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
**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, please click here.

**Program Highlight (Continued)**

The Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine will host its annual Ethics in Healthcare conference on May 19, 2017 in the Medical Education and Research Facility (MERF). This conference is designed to help healthcare professionals meet the challenges of the increasing number and range of ethical challenges in healthcare as they surface in their work as clinicians, members of ethics committees or ethics consult teams, and administrators. For a printable brochure, click here.

**Intended Audience:** Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Chaplains, Physician Assistants, Trainees, Students, and Others

For more information about the conference and to register, please click here.

**Publication Highlight**

‘*I wish someone watched me interview:*’ Medical Student Insight into Observation and Feedback as a Method for Teaching Communication Skills During the Clinical Years

Heather Schopper, Marcy Rosenbaum, and Rick Axelson

**Background:** Experts suggest observation and feedback is a useful tool for teaching and evaluating medical student communication skills during the clinical years. Failing to do this effectively risks contributing to deterioration of students’ communication skills during the very educational period in which they are most important. While educators have been queried about their thoughts on this issue, little is known about what this process is like for learners and if they feel they get educational value from being observed. This study explored student perspectives regarding their experiences with clinical observation and feedback on communication skills.

**Methods:** A total of 125 senior medical students at a U.S. medical school were interviewed about their experiences with observation and feedback. Thematic analysis of interview data identified common themes among student responses.

**Results:** The majority of students reported rarely being observed interviewing, and they reported receiving feedback even less frequently. Students valued having communication skills observed and became more comfortable with observation the more it occurred. Student-identified challenges included supervisor time constraints and grading based on...
PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT (CONTINUED)

observation. Most feedback focused on information gathering and was commonly delayed until well after the observed encounter.

Conclusions: Eliciting students’ perspectives on the effect of observation and feedback on the development of their communication skills is a unique way to look at this topic, and brings to light many student-identified obstacles and opportunities to maximize the educational value of observation and feedback for teaching communication, including increasing the number of observations, disassociating observation from numerically scored evaluation, training faculty to give meaningful feedback, and timing the observation/feedback earlier in clerkships.

For the full article, please click here.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMED CONSENT—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (FINAL GUIDANCE)

Last month the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published final guidance aimed at providing answers to commonly asked questions about using electronic systems and processes that may employ multiple electronic media to obtain informed consent for both HHS-regulated human subject research and FDA-regulated clinical investigations of medical products, including human drug and biological products, medical devices, and combinations thereof. This guidance finalizes the draft guidance entitled “Use of Electronic Informed Consent in Clinical Investigations—Questions and Answers” issued in March 2015. The final guidance was developed in collaboration with FDA and OHRP and is issued as a joint final guidance.

To access the Federal Register notice announcing the availability of the final guidance document, please click here.

To access a copy of the final guidance document, please 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. This competition is open to all medical students and physician assistant students enrolled in the UI Carver College of Medicine.

Submission 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 21, 2017**

For more information, please click here.

---

**HISTORY OF MEDICINE SOCIETY PRESENTATION**

**Date:** Thursday, January 26, 2017  
**Time:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 2117 Medical Education Research Facility (MERF)

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society invites you to hear:

Russell Currier  
Past President  
American Veterinary Medical History Society

**Iowa’s Richard Edwin Shope MD:**  
**His Contributions to Influenza Research and One Medicine/Health**

Richard E. Shope MD (1901-1966) was a pioneer microbiologist who investigated a variety of human and animal diseases. Dr. Shope joined the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute at Princeton to work with Dr. Paul Lewis, the discoverer of polio virus. In 1928, he left tuberculosis research to investigate hog cholera where he observed his first outbreak of swine influenza. Later he isolated the virus from pigs and its co-pathogen "Haemophilus influenzae suis", and postulated that the swine virus was related to the human 1918 pandemic virus.
THE AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY
WILLIAM B. BEAN STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

The American Osler Society announces the availability of an award for support of research in the broad areas of medical history and medical humanities. Candidates must be currently matriculated students in approved schools of medicine in the United States or Canada. The successful applicant may be eligible to present a paper based on his or her findings at the annual meeting of the American Osler Society. The stipend for the coming year will be $1,500, and up to $750 additional may be available to support travel to the annual meeting contingent on submission of a paper acceptable to the Committee at the conclusion of the studentship.

Deadline for entry: March 1, 2017

For more information, please click here.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE


