



## News Release

### Prominent philosopher, author joins Center for Practical Bioethics

*Michael C. Brannigan new Vice President for Clinical & Organizational Ethics*

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Michael C. Brannigan has always been asking questions.

“My heroes in high school were Plato and Socrates,” Dr. Brannigan says. “I admired their ability to ask the tough questions and seek answers.” That admiration led to a sometimes circuitous professional path as a philosopher, ethicist, author, teacher, and now Vice President for Clinical & Organizational Ethics at the Center for Practical Bioethics.

Dr. Brannigan joins the Center after 14 years at LaRoche College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While at LaRoche, he chaired the philosophy department, teaching courses in ethics, medical ethics, and Asian philosophy. He served on the ethics committees of several hospitals, the editorial board of *Health Care Analysis: An International Journal of Health Care Philosophy and Policy*, and several international bioethics committees. In 1997, Dr. Brannigan established the Center for the Study of Ethics at LaRoche, since renamed the Institute for Cross-Cultural Ethics.

Dr. Brannigan has written extensively on medical ethics and biotechnology. He most recently edited *Cross Cultural Biotechnology: A Reader* (Rowman & Littlefield), a collection of articles on biotechnology within a global context. He’s also written *Ethical Issues in Human Cloning: A Cross-Disciplinary Reader*, editor (NY: Seven Bridges Press, 2001), *Healthcare Ethics in a Diverse Society*, co-authored with Judith A. Boss, Brown University School of Medicine (CA: Mayfield Publishing, Spring, 2001); *Striking a Balance: A Primer on Traditional Asian Ethics and Values* (NY: Seven Bridges Press, 2000); and *The Pulse of Wisdom: The Philosophies of India, China, and Japan*, (2nd ed., Wadsworth Publishing Company, CA, 2000).

Dr. Brannigan says he comes to Kansas City to tackle real-life issues and see the results of his work. “I’ve always thought I’d stay in teaching,” he says, “but the Center gives me a chance to take abstract concepts and make a concrete difference.”

After all, Dr. Brannigan points to Epicurus, who believed philosophy must address the issue of human suffering. “We all suffer in some way,” he says. “The question is how we deal with it.”

The Center for Practical Bioethics raises and responds to ethical issues in healthcare. The Center puts theory into action by helping people and organizations find real-world solutions to complex ethical issues in healthcare.

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