

PRACTICAL BIOETHICS

The Evolving Pandemic Webinar Series Examines Vaccination Science and Challenges

The coronavirus pandemic has informed our collective conscience about what ought not to be, what we should be doing more of, and the need to keep alive the realities of what we have endured and too many have suffered.

Going forward, our work at the Center will strive to keep the facts straight, the dialogue animated, and judgments and conclusions in check. We have raised the issues. Now it's time to turn lessons learned into action as our core values dictate: to demonstrate our belief in the intrinsic worth of all persons, to promote and protect the interests of those whose voices have not been heard or heeded, and to commit to the just delivery of healthcare.

One step in this direction is our four-part **Vaccine Webinar Series**.

Safety, Efficacy and Equity

Moderated by Darrin D'Agostino, the series launched in January with Christine Grady, Chief of the Department of Bioethics, NIH Clinical Center, and Kathy Kinlaw, Associate Director of the Emory University Center for Ethics, examining safety and efficacy in emergency use authorization (EUA).



Grady described the similarities and differences involved in COVID-19 vaccines' path to EUA, compared to past EUAs. Kinlaw explained the role of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice and the ethical principles that guided its process in recommending approval of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to the Centers for Disease Control. Grady and Kinlaw emphasized the importance of understanding and addressing reasons behind vaccine hesitancy.

The state of the science and the ethics of equitable allocation were addressed at Session #2 on March 5 by Catherine Satterwhite, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Broderick Crawford, Executive Director of NBC Community Development Corporation in Kansas City, Kansas.

Satterwhite updated participants on HHS's evolving emphasis on vaccine distribution, while Crawford discussed allocation, access, hesitancy and structural issues faced by communities of color.

What's Next?

The third session, presented with American Public Square at Jewell and the Health Forward Foundation, featured a people's dialogue, led by the Center's John B. Francis Chair, Erika Blacksher, PhD, on how vaccination may affect lives and livelihoods and long-term implications for those who choose or refuse to get vaccinated.

Watch for our fourth and final session in late May with an emphasis on vaccine hesitancy in the U.S. and around the world.

Vaccinate with Confidence
Protect communities. Empower families. Stop myths.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/partners/vaccinate-with-confidence.html>

Vaccine Distribution

- Federal allocations to states
- States to COVID-19 vaccine providers
- Federal Pharmacy Partnerships
 - Long-term care facilities
 - Retail locations
- Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

- Onsite clinics (3 per facility)
- CVS, Walgreens*
- Residents and staff
- Free
- Completion: March 2021

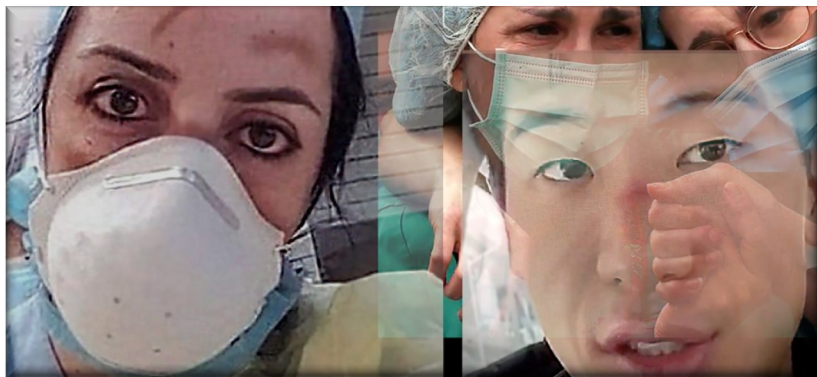
*Plus select pharmacies from Managed Health Care Associates, Inc.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/30/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/30/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships-announcement.html>

It's Not Too Late!
**Watch Previous
Vaccine Allocation Webinar Sessions
AND
Register for the Final Session**
www.practicalbioethics.org/events-education/events-calendar#webinar



With the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art as the backdrop, the Center's 2021 private broadcast Annual Event on February 25, co-chaired by Debbie Sosland-Edelman and Alan Edelman, featured the Dalai Lama's personal physician, Dr. Barry Kerzin, and presentation of the Vision to Action Award to Dr. Steven Stites.

