

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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The Program](#)

Inside this issue:

Publication Highlight: Moral distress, conscientious practice, and the endurance of ethics in health care through times of crisis and calm	2
Bioethics Topic of the Month: How do we show compassion?	3
Humanities Corner: Creative Work by Jacob Schroeder, M4	4
Bioethics in the Literature	5-6
Bioethics in the News	7
Bioethics Opportunities	7
Bioethics Services at the UIHC	8

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

Moral Distress, Conscientious Practice, and the Endurance of Ethics in Health Care through Times of Crisis and Calm

Lauris C. Kaldjian

[The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy](#)

When health professionals experience moral distress during routine clinical practice, they are challenged to maintain integrity through conscientious practice guided by ethical principles and virtues that promote the dignity of all human beings who need care. Their integrity also needs preservation during a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic, especially when faced with triage protocols that allocate scarce resources. Although a crisis may change our ability to provide life-saving treatment to all who need it, a crisis should not change the ethical values that should always be guiding clinical care. Enduring ethical commitments should encourage clinicians to base treatment decisions on the medical needs of individual patients. This approach contrasts with utilitarian attempts to maximize selected aggregate outcomes by using scoring systems that use short-term and possibly long-term prognostic estimates to discriminate between patients and thereby treat them unequally in terms of their eligibility for life-sustaining treatment. During times of crisis and calm, moral communication allows clinicians to exercise moral agency and advocate for their individual patients, thereby demonstrating conscientious practice and resisting influences that may contribute to compartmentalization, moral injury, and burnout.

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



BIOETHICS TOPIC OF THE MONTH:

HOW DO WE SHOW COMPASSION?

Key Articles and Resources

- ⇒ Cassell EJ. Diagnosing suffering: A perspective. [Ann Intern Med](#). 1999; 131: 531-534.
- ⇒ Costa-Drolon E, Verneuil L, Manolios E, et al. Medical students' perspectives on empathy: A systematic review and metasynthesis. [Acad Med](#). 2021; 96: 142-154.
- ⇒ Frank AW. Narrative ethics as dialogical story-telling. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2014; 44: S16-20.
- ⇒ Frank AW. Truth telling, companionship, and witness: An agenda for narrative ethics. [Hastings Cent Rep](#). 2016; 46: 17-21.
- ⇒ Jackson SW. The wounded healer. [Bull Hist Med](#). 2001; 75: 1-36.
- ⇒ Pellegrino ED. Toward a virtue-based normative ethics for the health professions. [Kennedy Inst Ethics J](#). 1995; 5: 253-277.
- ⇒ Platt FW, Keller VF. Empathic communication: A teachable and learnable skill. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 1994; 9: 222-226.
- ⇒ Strauss C, Lever Taylor B, Gu J, et al. What is compassion and how can we measure it? A review of definitions and measures. [Clin Psychol Rev](#). 2016; 47: 15-27.
- ⇒ Vachon DO. How doctors care: The science of compassionate and balanced caring in medicine. 1st ed. San Diego, CA: Cognella, 2020.
- ⇒ Vogel LZ, Savva S. Atlas personality. [Br J Med Psychol](#). 1993; 66 (Pt 4): 323-330.



HUMANITIES CORNER

This month's spotlight is on **Jacob Schroeder, a 4th year medical student**. His creative work is a visual art piece. He completed this creative work and reflection 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.



For my project in ethics and humanities, I've crafted this artwork. During my sub-internship at the Iowa City VA I provided care to numerous veterans facing housing insecurity. This experience has led me to reflect on the predicament of patients from this demographic who, after hospitalization, are discharged back to the streets, often feeling unnoticed by society. Multiple societal factors, stereotypes, and systemic problems contribute to this pervasive sense of invisibility. In my artwork, I intentionally stripped away the intricate details and depth from the depiction of a homeless veteran, symbolizing his "invisibility."

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Adami HO, Kalager M, Bretthauer M. The future of cancer screening-guided without conflicts of interest. [JAMA Intern Med.](#) 2023; 183: 1047-1048.

“Screening participation rates should no longer be used as a quality indicator for or to monitor performance of individual physicians or programs. Medical professionals, patient representatives, and cancer societies should follow this path by advocating for transparent information about benefits and harms rather than uncritical promotion of screening.”

