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
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.

Oaths and Ethics (MED:8413) is an Advanced Elective directed by Dr. Kaldjian. It is a course for CCOM students who are in the last phase of the CCOM curriculum. It aims to help students gain a deeper appreciation for the meaning and significance of a medical oath, both for themselves, and for their profession and society. In this four-week elective, students will have the opportunity to discuss the history and purpose of medical oaths, examine the content of medical oaths in terms of ethical values and obligations, reflect on ethical principles and virtues communicated in ethics-related seminars at UIHC, and write a medical oath that crystalizes their own most important professional commitments.

This advanced elective is already full for 2020, but there is still room in 2021!

Students who are interested can email Dr. Kaldjian for more information or can register by contacting the CCOM Registrar’s Office.

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society invites you to visit the John Martin Rare Book Room website. On this website you will find resources, digital exhibits, videotaped lectures, and news/highlights.

For a list of the University of Iowa History of Medicine Society 2019-2020 Presentations and Events, click here.
Attitudes about Sickness Presenteeism in Medical Training: Is There a Hidden Curriculum?

Lauris C. Kaldjian, Laura A. Shinkunas, Heather Schacht Reisinger, Marc A. Polacco, Eli N. Perencevich

Antimicrob Resist Infect Control (2019)

Background: Sickness presenteeism among healthcare professionals can compromise patient safety. To better understand what motivates this phenomenon, especially among trainees, the authors investigated attitudes of medical students, resident physicians, and faculty physicians about working when sick with what might be an infectious condition.

Methods: In 2012-2013, the authors employed a mixed methods, two-stage, cross-sectional survey at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics of medical students (third-year students in the first survey and fourth-year students in the second survey), resident physicians in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Family Medicine (first-year residents in the first survey and second-year residents in the second survey), and faculty physicians in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Family Medicine. The first survey included one open-ended question querying attitudes about sickness presenteeism, answers to which underwent content analysis that identified 17 codes used to develop 23 additional closed-ended questions for a second survey.

Results: 127 participants completed the second survey (44% response rate). Sixty percent of these participants felt obligated to work when sick; and 33% felt obligated to work with influenza-like symptoms (fever, myalgias, cough), with residents and students being more likely to do so than faculty (67% vs. 35% vs. 14%, p = 0.001). Most participants (83%) were motivated to work when sick to avoid creating more work for colleagues, and residents and students were more likely than faculty physicians to want to avoid negative repercussions (84% vs 71% vs. 25%, p < 0.001) or appear lazy or weak (89% vs 75% vs. 40%, p < 0.001). Most participants also recognized the need to avoid spreading infections to patients (81%) or colleagues (75%).

Conclusions: When deciding whether to work when sick, students, residents, and faculty report a mixture of motivations that focus on the interests of patients, colleagues, and themselves. Awareness of these mixed motivations, particularly among trainees, can help inform interventions aimed at limiting instances of sickness presenteeism to support a culture of patient safety and counter any tendencies toward a hidden curriculum of efficiency and achievement.

For the full text of this article, click here.
ROBERT D. SPARKS WRITING CONTEST

The purpose of this contest is to examine the influences of history, ethics, culture, literature, philosophy, sociology, or related frameworks on medicine, the practice of medicine, and the human condition.

Two $1,200 awards will be given to the best submissions that examine a significant issue in medicine using ethical, historical, or cultural perspectives. In case of a tie, judges reserve the right to split a prize. This competition is open to all medical students and physician assistant students enrolled in the UI Carver College of Medicine.

Submissions should be 2500-5000 words in length, double spaced with 1-inch margins in a 12 point font (approximately 12 to 20 pages).

Deadline for entry: March 24, 2020

For more information, click here.

SUMMER ETHICS FELLOWSHIP FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

FASPE (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics) is now accepting applications for its 2020 Medical program.

FASPE Medical is a fully-funded, two-week summer program that uses the conduct of doctors and other medical professionals in Nazi Germany as a launching point and backdrop for an intensive study of contemporary medical ethics. FASPE Medical is predicated upon the power of place. Fellows visit Auschwitz and other sites in Germany and Poland where they consider how to apply the lessons of history to the ethical challenges in medicine today.

In 2020, the program will take place from June 12 to June 26. All program costs are covered, including travel, lodging, and food.

FASPE Medical is open to all current MD and DO students.

To learn more about FASPE and to apply, please visit: www.faspe-ethics.org.

Completed applications are due by Monday, December 20, 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact Thorsten Wagner, Executive Director of FASPE, at twagner@faspe-ethics.org.
**Take home points**

⇒ Three different types of surrogate decision makers are: designated power of attorney (DPOA), guardian, and next of kin. DPOA is chosen by the patient when they have capacity, a guardian is selected by the court and can either be known by the patient or not previously known to the patient, and next of kin hierarchy for certain types of decisions is dependent on jurisdiction.

⇒ For the state of Iowa, 144A describes the hierarchy of surrogates for making decisions regarding use of life-sustaining procedures and the process that would be followed under the specific conditions under which it applies. Hospital legal is available if healthcare professionals have questions about application to a certain clinical scenario.

⇒ Healthcare professionals need to be vigilant when assisting with completion of Advance Directives or IPOST orders and when reviewing them for validity. If there is a discrepancy, a family meeting with patient (if able), family members, and the medical team is helpful.

**Key references**


⇒ Iowa Legislature. Iowa Code 2019, [Chapter 144A: Life-Sustaining Procedures](#).

**Tools and Resources**

⇒ American Medical Association (AMA) [Code of Medical Ethics](#).

⇒ American Medical Association (AMA) [Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs](#).

*Provided by John Arce, MD*


⇒ Friedrich AB. More than "spending time with the body": The role of a family's grief in determinations of brain death. *J Bioeth Inq*. 2019 Nov 4. [Epub ahead of print]


⇒ MacDonald S. Leo died the other day. *CMAJ*. 2019 Jan 14; 191: E49-E50.


BIOETHICS NEWS AND EVENTS

⇒ **They bring medical care to the homeless and build relationships to save lives.** NPR, November 21, 2019.
⇒ **Your diagnosis was wrong. Could doctor bias have been a factor?** The Washington Post, November 18, 2019.
⇒ **Google almost made 100,000 chest X-rays public — until it realized personal data could be exposed.** The Washington Post, November 15, 2019.
⇒ **CRISPR’s unwanted anniversary.** Science, November 15, 2019.
⇒ **Patient care is wrenching: A psychiatrist, a nurse and a doctor bare all.** The New York Times, November 12, 2019.
⇒ **In defence of conscientious objection.** BioEdge, November 10, 2019.
⇒ **The first women elected to College Fellowship.** American College of Surgeons Bulletin, September 1, 2019.

Registration is now open for a series of pediatric ethics webinars hosted by Children’s Mercy Kansas City Bioethics Center. For more information and to register, click [here](#).