

BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



November 2015

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.

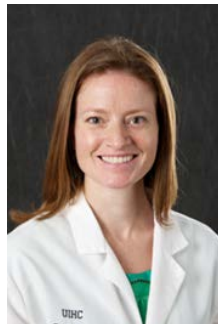
[More Details About The Program](#)



Program Highlight

[Meet One of Our Ethics Consultants](#)

Ginny Ryan, MD, MA



Dr. Ryan is an Affiliate Faculty in the Program in Bioethics and Humanities and Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She received her M.D. from Washington University School of Medicine and an MA in Bioethics from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Ryan completed both her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and her fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Iowa, where she has been since 1999. Dr. Ryan practices Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility, Gynecologic Ultrasound and Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, acts as Vice-Chair of the Ethics Subcommittee, and serves as a consultant on the hospital's Ethics Consult Service. She is on the admissions committee of the Humanities Distinction Track at the College of Medicine and mentors medical students on this track as well as the Research Distinction Track.

Upcoming Events

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

Quotation of the Month

As both an applied science and a social endeavor, medicine is always set within particular cultural contexts. Concepts of health and disease intersect with an overlapping set of culturally situated communities (scientific, political, moral, and religious), striving to understand and manipulate the world in ways that each finds explanatory, beneficial, morally or spiritually appropriate, or otherwise befitting.

Cherry MJ. (for more, see [J Med Philos](#); 2015).

Dr. Ryan is a Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholar whose research interests include reproductive bioethics education, fairness in infertility care access, understanding emerging reproductive technologies, and improving safe outcomes of infertility care. She has also investigated reproductive health and infertility in female veterans and splits her clinical and research efforts between the Iowa City VA and the University of Iowa. Along with her clinical research publications, Dr. Ryan has published on the ethical issues involved in restricting embryo transfer practices, in preserving fertility in children with cancer, and in establishing guidelines for treating obese women with infertility. Dr. Ryan is currently serving on the Committee on Ethics of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

Publication Highlight

["I should be doing more for my parent:" Chinese adult children's worry about performance in providing care for their oldest-old parents.](#)

Jinyu Liu & Mercedes Bern-Klug

BACKGROUND: In China, as is the case in most of the world, family is the largest source of support for frail older adults. Confucian filial piety expectations hold children-in particular sons-responsible for the care of aging parents in China. During the course of caregiving, in addition to positive feelings, the caregiver may feel overwhelmed, entrapped, and worried about their performance, which can have negative health consequences. The purpose of this exploratory study is to examine one dimension of caregiver burden "worry about performance" (WaP) and investigate whether variables inspired by Pearlin's Stress Process Model help to explain the variation of WaP, so that at-risk caregivers can be identified and supported. **METHODS:** Multiple regression was used to analyze CLHLS data from 895 Chinese adult children providing care for their oldest old parent in eight coastal provinces in China. WaP was measured by two items from the Zarit Burden Inventory. Independent variables representing concepts from Pearlin's Stress Process Model and control variables were included in the models. **RESULTS:** Compared to a model of control variables only, using independent variables inspired by Pearlin's Stress Process Model increased the ability to explain the variation in WaP by three fold to 14%. The following variables increased WaP: parent's IADL level, the amount of time spent caregiving, being a daughter, reporting an emotionally close relationship with the parent, sharing a residence with the parent. **CONCLUSION:** Despite not being able to fully operationalize Pearlin's Model with this dataset, analyzing variables that represent concepts from the model was useful in increasing the ability to explain the variation in WaP. Results suggest that caregiver support directed at daughters may be particularly beneficial.

UIHC Ethics Consult Service

This service is a resource for patients, family members, or health professionals at UIHC who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care. Consults can be ordered by UIHC clinicians through EPIC. Consults can also be requested by calling (319) 356-1616 and asking for the ethics consultant on call. For more information, [please click here.](#)

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.](#)

Literary Highlight from a CCOM Faculty Member

[Beachcombing: More Short Stories](#)

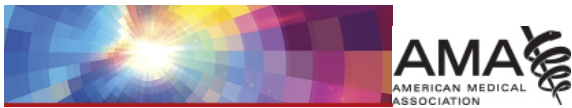
A new publication by UI professor emeritus Dr. Carol Scott-Connor.

This slender collection of short stories explores the world of academic surgery introduced in Dr. Scott-Connor's first book, and introduces some new characters. Like a child sorting through the shells she picked up on a beach, Dr. Scott-Connor put these stories in a kind of order. The collection begins with a prose poem exploring the thoughts of a woman whose husband is undergoing open heart surgery. It progresses through pieces exploring relationships between surgeons and patients. One story deals with a surgeon as the patient. The middle of the collection is enlivened by a snarky male physicist whose wife hits the road while in the midst of a hormonal upset. A second prose poem, this one from the surgeon's point of view, concludes the volume.

