

# 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.

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# PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

## To Procure Organs for Transplantation, Normothermic Regional Perfusion and Brain Death Dislocate Circulation and Brain from an Integrated Concept of Embodied Persons

Lauris Christopher Kaldjian

[The American Journal of Bioethics](#)

This piece is an open peer commentary to the article by Emil J. N. Busch entitled "[Restoring the Organism as a Whole: Does NPR Resurrect the Dead?](#)"

### The commentary begins:

Why is there still debate about definitions of death in medicine and bioethics? Is it because of existential uncertainty and philosophical curiosity about when a person has died so the person's dead body can appropriately be cremated or buried? Is it because a diagnosis of death is required before life-sustaining treatments can be discontinued from patients who are critically ill and dying? Or is it because of concerns about the "dead donor rule" and its prohibition of the procurement of organs for transplantation unless a patient is first declared dead? This last possibility is the plausible explanation for the tenacious endeavor to promote modified criteria for death. As a physician and ethicist, I am struck by the complexity of this persistent effort and its contrast with the relatively simple bedside examinations I performed as a physician in training when asked to "declare death" for a patient who was thought by a nurse to have died. These assessments were based on the absence of spontaneous movements over a period of time, fixed pupils, and the absence of respiratory effort and palpable pulses. There were no debates about what constituted death. The assessment of death was demonstrable and biologically reliable. And it remains so.

(Kaldjian)