Faces of Humility



Welcome

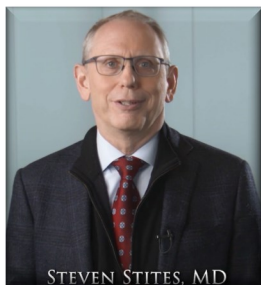
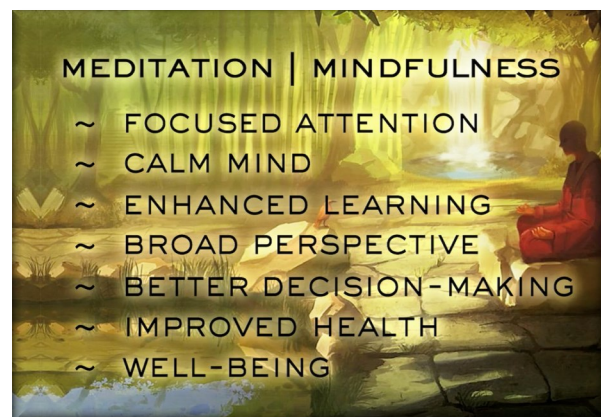
While this event departs from our traditional annual gatherings, we hope tonight to stitch together a few reflections and experiences of the past year. We'll embrace the full human experience – moral, spiritual, intellectual, clinical, social, emotional and even economic stories of our lives – and how all of them, jumbled together, can lead us to health and healing.

John G. Carney, MEd, President & CEO, Center for Practical Bioethics

Cultivating Resilience, Compassion and Mindfulness

We all have superficial differences – gender, race, ethnicity – but they're not very important. Deeply, we're all the same. We all want to be happy, and none of us want to hurt, even the animals. Please write this down. Read it, reflect on it, and practice on it! It will make your relationships with others more successful, more happy, closer.

Barry Kerzin, MD
Keynote Address



STEVEN STITES, MD



Vision to Action

I'm honored to receive this award and especially gratified to do so in the name of colleagues who've worked tirelessly and relentlessly over this last year...I am humbled in their name and even more in memory of the more than 1,500 of our loved ones who have lost their lives in this epic tragedy.

Steven Stites, MD
Award Recipient

Transformations

Our client base has really been struggling over the last four years and have returned to a mindset of hiding, not having a face....When you're trying to survive, you don't get to think big thoughts...It's going to take patience and a lot of compassion and time and getting the Latino community vaccinated....and simple kindness.

Erica Andrade, Chief Program Officer
El Centro, Inc.



ERICA ANDRADE, MPA

Read about event sponsors and stories at www.PracticalBioethics.org/Annual-Event.

BIOETHICS IMPACT

It's Personal. It's Professional. It's Policy.



Personal

Kathy Riegelman, M. Div, BCC
The University of Kansas Health System

Rev. Riegelman and the patients, families and hospital staff for whom she provides spiritual support benefit from resources provided by the Center and its leadership on the hospital's Ethics Committee.

As a chaplain at a Level One Trauma Center and member of the hospital's Ethics Committee, Rev. Riegelman often gets involved in ethics cases where the patient has no strong family connections or ability to voice their wishes and give consent for treatment.

"Bioethics principles such as autonomy, justice and beneficence help me cut through first impressions, avoid judgment and think through situations," she says.

Rev. Riegelman also appreciates the impact of Center resources on patient care. The January 2021 issue of the Center's *Ethics Dispatch* newsletter focuses on the importance of language in how clinicians discuss illness and treatments.

"*The Dispatch* helped me reflect on the recent case of a dying patient whose surrogate decision maker wanted her dad to 'go out fighting.' Those insights will inform my practice in the future," said Rev. Riegelman.



Professional

Raghu Adiga, MD
Liberty Hospital

Sarah J. Hon, DO, FAAN
Meritas Health
Neurology/North
Kansas City Hospital

Dr. Hon, a clinical neurologist and chair of the North Kansas City Hospital Ethics Committee, and Dr. Adiga, an infectious disease specialist and Chief Medical Officer at Liberty Hospital, both rely on their ethics committees to make recommendations to help resolve issues and differences of opinion, from whether a treatment is ethically appropriate for a particular patient to addressing scarce resources in a pandemic.

When Dr. Adiga became CMO at Liberty Hospital three years ago, one of his goals was to strengthen the hospital's ethics team, ensuring that the team was prepared to respond to consult requests quickly and to make recommendations that resolved the issue.

"The result today is less staff burnout and reduced stress on patients and families," he said.

"Members of the healthcare team often have never taken a course in ethics or bioethics," said Dr. Hon. "They don't come equipped with tools to form an ethical framework or approach for a patient when difficult decisions have to be made."