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society invites you to hear E.A. (Tony) Franken, Jr., MD present on "Healthcare for Native Americans – triumphs and tragedies" on Thursday, November 19, 2015 from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Medical Education Research Facility (MERF), Room 2117. For more information, [please click here](#).

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society also invites you to read "[Notes from the John Martin Rare Book Room, October 2015.](#)"

Resource Highlight



[AMA Journal of Ethics](#) (formerly Virtual Mentor)

Founded in 1999, the AMA Journal of Ethics, formerly Virtual Mentor, is student- and resident-driven. It explores the ethical issues and challenges that students, residents, and other physicians are likely to confront in their training and daily practice. This journal is a valuable teaching resource for medical educators at all levels. Each monthly issue contains original articles and commentary on a given theme (e.g., access to care; quality-of-life considerations in clinical decision making; public roles of physicians; ethical issues in a given medical specialty; new medical technologies; conflict of values in the clinic).

Bioethics in the Literature

- Austin CA, Mohottige D, Sudore RL, et al. Tools to promote shared decision making in serious illness: A systematic review. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2015 Jul; 175: 1213-1221.
- Botkin JR, Belmont JW, Berg JS, et al. Points to consider: ethical, legal, and psychosocial implications of genetic testing in children and adolescents. [Am J Hum Genet](#). 2015 Jul; 97: 6-21.
- Brooks KC. A piece of my mind. A silent curriculum. [JAMA](#). 2015 May; 313: 1909-1910.
- Cherry MJ. Medicine, morality, and mortality: The challenges of moral diversity. [J Med Philos](#). 2015 Oct; 40: 473-483.
- Eves MM, Danziger PD, Farrell RM, et al. Conflicting values: A case study in patient choice and caregiver perspectives. [Narrat Inq Bioeth](#). 2015 Summer; 5: 167-178.



- Fendler TJ, Spertus JA, Kennedy KF, et al. Alignment of do-not-resuscitate status with patients' likelihood of favorable neurological survival after in-hospital cardiac arrest. [JAMA](#). 2015 Sep; 314: 1264-1271.
 - Kemp K, Zelle H, Bonnie RJ. Embedding advance directives in routine care for persons with serious mental illness: implementation challenges. [Psychiatr Serv](#). 2015 Jan; 66: 10-14.
 - Oberg JA, Glade Bender JL, Cohn EG, et al. Overcoming challenges to meaningful informed consent for whole genome sequencing in pediatric cancer research. [Pediatr Blood Cancer](#). 2015 Aug; 62: 1374-1380.
 - Quill CM, Sussman BL, Quill TE. Palliative care, ethics, and the law in the intensive care unit. [Crit Care Nurs Clin North Am](#). 2015 Sep; 27: 383-394.
- Wightman A, Diekema D. Should an undocumented immigrant receive a heart transplant? [AMA J Ethics](#). 2015 Oct; 17: 909-913.

Summer Ethics Fellowship for Medical Students



Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) is **now accepting applications for its 2016 medical program. FASPE Medical** uses the conduct of doctors and other medical professionals during the Holocaust and in Nazi Germany as a launching point for an intensive course of study on contemporary medical ethics. FASPE is predicated upon the power of place. Fellows visit Auschwitz and other sites in Germany and Poland where they consider how to apply the lessons of history to the ethical challenges of medicine today.

Ten to 15 Fellows will be chosen for the 2016 program, which **will run from Friday, June 17 through Thursday, June 30**. All program costs, including travel to Europe from New York and back, European travel, lodging, and food, are covered. FASPE Medical is part of a program offering fellowships in several professional fields. Medical Fellows travel and share some seminars with Seminary Fellows.

Completed **applications are due by December 22, 2015**. To apply or to learn more about FASPE, please visit: www.FASPE.info. For a flyer on FASPE Medical, follow this [link](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Thorin R. Tritter, Managing Director of FASPE, at ttritter@FASPE.info.

Summer Undergraduate Program in Biomedical Ethics Research

The Mayo Clinic Biomedical Ethics Program seeks applicants for its 2016 summer student program. This program is supported in part by a generous gift from Jim Vann and Lee Stanton Vann. 4-6 students will be selected for the program. Each student will be placed with a faculty mentor to work on a particular research project for approximately 10 weeks. In addition, students will participate in educational sessions on bioethics research methods and lunch meetings with faculty. Students also may have the opportunity to shadow physicians or clinical ethics consultations.

