



News Release

Metropolitan Medical Society Confers Lay Honor Award upon Center for Practical Bioethics

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The Metropolitan Medical Society will recognize the outstanding contributions of the Center for Practical Bioethics with the Lay Honor Award during their 123rd Annual Meeting October 28. It is the first time the award has been conferred upon an organization, rather than an individual.

“The Center has an extraordinary track record of raising and responding to ethical issues in healthcare in Kansas City and across the country,” says Sukumar Ethirajan, M.D., this year’s president of the Society. “As medical technology continues to advance and the medical choices become even more difficult, we expect the Center to play an even more important role in the future.”

The Center for Practical Bioethics (formerly Midwest Bioethics Center) celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The Center began as a place for individuals, healthcare professionals and policymakers to tackle difficult bioethical challenges, find common ground, and develop reasoned, real-world solutions.

Since 1984, the Center has established one of the first hospital ethics committees in the country, consulted with the state of Missouri and the family in the Nancy Cruzan case, developed a healthcare treatment directive and durable power of attorney document with the medical society, and assisted Senator John Danforth in the drafting of the Patient Self-Determination Act.

Today, the Center’s overall agenda addresses clinical and organizational ethics, life sciences research ethics, aging and end-of-life care and disparities in health and healthcare. This includes ongoing initiatives with the National Association of Attorney’s General and the Federation of State Medical Boards. At the same time, programs are underway concerning long term care ethics and pediatric palliative care.

“Physicians grapple with ethically complex issues every day,” says Myra Christopher, President and CEO of the Center. “This recognition reflects the progress we’ve made by working together on behalf of patients and families. We plan on continuing that collaboration in the future.”

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