

# BIOMEDICAL ETHICS THREAD in the Carver College of Medicine Curriculum

Director: Dr. Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD

## M1 & M2 Years

### Semester 1

- Informed Consent & Shared Decision Making
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Clinical Ethical Reasoning & Goals of Care
- Ethical Principles & Virtues
- Cultural & Religious Diversity
- Conflicts of Interest & Competing Obligations

### Semester 3

- Advance Directives, Code Status, & Goals of Care
- Life Support, Palliation, & Futility

### Semester 2

- Solid Organ Transplantation & Diagnosis of Death
- Disclosure of Medical Errors
- Professional Duty to Care

## M2 & M3 Years

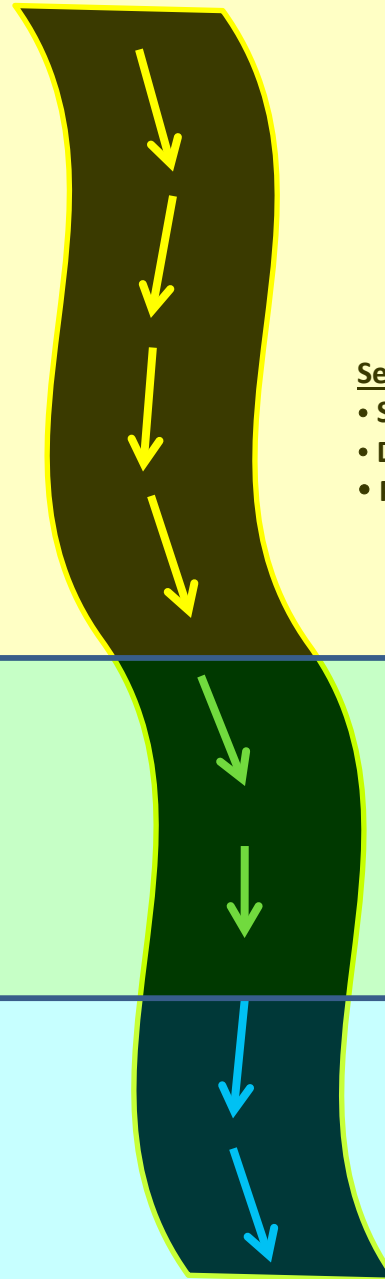
### Ethics & Professionalism Seminars:

- Internal Medicine Rotation
- Pediatrics Rotation
- OB/GYN Rotation
- Surgery Rotation

## M4 Year

### Professionalism Seminars:

- Sub-Internships in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, & Reproductive Endocrinology
- Critical Care Rotations in the MICU, PICU, & SNICU



**The BIOMEDICAL ETHICS THREAD**  
**In the Carver College of Medicine's standard curriculum**  
**Director: Dr. Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD**

**PRE-CLINICAL phase (M1/M2 years):**

A variety of formats are provided to facilitate learning and discussion of a broad range of topics in biomedical ethics. These include pre-recorded lectures (a “flipped classroom” approach), live lectures, large group discussions of clinical cases, and small group discussions. The following topics are addressed:

**Semester 1**

**Informed Consent and Shared Decision Making** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class) .

**Privacy and Confidentiality** (T. Thomsen, MD, JD)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class).

**Clinical Ethical Reasoning, Goals of Care, and Professional Roles** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class); and small group exercise (drafting a clinic policy on pain management contracts).

**Ethical Principles and Virtues in Medicine** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class); and small group exercise (drafting a clinic policy for families declining vaccines).

**Cultural and Religious Diversity among Patients** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD)

Components: in-person lecture (entire-class).

**Conflicts of Interest and Competing Obligations** (various faculty small group leaders)

Components: pre-recorded lecture; facilitated small groups (case discussions).

## Semester 2

### **Justice, Utility, and the Diagnosis of Death in Solid Organ Transplantation** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD & C. Thomas, MD)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class).

### **Professionalism, Virtues, and Legal Perspectives Regarding Disclosure of Medical Errors** (L.C. Kaldjian and guests)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class).

### **The Professional Duty to Care** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class); and small group exercise (drafting a hospital policy on duty to care during an epidemic).

## Semester 3

### **End of Life Decision-Making (Part I): Advance Directives, Code Status Discussions, and Goals of Care** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class).

### **End of Life Decision Making (Part II): Withholding/ Withdrawing Life Support, Palliation, and Futility** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD)

Components: readings; pre-recorded lecture; in-person discussion of cases (entire-class).

## **CLINICAL phase (M2/M3/M4 years):**

The CCOM integrates ethics across the medical student curriculum so that what is learned in the pre-clinical phase is integrated with what is experienced in the clinics and on the wards. This is accomplished through **Ethics and Professionalism Seminars** that take place during the following clinical rotations (clerkships):

- M2/M3: Internal Medicine
- M2/M3: Pediatrics
- M2/M3: Obstetrics & Gynecology
- M2/M3: Surgery
- M4: Sub-internships in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Reproductive Endocrinology, and Surgery
- M4: Critical Care rotations (MICU, PICU, and SNICU)

For these Seminars, students submit a written reflection that describes an ethical or professional situation they have encountered during their current clinical rotation, addresses its ethical issues, and considers how they would handle such a situation in the future. Selected reflections are chosen for faculty-facilitated small group discussion with currently rotating students toward the end of each rotation.