



**Guidance at the
Crossroads of Decision**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen L. Hill, Jr. JD
Chair

John D. Yeast, MD
Immediate Past Chair

Ann Howie
Co-Vice Chair

Rev. Priscilla W. Neaves
Co-Vice Chair

James Bartimus, JD
Treasurer

Karren King Crouch, MSW
Secretary

Joan Berkley

Mary Beth Blake (*Founder*)

Rev. John P. Borden

Olivia Dorsey

Richard D. Heimovics, PhD

Cathy Hiersteiner

Mary Kay McPhee

Mark C. Myron, MD

Karen L. Pletz, JD

Anne D. St. Peter

Samuel H. Turner, Sr.

Hans W. Uffelmann, PhD (*Founder*)

Linda Ward

PRESIDENT AND CEO
Myra J. Christopher

MIDWEST BIOETHICS CENTER
Town Pavilion
1100 Walnut Street, Suite 2900
Kansas City, MO 64106-2197

816-221-1100
800-344-3829
fax 816-221-2002
bioethic@midbio.org
www.midbio.org

News Release

Era Ending in Medical Ethics

Dr. Robert Potter presents final ethics seminar at KU Med

CONTACT: Lorell LaBoube, (816)221-1100

Email: llaboube@midbio.org

February 11, 2004

Once a month for the last eight years, Robert Potter, M.D., PhD, of the Midwest Bioethics Center has been engaging health care professionals at the University of Kansas Medical Center on the value of medical ethics. That run comes to an end tomorrow, February 12, with Dr. Potter retiring from MBC at the end of March.

Each month the Ethical Analysis Seminar examines a complex medical situation with physicians and other medical professionals to consider ethical approaches to resolving the issues involved. Dr. Potter's background brought unique perspectives to these gatherings; he's a retired internal medicine physician and holds a doctorate in religion and psychology with an emphasis in ethics from the University of Chicago Divinity School.

"It's becoming more clear than ever that ethics should play a critical role in making medical decisions," Dr. Potter says. "My impression is that things are getting better and that more patients are having their wishes followed."

Dr. Potter's efforts have not gone unnoticed by his medical colleagues. "Dr. Potter's insightful and thoughtful contributions have added greatly to the success of these seminars," says Dr. Dan Swagerty of the University of Kansas Center on Aging. "He has succeeded in bringing real-life situations to our discussions, making them more accessible to the wider medical center community."

As for the future, Dr. Potter says the medical community should be held more accountable for their ethical conduct. "The only way we can improve is to set standards and measure our ethical performance," says Dr. Potter. "It's not an impossible task."

Midwest Bioethics Center will continue supporting the ethical seminars at KU Med after Dr. Potter's retirement.

Midwest Bioethics Center has a 20-year track record as a national leader in practical bioethics. More than a think tank, the Center puts theory into action by finding real-world solutions to complex ethical issues in health and healthcare.

NOTE: An overview of Thursday's seminar is attached.