"Word has gotten around that Ryan's presence has been invaluable in the ICU, helping staff reframe how they perceive their role and understand the difference they're making, even if they can't change the outcome," said Dr. Hon.



And both rely on the Center to provide their ethics committees with the resources and education they need to do the job. Ryan Pferdehirt, a clinical ethicist at the Center, provides ethics training and support onsite at both of their hospitals.



POLICY

Patrick White, MD, HMDC, FACP, FAAHPM
Washington University School of Medicine
and BJC Home Care

In most places in Missouri, you can sign an out-of-hospital DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order that essentially offers two choices: do nothing or do everything. The Center leads the Missouri/Kansas bi-state initiative to make it easier for seriously ill patients and their families to align treatment plans with their goals and values.

"I think patients have the right to decide what medical care they want and don't

want," said Dr. White, who oversees palliative care for BJC HealthCare's 14 hospitals in St. Louis and throughout Missouri. "No other organization has been more effective than the Center at unifying healthcare professionals across the state in advocating for this right."

COVID-19, which can lead to decisions whether to intubate a patient, has amplified the need for this initiative, known as Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences or TPOPP.

"The Center has been instrumental," said Dr. White, "in advising healthcare systems across the state on policies that provide ethical solutions to protect our patients throughout the pandemic."



Coping with the Pandemic

What is mindfulness? How can “emotional hygiene” help to identify and respond to destructive emotions? What are some strategies to cultivate compassion and reduce suffering? And how can you start a meditation practice?

On March 12, Dr. Barry Kerzin followed up his Annual Event keynote address with a two-hour workshop designed especially for frontline healthcare workers. Dr. Kerzin provided practical tools for coping with the uniquely stressful demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. All four segments of the workshop – Mindfulness, Emotional Hygiene, Compassion and Meditation – may be viewed at www.practicalbioethics.org/events-education/events-calendar#kerzin.



SHORT TAKES

Deliberative Democracy



Scarcity raises an urgent question of justice: Who should be prioritized for access to the first batches of Covid-19 vaccines? To date, only one US jurisdiction has convened ordinary members of the public to weigh in on the question using a deliberative democratic approach.

The New York Academy of Medicine partnered with the New York City Department of Health to hold online public deliberations—three in English, two in Spanish—in December and January with a cross section of New Yorkers to provide ethical guidance on equitable vaccine distribution.

Participants were provided with expert information, including a presentation by Dr. Erika Blacksher, the Center’s John B. Francis Chair, on different ways to think about distributive fairness.

For information about the Center’s growing body of work and resources in this field, go to www.practicalbioethics.org/resources/population-health-and-deliberative-democracy-resources.

Ethical AI



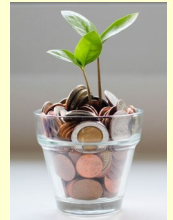
In 2019, the Center gathered 54 healthcare and technology professionals in Kansas City to examine concerns regarding ethics in AI and to propose interventions. A year later, we published a report analyzing data gathered at that workshop and conducted our second workshop (virtually) at the annual American Congress of Rehabilitative Medicine conference.

A major grant from the Sunderland Foundation is enabling the project to complete development of a framework for more equitable AI models in healthcare that protect diversity and inclusion. To accomplish this, we are engaging stakeholder communities in a collaborative model using community-based participatory research techniques.

For more, go to www.practicalbioethics.org/programs/artificial-intelligence.

Monthly Giving

Have you thought about monthly giving to the Center and wondered whether it’s right for you?



A key benefit is convenience. It’s easy to sign up at www.practicalbioethics.org/support-our-mission/give-monthly, and your gift can be modified at any time. In addition to being budget friendly by spreading your donation out over time, monthly giving provides predictable support leading to better organization and greater impact.

Legacy Giving

Legacy giving, also known as planned or deferred giving, is a powerful tool for ensuring that your values and beliefs live on. It also provides you with immediate benefits, such as increased current income, reduced income tax liability and avoidance of capital gains tax.

A bequest through your will or trust is the easiest and most popular planned gift and costs nothing during the donor’s lifetime. Bequests can even be added to existing wills or trusts through a simple amendment called a codicil.

The Center’s Legacy Society is growing in 2021! Please let us know if you would like to learn more about it or if you have already designated the Center as a beneficiary.

Ethics Committee Consortium

Membership includes monthly *Ethics Dispatch* newsletters and webinar topics ranging from introductory ethics training to case retrospectives and discussions on emerging issues. For more, go to www.practicalbioethics.org/programs/ethics-committee-consortium.



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