Interested applicants should apply to job posting **58853BR: Bioethics Intern** on the Mayo Clinic jobs website (<http://www.mayoclinic.org/jobs>) by **Jan. 15, 2016**.

Candidates must attach the following documents to the online application:

1. Cover letter describing your career goals and how biomedical ethics research relates to those goals
2. Resume/CV that includes your major, relevant coursework, honors, and related experiences
3. A 5-10 page writing sample (such as a course paper), preferably on a topic in biomedical ethics
4. Current college transcript
5. Two letters of recommendation from research mentors or undergraduate professors (addressed to Dr. Richard Sharp, Program Director). Letters either can be uploaded by the candidate into the application or emailed directly by the professor/mentor to bioethics@mayo.edu.

Top applicants will be invited to participate in a brief phone interview to discuss specific skills and areas of interest, in order to match the applicant with a mentor and research project. Final decisions will be made based on applicants' interests and availability of appropriate mentors. All students must pass a background check and post-offer placement assessment prior to their start date.

Examples of research topics that might be explored include:

- Ethical issues in life-sustaining treatments and end-of-life care
- Research ethics
- Ethical issues in regenerative medicine and transplantation
- Allocation of health care resources
- Professionalism in medicine and science
- Ethical issues in genomics and individualized medicine
- Science and society
- Research related to clinical ethics consultation - Reproductive ethics and prenatal testing

Students who have already participated in the program are not eligible, but previous applicants are encouraged to reapply.

For further information or specific questions, contact Dr. Jessica Hirsch, Biomedical Ethics Education Coordinator at 507-538-4023 or Hirsch.jessica@mayo.edu

Post-Baccalaureate Program in Biomedical Ethics Research

The Mayo Clinic Biomedical Ethics Program seeks applicants for a one-year post-baccalaureate research experience in empirical bioethics research, as part of the Mayo Clinic Graduate Research Employment Program (GREP). Students will participate in educational activities and conduct bioethics research in a mentored environment. GREP is designed for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree and plan to attend graduate school or medical school. Eligible candidates must have received their bachelor's degree before the position starts. GREP students are eligible to take graduate-level courses through the Mayo Graduate School. The position is ideal for students interested in a "gap year" between their undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Two post-baccalaureate research fellows will be selected for the 2016-2017 academic year. We anticipate that these research fellows will begin their positions in the summer of 2016. The position may be extended beyond one year at the discretion of the supervisor but will not exceed a total of two years.

Qualifications:

To be eligible, students must have completed their bachelor's degree before the position start date and must be pursuing medical/graduate school admission. Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. All students must pass a background check and post-offer placement assessment prior to their start date. Students must have completed coursework in bioethics or a closely related discipline such as behavioral psychology, ethics/philosophy, medical anthropology/sociology, pre-med, or public health. The successful applicants will be:

- committed to pursuing a career in which they will engage topics in biomedical ethics
- able to work independently
- proficient in written and verbal communication
- competent in identifying relevant peer-reviewed publications on specialized research topics
- highly motivated to learn new research methods

To Apply:

Interested applicants should email the following materials to bioethics@mayo.edu by **March 18, 2016**.

1. Cover letter describing your career goals and how biomedical ethics research relates to those goals
2. Resume/CV that includes your major, relevant coursework, honors, and related experiences
3. A 5-10 page writing sample (such as a course paper), preferably on a topic in biomedical ethics
4. Current college transcript
5. Two letters of recommendation from research mentors or undergraduate teachers (addressed to Dr. Richard Sharp, Program Director). *Letters should be sent directly by the recommender and must be received by the application deadline.*

For more information, contact Dr. Jessica Hirsch, Biomedical Ethics Education Coordinator at 507-538-4023 or Hirsch.jessica@mayo.edu. For all other questions, please contact Dr. Richard R. Sharp, Director of the Biomedical Ethics Research Program at bioethics@mayo.edu.

The American Osler Society

[William B. Bean Student Research Award](#)

DEADLINE: March 1, 2016

The American Osler Society announces the availability of an award for support of research in the broad areas of medical history and medical humanities. Candidates must be currently matriculated students in approved schools of medicine in the United States or Canada. The successful applicant may be eligible to present a paper based on his or her findings at the annual meeting of the American Osler Society. The stipend for the coming year will be \$1,500, and up to \$750 additional may be available to support travel to the annual meeting contingent on submission of a paper acceptable to the Committee at the conclusion of the studentship. If you would like more information, please click [here](#).

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