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

# BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

## APPROACHING BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS FROM A SOCIAL DETERMINANTS LENS

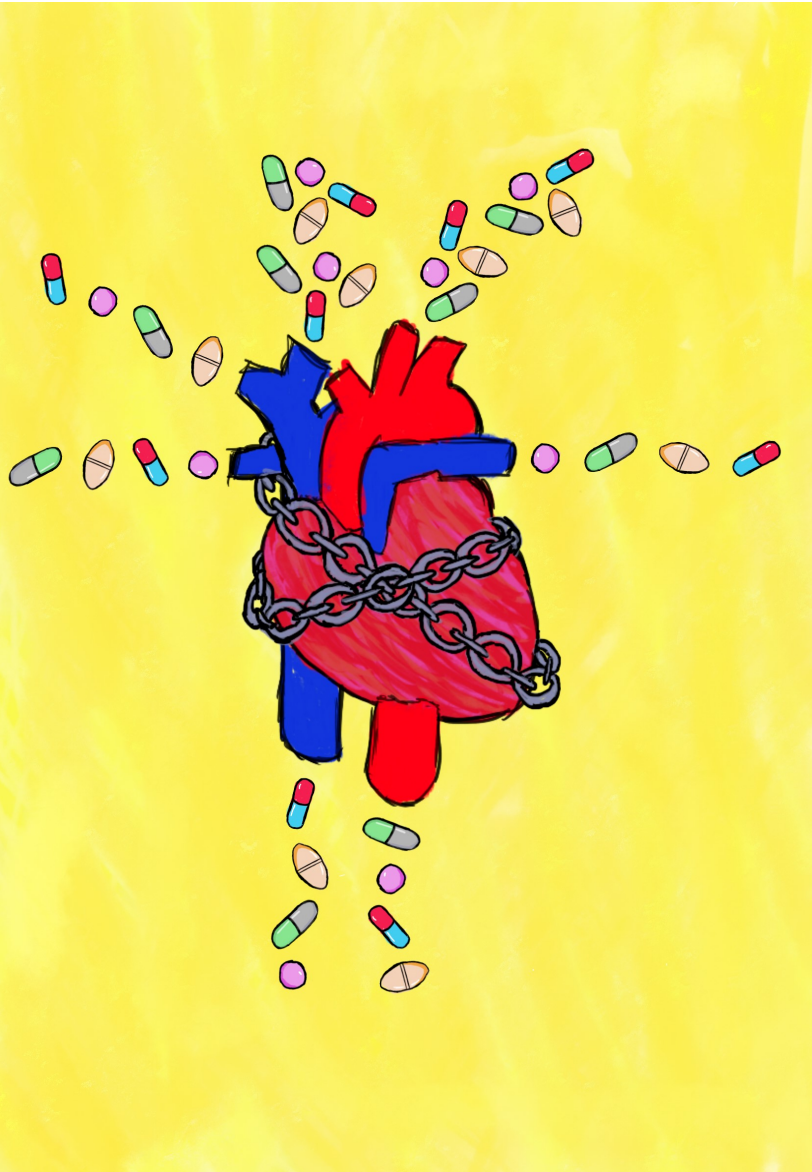
### Key Articles and Resources

- ⇒ Artiga S, Hinton E. [Beyond health care: The role of social determinants in promoting health and health equity](#). KFF. July 9, 2019.
- ⇒ Bourgois P, Holmes SM, Sue K, et al. Structural vulnerability: Operationalizing the concept to address health disparities in clinical care. [Acad Med](#). 2017; 92: 299-307.
- ⇒ CDC - Adolescent and School Health. [Health disparities](#). May 26, 2023.
- ⇒ CDC - Office of Health Equity. [Health equity](#). April 20, 2023.
- ⇒ CDC - Children's Mental Health. [Data and statistics on children's mental health](#). March 8, 2023.
- ⇒ Fadus MC, Ginsburg KR, Sobowale K, et al. Unconscious bias and the diagnosis of disruptive behavior disorders and ADHD in African American and Hispanic youth. [Acad Psychiatry](#). 2020; 44: 95-102.
- ⇒ Healthy People 2030. [Social Determinants of Health](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.
- ⇒ Washington HA. Medical Apartheid: The dark history of medical experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial times to the present. New York: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group. 2008.



## HUMANITIES CORNER

This month's spotlight is on **Suchet Anand, a fourth year medical student**. His creative work is a visual art piece and a reflection. He 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.



**Reflection:** While at the VA, many of the patients I helped take care of were suffering from heart failure. And for each of these patients, we spent much of our time working with cardiology to start and stop different parts of goal-directed medical therapy, titrate doses, and hand out Lasix like candy. At times it felt like the diagnosis of heart failure defined my patients. It seemed like we focused so much on their treatment, that we didn't think about other important aspects of our patients – their emotions, feelings, and thoughts. I made this drawing to capture my perspective on how sometimes the medications we prescribe create chains that trap the heart and the feelings it holds.



# BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Bernat JL. The unified brain-based determination of death conceptually justifies death determination in DCDD and NRP protocols. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2024; 24: 4-15.
- ⇒ Bharel M, Auerbach J, Nguyen V, et al. Transforming public health practice with generative artificial intelligence. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2024; 43: 776-782.
- ⇒ Bock A. To fix burnout, new initiatives go beyond worker resilience and put onus on health systems. [JAMA](#). 2024 May 31. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Camplain C, Camplain R. The unmet health care needs of indigenous people incarcerated in tribal jails. [JAMA](#). 2024 June 12. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Campo R. Poetry and seeing the sacred in medicine. [JAMA](#). 2024 June 12. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Charnysh E, Pal S, Reader JM, et al. Healthcare utilization and behavior changes following workplace genetic testing at a large U.S. Healthcare system. [Genet Med](#). 2024 May 7.[Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Douglass B, Stager SL, Shaw K, et al. Professional identity in nursing: Why it is important in graduate education. [J Prof Nurs](#). 2024; 52: 50-55.
- ⇒ Forte K, Larkin D. Applying lessons from Ars Moriendi to foster dying well in acute care settings. [J Hosp Palliat Nurs](#). 2024; 26: 172-177.
- ⇒ Gerber MR. Covered lives: Industry term for number of people enrolled in a health insurance plan, including policyholder and dependents. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2024; 39: 1521.
- ⇒ Goldberg DG, Soylu T, Hoffman CF, et al. "Anxiety, covid, burnout and now depression": A qualitative study of primary care clinicians' perceptions of burnout. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2024; 39: 1317-1323.
- ⇒ Harris J, Germain J, McCoy E, et al. Ethical guidance for conducting health research with online communities: A scoping review of existing guidance. [PLoS One](#). 2024; 19: e0302924.
- ⇒ Horecki P, Deming J, Lagunas M, et al. Improve advance care planning: A brief report discussing goals of care interventions to improve communication among health care teams and patients maximizing the use of the electronic health record tools. [J Palliat Med](#). 2024; 27: 658-662.



# BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Jungkunz M, Köngeter A, Winkler EC, et al. Do physicians have a duty to support secondary use of clinical data in biomedical research? An inquiry into the professional ethics of physicians. [J Law Med Ethics](#). 2024; 52: 101-117.
- ⇒ Long KNG, Symons X, VanderWeele TJ, et al. Spirituality as a determinant of health: Emerging policies, practices, and systems. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2024; 43: 783-790.
- ⇒ Mahura M, Karle B, Sayers L, et al. Use of the supportive and palliative care indicators tool (SPICT™) for end-of-life discussions: A scoping review. [BMC Palliat Care](#). 2024; 23: 119.
- ⇒ Marks M, Brendel RW, Shachar C, et al. Essentials of informed consent to psychedelic medicine. [JAMA Psychiatry](#). 2024; 81: 611-617.
- ⇒ Mettler SK. The day the electronic medical records system went down. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2024; 184: 600-601.

*“Our patient care on that day was the most patient-centered and most collaborative than ever in my 2½ years of residency. It was an epic day.”*

(Mettler)

- ⇒ Nichol AA, Halley M, Federico C, et al. Moral engagement and disengagement in health care AI development. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2024: 1-10.
- ⇒ Omelianchuk A, Capron AM, Ross LF, et al. Neither ethical nor prudent: Why not to choose normothermic regional perfusion. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2024 May 20. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Richards N, Fried M, Svirsky L, et al. Clinician perspectives on opioid treatment agreements: A qualitative analysis of focus groups. [AJOB Empir Bioeth](#). 2023: 1-12.
- ⇒ Roberts W. Creative writing in medical ethics: Reflections on reflective practice. [Br J Gen Pract](#). 2024; 74: 266.
- ⇒ Schwarze ML, Arnold RM, Clapp JT, et al. Better conversations for better informed consent: Talking with surgical patients. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2024; 54: 11-14.
- ⇒ Segal JB. What "first, do no harm" means in pediatrics. [JAMA Pediatr](#). 2024 June 3. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Turner K, Brummett A, Salter E. On what grounds? A pilot study of references used in clinical ethics consultation and education. [HEC Forum](#). 2024 May 31. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Yu KH, Healey E, Leong TY, et al. Medical artificial intelligence and human values. [N Engl J Med](#). 2024; 390: 1895-1904.

# BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ This federal rule didn't stop coercive sterilization—but it blocked contraceptive access. Can it be fixed? [STAT News](#), June 18, 2024.
- ⇒ AI is not a magic wand—it has built-in problems that are difficult to fix and can be dangerous. [The Conversation](#), June 16, 2024.
- ⇒ How a major public hospital is protecting doctors by silencing the patients who accuse them. [NBC News](#), June 14, 2024.
- ⇒ The dark history of medical education. [WBUR](#), June 13, 2024.
- ⇒ Trouble for ecstasy? What MDMA's FDA setback could mean for psychedelics. [NPR](#), June 13, 2024.
- ⇒ What to know about the Southern Baptists' vote opposing I.V.F. [The New York Times](#), June 13, 2024.
- ⇒ Hope, despair and CRISPR—the race to save one woman's life. [Nature](#), June 12, 2024.
- ⇒ Elite researchers in China say they had 'no choice' but to commit misconduct. [Nature](#), June 11, 2024.
- ⇒ How can you part with the embryo that could have been your child? [The Atlantic](#), June 7, 2024.
- ⇒ AI is imitating the dead and dying, raising new questions about the grieving. [Associated Press](#), June 4, 2024.
- ⇒ It is too soon for clinical trials on artificial wombs. [Scientific American](#), June 1, 2024.



# BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [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](#)
- ⇒ *Health Ethics* podcast with host Bryan Pilkington, PhD (Seton Hall University): Discuss a wide variety of ethical issues associated with health and healthcare, including AI, academic freedom, research ethics, medical education, public health, global health, and much more. You can find the *Health Ethics* podcast on Google Podcasts, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Audible. First two episodes: [Societal Informed Consent in the Age of AI](#) and [Do Healthcare Institutions Have a Conscience?](#)

# 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](#).