

Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES, CARVER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

July 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

Although the rationale for defining death as the loss of integrated functioning has stood the test of time, the claim that the brain is responsible for maintaining this integrated functioning has not.

Truog et al. ([JAMA](#), 2018)

UIHC ETHICS CONSULT SERVICE

This service is a resource for patients, family members, or health professionals at UIHC who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care. Consults can be ordered by UIHC clinicians through EPIC. Consults can also be requested by calling (319) 356-1616 and asking for the ethics consultant on call. For more information, [click here](#).



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](#)

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Rethinking medical oaths using the Physician Charter and ethical virtues

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Abstract

Objective: Medical oaths express ethical values that are essential to the trust within the patient-physician relationship and medicine's commitment to society. However, the contents of oaths vary between medical schools and therefore raise questions about which ethical values should be included in a medical oath. More than a decade has passed since this variability was last analysed in North America, and since that time the Physician Charter on Medical Professionalism has gained considerable attention, raising the

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](#).

READING ETHICS AT UIHC

If you are interested to see what the UIHC Ethics Subcommittee was reading in June, [click here](#).

HISTORY OF MEDICINE SOCIETY

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](#), and news/highlights, such as [Notes from the Rare Book Room](#).

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT (CONTINUED)

possibility that the Charter may be influencing medical oaths and making them more consistent.

Methods: The authors conducted a content analysis of 84 oaths available in 2015 from medical schools in the USA and Canada affiliated with the Association of American Medical Colleges, organising the content into three categories: (i) ethical values, (ii) principles and commitments in the Physician Charter, and (iii) ethical virtues.

Results: Only five ethical values were expressed in the majority of oaths (confidentiality, obligation to the profession, beneficence, avoiding discrimination, and honour and integrity), and respect for patient autonomy was uncommon. Only three of the Physician Charter's principles and commitments (primacy of patient welfare, social justice and confidentiality) and one virtue (honour and integrity) were reflected in the majority of oaths.

Conclusions: Medical oaths in North America appear to be highly variable in content. Greater attention to resources like the Physician Charter can help improve the ethical content and consistency of oaths across different institutions, and throughout their education medical students should be encouraged to discuss and reflect on the principles and virtues they will profess when they graduate. To read the full article, [click here](#).



BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Beirne RC. Extraordinary minds, impossible choices: Mental health, special skills and television. [Med Humanit](#). 2018 May 26. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Caulley L, Gillick MR, Lehmann LS. Substitute decision making in end-of-life care. [N Engl J Med](#). 2018 Jun; 378: 2339-2341.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Curtis JR, Downey L, Back AL, et al. Effect of a patient and clinician communication-priming intervention on patient-reported goals-of-care discussions between patients with serious illness and clinicians: A randomized clinical trial. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2018 May 26. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Dressler G, Kelly SA. Ethical implications of medical crowdfunding: The case of Charlie Gard. [J Med Ethics](#). 2018 May 4. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Kilbride MK. Genetic privacy, disease prevention, and the principle of rescue. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2018 May; 48: 10-17.
- ⇒ Kirkman AO, Hartsock JA, Torke AM. How the Fault in our Stars illuminates four themes of the adolescent end of life narrative. [Med Humanit](#). 2018 May 26. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Padfield D, Omand H, Semino E, et al. Images as catalysts for meaning-making in medical pain encounters: A multidisciplinary analysis. [Med Humanit](#). 2018 Jun; 44: 74-81.
- ⇒ Scott-Conner, C. After midnight. [Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine](#). Spring 2018.
- ⇒ Simkulet W. Informed consent and nudging. [Bioethics](#). 2018 Jun 19. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Simon CM, Schartz HA, Rosenthal GE, et al. Perspectives on electronic informed consent from patients underrepresented in research in the United States: A focus group study. [J Empir Res Hum Res Ethics](#). 2018 May 1. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ Truog RD, Pope TM, Jones DS. The 50-year legacy of the Harvard report on brain death. [JAMA](#). 2018 Jun 7. [Epub ahead of print]
- ⇒ White BD, Shelton WN, Rivais CJ. Were the "pioneer" clinical ethics consultants "outsiders"? For them, was "critical distance" that critical? [Am J Bioeth](#). 2018 Jun; 18: 34-44.

BIOETHICS NEWS AND EVENTS

- ⇒ [Doling out pain pills post-surgery: An ingrown toenail not the same as a bypass](#). Kaiser Health News, June 22, 2018.
- ⇒ [Here comes the right-to-try profiteers. The FDA is powerless to stop them](#). STAT News, June 20, 2018.
- ⇒ [Nabbing the "Golden State Killer" poses bioethics question](#). BioEdge, June 16, 2018.
- ⇒ [AMA's stand on assisted suicide weakens after annual meeting](#). BioEdge, June 16, 2018.
- ⇒ [Controversial NIH study of 'moderate drinking' will be terminated after scathing report](#). STAT News, June 15, 2018.
- ⇒ [That 'living will' you signed? At the ER, it could be open to interpretation](#). Kaiser Health News, June 14, 2018.

BIOETHICS NEWS AND EVENTS (CONTINUED)

The [Conley Art of Medicine](#) contest for medical students, residents, and fellows is now open through September 25, 2018, with a \$5,000 prize for the winning art entry. The [Conley Ethics Essay](#) contest for medical students, residents, and fellows is now open through September 25, 2018, with a \$5000 prize for the winning essay.

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Questions or comments? Email the [Newsletter Editor](#).