

# BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



September 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

[Iowa Public Radio Interview](#)

On a recent edition of *Talk of Iowa*, host Charity Nebbe spoke with Dr. Ginny Ryan (Program affiliate faculty member) about the intricacies of donating embryos and the option to donate embryos to medical research. Janette Clausen of Lutheran Family Services, a mother who decided to donate her frozen embryos to another couple, and the woman who will receive these frozen embryos also joined the conversation. If you would like to listen to the interview, please click [here](#).

## Publication Highlight

[Ethical issues identified by obstetrics and gynecology learners through a novel ethics curriculum](#)

Rachel Mejia, DO, **Laura Shinkunas, BA, Ginny Ryan, MD, MA**

**Objective:** Obstetrics and gynecology (ob/gyn) is fraught with bioethical issues, the professional significance of which may vary based on clinical experience. Our objective was to utilize our novel ethics curriculum to identify ethics and professionalism issues highlighted by ob/gyn learners and to compare responses between learner levels to further inform curricular development. **Study Design:** We introduced an integrated and dynamic ob/gyn ethics and professionalism curriculum and mixed methods analysis of 181 resulting written reflections (case observation and

## Upcoming Events

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

## Quotation of the Month

*In the moment of realizing an error and deciding what action to take, it is likely that strong feelings of personal shame, guilt and embarrassment may inhibit health professionals from reporting their mistakes, even when the benefits of error reporting for learning and improving safety are fully accepted.*

Harrison et al. (for more, see [J Patient Saf](#); 2015)

assessments) from third-year medical students and from first- to fourth-year ob/gyn residents. Content was compared by learner level using basic thematic analysis and summary statistics. **Results:** Within the 7 major ethics and professionalism domains, learners wrote most frequently about miscellaneous ob/gyn issues such as periviability and abortion (22% of students, 20% of residents) and problematic treatment decisions (20% of students, 19% of residents) rather than professional duty, communication, justice, student-/resident-specific issues, or quality of care. The most commonly discussed ob/gyn area by both learner groups was obstetrics rather than gynecology, gynecologic oncology, or reproductive endocrinology and infertility, although residents were more likely to discuss obstetrics-related concerns than students (65% vs 48%;  $P = .04$ ) and students wrote about gynecologic oncology-related concerns more frequently than residents (25% vs 6%;  $P = .002$ ). In their reflections, sources of ethical value (eg, the 4 classic ethics principles, professional guidelines, and consequentialism) were cited more frequently and in greater number by students than by residents (82% of students cited at least 1 source of ethical value vs 65% of residents;  $P = .01$ ). Residents disagreed more frequently with the ethical propriety of clinical management than did students (67% vs 43%;  $P = .005$ ). **Conclusion:** Our study introduces an innovative and dynamic approach to an ob/gyn ethics and professionalism curriculum that highlights important learner-identified ethics and professionalism issues both specific to ob/gyn and common to clinical medicine. Findings will help ob/gyn educators best utilize and refine this flexible curriculum such that it is appropriately focused on topics relevant to each learner level.

## 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](#).

## Resource Highlight



### [Iowa Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment \(IPOST\)](#)

Legalized in 2012 ([Chapter 144D of the Iowa Code](#)), the Iowa Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (IPOST) is a double-sided, one-page, salmon-colored document that was designed to communicate patients' treatment preferences for life-sustaining treatments. Forms and more information can be found by clicking [here](#).

## Bioethics in the Literature

- Bond CS. Telehealth as a tool for independent self-management by people living with long term conditions. [Stud Health Technol Inform](#). 2014; 206: 1-6.
- Brimblecombe C, Crosbie D, Lim WK, et al. The Goals of Patient Care project: Implementing a proactive approach to patient-centred decision-making. [Intern Med J](#). 2014 Oct; 44: 961-966.
- Charon R, Hermann N, Devlin MJ. Close reading and creative writing in clinical education: Teaching attention, representation, and affiliation. [Acad Med](#). 2015 Jul 21. [Epub ahead of print]

## 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](#).

## History of Medicine Society

- Dzung E, Colaianni A, Roland M, et al. Influence of institutional culture and policies on do-not-resuscitate decision making at the end of life. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2015 May; 175: 812-819.
- Harrison R, Lawton R, Perlo J, et al. Emotion and coping in the aftermath of medical error: a cross-country exploration. [J Patient Saf](#). 2015 Mar; 11: 28-35.
- Hart JL, Harhay MO, Gabler NB, et al. Variability among US intensive care units in managing the care of patients admitted with preexisting limits on life-sustaining therapies. [JAMA Intern Med](#). 2015 Jun; 175: 1019-1026.
- Hayek S, Nieva R, Corrigan F, et al. End-of-life care planning: improving documentation of advance directives in the outpatient clinic using electronic medical records. [J Palliat Med](#). 2014 Dec; 17: 1348-1352.
- Jacobs BM. Is there a moral obligation to select healthy children? [J Med Ethics](#). 2015 Aug; 41: 696-700.
- Overby KJ, Weinstein MS, Fiester A. Addressing consent issues in donation after circulatory determination of death. [Am J Bioeth](#). 2015 Aug; 15: 3-9.
- Schuol S, Schickhardt C, Wiemann S, et al. So rare we need to hunt for them: reframing the ethical debate on incidental findings. [Genome Med](#). 2015; 7: 83.

The University of Iowa History of Medicine Society invites you to hear Richard E. Kerber MD present on "Deconstructing the Body: Medical Art, Medical Imaging and the Art of Medicine" on Thursday, September 24, 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, August 2015](#)."

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## 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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Laura Shinkunas  
Editor, Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter  
Program in Bioethics and Humanities  
500 Newton Road, 1-110 MEB  
(319) 384-4654  
[laura-shinkunas@uiowa.edu](mailto:laura-shinkunas@uiowa.edu)