

BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



January 2014

Happy New Year and 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](#)



Upcoming Events

For a listing of all upcoming events related to bioethics and humanities, please click [here](#).

Program Highlight

Asitha Jayawardena is a medical student in the Humanities Distinction Track at the UI Carver College of Medicine and the winner of the Sparks Essay Contest. He will be speaking on "Expedited 'Diffusion of Innovation': A reflection on the Ponseti Method in the current era of medicine." He will describe the history and cultural context of clubfoot and treatments developed by Dr. Ignacio Ponseti, and describe diffusion theory as Ponseti's treatment spread through the world.



Thursday, January 23, 2014, 5:30-6:30
Room 401
University of Iowa
Hardin Library for the Health Sciences

Quotation of the Month

The humanities have an important and traditional role to play in helping to form the traits and virtues necessary for citizens to make sound and sensitive judgments.... The second, no less important, contribution is that of providing alternative perspectives, frameworks, and vision. It is an inherent hazard of policy analysis and policymaking to neglect the larger schemes and problems of human life in order to solve immediate problems and meet clamorous demands. The humanities, by reminding people of tradition, of ends and purposes, can provide an important and necessary corrective.

- Daniel Callahan in *Applying the Humanities* (p. 104)

Publication Highlights

Comprehensive Survey of Hand Hygiene Measurement and Improvement Practices in the Veterans Health Administration

Heather Schacht Reisinger, Jun Yin, Lewis Radonovich, V. Troy Knighton, Richard A. Martinello, Michael J. Hodgson, Eli Perencevich

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is a national health care system with variation in hand hygiene (HH) measurement and improvement practices across its facilities. The objective of this national survey was to characterize this variability and identify opportunities for standardization.

Heather Schacht Reisinger is an Affiliate Faculty member of the Program.

[Read Full Article](#)

Ethical Obligation for Restricting the Number of Embryos Transferred to Women: Combating the Multiple-Birth Epidemic from In Vitro Fertilization

Bradley J. Van Voorhis, Ginny L. Ryan

In vitro fertilization (IVF) is an increasingly effective and popular means of achieving pregnancy for infertile women, but contributes to a growing incidence of risky twin pregnancies. Despite studies demonstrating cost-effective means to achieve IVF pregnancy while strictly limiting the number of embryos transferred, multiple-embryo transfer remains the most common practice in the United States, and twin pregnancies continue to increase. IVF providers resist restricting these practices, arguing that this is counter to principles of procreative liberty, patient and professional autonomy, and freemarket economics. We counter that physicians have a professional fiduciary responsibility to weigh issues of nonmaleficence to patients and just use of health care resources with patient desires. With oversight from professional organizations, providers should follow strict but medically appropriate restrictions on embryo transfer practices and work toward safer means of optimizing IVF outcomes than multiple-embryo transfer.

Ginny Ryan is an Affiliate Faculty member of the Program.

[Read Full Article](#)

Clinical Research Ethics Consultation 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, [please click here](#).

UIHC Ethics Consult Service

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) is currently developing an Ethics Consult Service, the implementation of which is expected in 2014. Questions about this service may be directed to UIHC's Medical Director for Clinical Ethics, Dr. Lauris Kaldjian (lauris-kaldjian@uiowa.edu).

Resource Highlight

*Bioethics Research Library
Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University*

The Bioethics Research Library began as a few shelves of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics' scholars' books. As the interdisciplinary field of bioethics grew, so did the library. It now includes: more than 30,000 books, journals, audiovisuals, and archival materials on a wide range of topics; materials written in over 20 languages; and a diverse range of opinions expressed on bioethical issues around the world.

[More Details](#)

Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Bioethics

The Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine (CBSSM) at the University of Michigan is currently soliciting applications for Post-Doctoral Research Fellows for the 2014-2015 academic year.

CBSSM has five broad programs that serve its research mission,

- Program in Clinical and Research Ethics
- Program in Health Communication and Decision Making
- Program in Medicine and Society
- Program in Health, Justice, and Community
- Program in Genomics, Health, and Society

For more information, please click [here](#).

Bioethics in the Literature

- Oldroyd C, Fialova L. Ethics teaching on 'beginning of life' issues in UK medical schools. [J Med Ethics](#). 2013 Dec 11. [Epub ahead of print]
- Kulkarni AD, Jamieson DJ, Jones HW Jr, Kissin DM, Gallo MF, Macaluso M, Adashi EY. Fertility treatments and multiple births in the United States. [N Engl J Med](#). 2013 Dec 5;369(23):2218-25.
- Kuczewski MG, McCarthy MP, Michelfelder A, Anderson EE, Wasson K, Hatchett L. "I will never let that be OK again": Student reflections on competent spiritual care for dying patients. [Acad Med](#). 2013 Nov 25. [Epub ahead of print]
- van den Einden LC, Te Kolste MG, Lagro-Janssen AL, Dukel L. Medical students' perceptions of the physician's role in not allowing them to perform gynecological examinations. [Acad Med](#). 2013 Nov 25. [Epub ahead of print]
- Wendler D. What should be disclosed to research participants? [Am J Bioethics](#). 2013 Nov 20;13(12):3-8.
- Rubin MA. The collaborative autonomy model of medical decision-making. [Neurocrit Care](#). 2013 Nov 14. [Epub ahead of print]

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