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, click here.

**Program Highlight**

**Editorial Writing for Medical Students**

*Editorial Writing for Medical Students* (IM:8449) is a new offering directed by Brittany Bettendorf, MD, an Affiliate Faculty Member in the Program. This course which focuses on editorial writing is a four-week advanced elective for medical students in Phase III of the curriculum. This elective will allow students to understand and practice the skill of writing Opinion Editorials aimed at improving the public’s understanding of health and healthcare. Students will learn how to effectively engage a broad, non-medical audience through their writing, with the goal of producing an Opinion Editorial piece that could be submitted for publication to a local or national newspaper.

The course will meet 2 times per week for 2.5 hours/session. The first session of each week (Monday) will be a seminar with a focus on discussion of the assigned readings. There will also be a brief time (10-15 minutes) allotted for writing. The second session of each week (Wednesday) will be conducted in a workshop format for the purposes of editing and receiving feedback on the students’ editorial pieces. During the workshop students will share their work and receive constructive critical feedback from the instructor and their peers.

Outside of class, students will be responsible for critically reading all course material (approximately 10-15 hours per week), preparing one presentation (approximately 5 hours during the week they are assigned), completing writing assignments and discussion posts (approximately 15 hours per week), and meeting with a class partner to discuss each other’s work (approximately 3-5 hours per week).

Students can email Dr. Bettendorf for a copy of the syllabus.

Students interested in registering for this course can contact the Registrar with the course number (IM:8449).

**Reading Ethics at UIHC**

If you are interested to see what the UIHC Ethics Subcommittee was reading in December, click on the following links [article 1; article 2]

**History of Medicine Society**

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society invites you to read “Notes from the John Martin Rare Book Room, December 2017.”

For a listing of the University of Iowa History of Medicine Society 2017/2018 Presentations and Events, click here.

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society and the John Martin Rare Book Room now have a large number of video and audio recordings of HOMS lectures from 1985-2017. To access the recordings, click here.
The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society invites you to hear:

*Ancient Surgery in Early Modern Italy: Celsus, Benivieni, Morgagni*

**Marquis Berrey**  
Associate Professor  
Classics Department, University of Iowa

**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2018  
**Time:** 5:30-6:30 pm  
**Location:** 2117 MERF (Medical Education and Research Facility)

European medical professionals from the 15th through the early 19th centuries treated the De Medicina “On Medicine” by the ancient Roman encyclopediast Aulus Cornelius Celsus (fl. 30 CE) as a standard medical reference equivalent to the works of Hippocrates and Galen. This lecture considers how Benivieni and Morgagni put Celsus’ De Medicina to work in medical ethics, in identifications of syphilis, and in specific surgical interventions.

**RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT**  
**Fostering Integrity in Research**

*Fostering Integrity in Research* is a 2017 consensus study report form the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that examines challenges to scientific integrity facing the research enterprise and recommends steps that individual scientists, research institutions, research sponsors, journal publishers, and professional societies should take to meet these challenges and better protect integrity in research.
CAROL A. BOWMAN CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Established by Richard Caplan, MD

Sponsored by the UI Carver College of Medicine Program in Bioethics and Humanities in conjunction with the UI Carver College of Medicine’s Writing and Humanities Program

Purpose: To encourage medical students to reflect on their new experiences in the world of medicine and to encourage the process and discipline of putting words on paper effectively, and to enjoy the satisfactions of creative effort.

Contest Guidelines: Entries may be of any length or literary genre (fiction, essay, poetry, drama, memoir). The winning submissions will be published with author approval to be distributed (gratis) online and in The Examined Life Journal. Only medical students of the UI Carver College of Medicine are eligible to enter this contest.

Contest Deadline: April 1, 2017 at 5:00 pm

For more information, 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 20, 2018

For more information, click here.

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Graduate students, professional students and post-doctoral fellows are invited to submit essays addressing aspects and issues of the philosophy of medicine. The author of the winning essay will receive $500 and will be invited to present their work in a 45 minute lecture at this year’s annual Pellegrino Symposium to be held at Georgetown University on March 2, 2018.

The award winner will receive paid domestic travel and housing costs to attend the symposium. The winning essay will be published in a forthcoming special issue of the journal *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*. Two runner up essayists will be presented with certificates. The runners up may present their papers in poster format at the conference should they choose to attend, and their essays will be considered for publication (if merited, but not guaranteed).

Essays should be original, make reference to the work of Edmund Pellegrino, address some aspect of the philosophy of medicine, and be no more than 3500 words in length (plus references and notes). While any style is acceptable, APA format is preferred. Essays should be submitted electronically to Prof. James Giordano no later than January 12, 2018. The winner will be announced February 2, 2018.

### BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- Piccoli GB, Sofronie AC, Coindre JP. The strange case of Mr. H. Starting dialysis at 90 years of age: Clinical choices impact on ethical decisions. *BMC Med Ethics*. 2017 Nov; 18: 61.
⇒ **Italy passes controversial end-of-life bill.** BioEdge, December 16, 2017.

⇒ **We regret to inform you that a British surgeon was branding his initials on livers.** NPR, December 13, 2017.

⇒ **‘Ethics dumping’ - the dark side of international research.** The Conversation, December 12, 2017.


⇒ **Should eye surgeons fulfill a dying man’s wish to see his family?** NPR, December 3, 2017.

⇒ **What to do when a patient has a ‘do not resuscitate’ tattoo.** The Atlantic, December 1, 2017.