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
- Vaccination Policy Discussion

**Semester 2**
- Solid Organ Transplantation & Diagnosis of Death
- Disclosure of Medical Errors
- Professional Duty to Care

**Semester 3**
- Advance Directives, Code Status, & Goals of Care
- Life Support, Palliation, & Futility

**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
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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).

**Vaccination Policy Discussion** (L.C. Kaldjian, MD, PhD)
  Components: readings (small group exercise); large group discussion.
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.