 26-27.
- ⇒ Miller A, Prasad K, Quach WT, et al. Talking with patients about surgical trainees. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2023 Spring; 34: 98-102.

“The main conclusions of these studies are that patients do want to know about trainee involvement and that many believe it can be discussed in a comforting way if given sufficient information. The findings also suggest that surgeons should be aware that some patients, particularly those with past negative experiences or difficulty trusting the healthcare system, will want to know more information.”

(Miller et al.)

- ⇒ Nicoli F, Grossi AA, Testa J, et al. The circle method: A novel approach to clinical ethics consultation. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2023 Spring; 34: 79-91.
- ⇒ Rees M. Patient autonomy and withholding information. [Bioethics](#). 2023 Mar; 37: 256-264.
- ⇒ Romero K, Widera E, Wachterman MW. Breaking the link between enrollment in hospice and discontinuation of dialysis. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2023 Mar 1; 183: 177-178.
- ⇒ Smith SJ. Keeping quiet about genetic risk. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2023 Mar; 42: 443-447.
- ⇒ SteelFisher GK, Findling MG, Caporello HL, et al. Trust in us federal, state, and local public health agencies during covid-19: Responses and policy implications. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2023 Mar; 42: 328-337.
- ⇒ Vo H, Campelia GD, Olszewski AE. Addressing racism in ethics consultation: An expansion of the four-box method. [J Clin Ethics](#). 2023 Spring; 34: 11-26.
- ⇒ Weil CJ. Ethical, legal, and policy issues surrounding biospecimen research conducted or supported in the USA. [Biopreserv Biobank](#). 2023 Feb; 21: 14-22.

BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Long-troubled transplant system to get an overhaul. [Axios](#), March 23, 2023.
- ⇒ Living kidney donors rely on a promise to protect our future health, We're scared it will go away. [STAT News](#), March 22, 2023.
- ⇒ Pediatric hospital beds are in high demand for ailing children. Here's why. [CNN](#), March 17, 2023.
- ⇒ Sickle cell patient's success with gene editing raises hopes and questions. [NPR](#), March 16, 2023.
- ⇒ New CDC opioid guidelines: Too little, too late for chronic pain patients? [Kaiser Health News](#), March 15, 2023.
- ⇒ National Academies calls for transforming use of racial and ethnic labels in genetics research. [STAT News](#), March 14, 2023.
- ⇒ Do COVID-19 vaccine mandates still make sense? [Science](#), March 14, 2023.
- ⇒ Human genome editing offers tantalizing possibilities—but without clear guidelines, many ethical questions still remain. [The Conversation](#), March 8, 2023.
- ⇒ Alabama artist works to correct historical narrative around beginnings of gynecology. [PBS News Hour](#), February 27, 2023.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING

- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Upcoming Webinars and Events](#)
- ⇒ Michigan State University: [2022-2023 Bioethics Public Seminar Series](#)

ONGOING

- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Recent Webinars and Events](#)
- ⇒ American Journal of Bioethics: [YouTube channel](#) containing previous webinars
- ⇒ The MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics: [YouTube channel](#) containing previous lectures
- ⇒ Children's Mercy Kansas City: [Pediatric Ethics Podcast series](#) and [Webinars and Workshops](#)
- ⇒ Office for Human Research Protections [Luminaries Lecture Series](#)

BIOETHICS SERVICES AT THE UIHC

ETHICS CONSULT SERVICE

This service is a clinical resource for UI Health Care personnel who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care.

Consults can be ordered through EPIC or by paging the ethics consultant on call. For more information, [click here](#).



CLINICAL RESEARCH ETHICS 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, [click here](#).