



News Release

The Ideal vs. Reality: Making Decisions at the End of Life

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Far too often, the ideal and reality are in conflict.

Picture this: an elderly person with diabetes, knowing his time will come someday, makes an informed choice that he will not accept dialysis beyond a certain point to extend his life. This decision, based on his personal values, is articulated with great clarity to his family.

Then, however, the time comes and sickness turns to weakness and second-guessing and pressure from family and physicians. Suddenly, the choice doesn't seem so clear and he is now incapable of making the decision on his own.

The question then becomes – *Can Informed Consent Ever Become Shared Decision-Making?*

That's the question for the 10th Annual Rosemary Flanigan Lecture scheduled for August 12 at 7 pm at the Alex George Auditorium at St. Joseph Health Center. The event is co-sponsored by the Center for Practical Bioethics and Carondelet Health.

Laura C. Hanson, M.D., MPH will present the lecture. Dr. Hanson is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill. Dr. Hanson is a native of Kansas City and graduated from Shawnee Mission South High School.

“Laura is a well regarded physician, researcher and author who is passionate about end-of-life issues, especially for frail elderly people,” says Myra Christopher, President and CEO of the Center for Practical Bioethics.

Admission and parking are free but an RSVP is requested by contacting Rachel Reeder at the Center for Practical Bioethics, (816)221-1100.

This year's lecture is made possible by a generous gift from the John and Barbara Yeast family in loving memory of John's mother, Geraldine Bamman.

The Rosemary Flanigan Lecture began in 1994 as a tribute to Sister Rosemary Flanigan, an active member of the Center for Practical Bioethics since 1987. Sister Rosemary has served on the Center's Board of Directors and as staff for the Center's domain for Clinical & Organizational Ethics. Previously, Sister Rosemary was a professor of philosophy at Rockhurst University from 1975 to 1992.

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

Carondelet Health is a member of Ascension Health, the largest national Catholic health care ministry in the country. Ascension Health, headquartered in St. Louis, MO, is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, four provinces of the Daughters of Charity and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth.

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