(Adami et al)

- ⇒ Astrachan IM, Ruck Keene A, Kim SYH. Questioning our presumptions about the presumption of capacity. [J Med Ethics.](#) 2023.20230925. jme-2023-109199.
- ⇒ Berkowitz ID, Garrett J. Should the brain death exam with apnea test require surrogate informed consent? Yes: The UDDA revision series. [Neurology.](#) 2023; 101: 218-220.
- ⇒ Chongwe G, Ali J, Kaye DK, et al. Ethics of adaptive designs for randomized controlled trials. [Ethics Hum Res.](#) 2023; 45: 2-14.
- ⇒ Chowdhury D, Laurie K, Zhang T, et al. What attributes matter most in physicians? Exploratory findings from a single-centre survey of stakeholder priorities in cancer care at a Canadian academic cancer centre. [Curr Oncol.](#) 2023; 30: 8363-8374.
- ⇒ Cohen IG. What should ChatGPT mean for bioethics? [Am J Bioeth.](#) 2023; 23: 8-16.
- ⇒ Hood-Patterson D, Carter BS. Accompaniment and bearing witness: The path through liminal spaces in healthcare. [Am J Hosp Palliat Care.](#) 2023 Sept 13. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Howe EG. Patients with invisible pain: How might we see this pain and help these patients more? [J Clin Ethics.](#) 2023; 34: 219-224.
- ⇒ Kaebnick GE, Magnus DC, Kao A, et al. Editors' statement on the responsible use of generative AI technologies in scholarly journal publishing. [Hastings Cent Rep.](#) 2023 Oct 1. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Messac L, Malina D. Debt collection in American medicine — a history. [N Engl J Med.](#) 2023; 389: 1621-1625.
- ⇒ Olszewski AE, Zhou C, Ugale J, et al. Frequency of perceived conflict between families and clinicians at time of clinical ethics consultation in hospitalized children. [AJOB Empir Bioeth.](#) 2023 Sept 27. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Rushton CH, Hanson GC, Boyce D, et al. Reliability and validity of the revised Rushton Moral Resilience Scale for healthcare workers. [J Adv Nurs.](#) 2023.20230929.

BIOETHICS IN THE LITERATURE

- ⇒ Sax PE. Breaking up is hard to do - more heartbreak from corporate decisions in medicine. [N Engl J Med](#). 2023 Oct 4. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Schneider M, Vayena E, Blasimme A. Digital bioethics: Introducing new methods for the study of bioethical issues. [J Med Ethics](#). 2023; 49: 783-790.
- ⇒ Smith W, Elkin D, Walaszek A. How to draw on narrative to mitigate ageism. [AMA J Ethics](#). 2023; 25: E745-750.
- ⇒ Tieu M, Matthews S. The relational care framework: Promoting continuity or maintenance of selfhood in person-centered care. [J Med Philos](#). 2023 Sept 30. [Epub ahead of print].
- ⇒ Volandes AE, Zupanc SN, Lakin JR, et al. Video intervention and goals-of-care documentation in hospitalized older adults: The VIDEO-PCE randomized clinical trial. [JAMA Netw Open](#). 2023; 6: e2332556.
- ⇒ Williams JC, Andreou A, Castillo EG, et al. Antiracist documentation practices - shaping clinical encounters and decision making. [N Engl J Med](#). 2023; 389: 1238-1244.
- ⇒ Wolfe I, Moore B, Bush L, et al. Antiracism: An ethical imperative. [Pediatrics](#). 2023; 152.



BIOETHICS IN THE NEWS

- ⇒ Oncologists more likely to provide low-value care after receiving pharma money, study finds. [STAT News](#), October 25, 2023.
- ⇒ Few transplant surgeons are Black. Giving medical students a rare peek at organ donation may help. [Associated Press](#), October 24, 2023.
- ⇒ The official definition of infertility now includes LGBTQ+ and single people. [STAT News](#), October 24, 2023.
- ⇒ The hospital ran out of her child's cancer drug. Now she's fighting to end shortages. [NPR](#), October 23, 2023.
- ⇒ How do I make sense of my mother's decision to die? [The Atlantic](#), October 23, 2023.
- ⇒ Dobbs decision leaving broad imprint in reproductive medicine. [STAT News](#), October 20, 2023.
- ⇒ After Gaza, leading US bioethicist laments moral vacuum amongst students. [BioEdge](#), October 19, 2023.
- ⇒ Amid worries Canada has gone 'too far,' Parliament will re-examine expansion of MAID for those with mental illnesses. [Toronto Star](#), October 18, 2023.
- ⇒ Is there a nursing shortage in the United States? Depends on whom you ask. [STAT News](#), October 16, 2023.
- ⇒ Significant gaps in information about Oregon's benchmark assisted dying law. [BioEdge](#), October 12, 2023.



BIOETHICS OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING

- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Upcoming Webinars and Events](#)
- ⇒ Michigan State University: [2022-2023 Bioethics Public Seminar Series](#)

ONGOING

- ⇒ The Hastings Center: [Recent 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](#)

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](#).