

PRACTICAL BIOETHICS



Justice and Equity Staying the Course in Times Like These

In the United States, even the well-off have worse health and shorter lives than their counterparts in other high-income countries.

Although public awareness of social determinants of health has increased, most Americans remain largely unaware or reject outright the fact that health or lack of it starts long before we seek out medical care.

How should we respond in times like these? At the Center, with your help, we stay the course, grounded in nearly 40 years of community-engaged bioethics.

CIVIC POPULATION HEALTH PROJECT – We are creating a toolkit for deliberations that we plan to pilot test in Missouri and Kansas to learn how diverse people understand, talk and reason together about U.S. population health challenges. Can deliberation build shared purpose on challenges such as chronic illness, substance misuse and infant mortality? If yes, can such deliberations help other communities overcome counterproductive discourse and legislative gridlock?



ETHICAL AI INITIATIVE – Healthcare providers often make decisions using tools built by others based on artificial intelligence. Rarely, however, are interventions in place to identify risks, benefits and potential harms generated by these tools. The Center is pilot testing educational resources and developing process improvements and recommendations for healthcare IT practitioners and providers at The University of Kansas Health System to identify and address ethical problems in the use of these systems and to reduce and ultimately prevent harms to impacted populations.



BIOETHICS EDUCATION AND CONSULTATION – Medicine is an inherently moral enterprise. Clinical ethics provides a practical approach to assist health professionals in identifying, analyzing and resolving ethical issues that arise from medical technologies, policies and treatments. The Center teaches bioethics to hundreds of students, preparing them to deliver ethically-supported care. We train hospital and health system ethics committees to address issues that arise in patient care and administration. And we welcome the public to free webinars, lectures and symposia throughout the year.

John Carney to Retire at Year's End

When John Carney announced more than two years ago his intention to retire by the end of 2022, that deadline seemed far away. John was appointed President and CEO of the Center in 2011, following founding executive director Myra Christopher's announcement of her plans to step back.

Now, with the end of 2022 nearly here and the search for a new President and CEO underway, the typical thing to do would be to host a big event to celebrate John and recognize his impact on health and healthcare. But, John being John, that's not what he wants.

He did, however, agree to reflect on his accomplishments, plans for the future and what he sees as the most important ethical issues in health and healthcare today. You can read his story at www.practicalbioethics.org/in-the-news/john-g-carney-a-career-in-ethics/.



ETHICS COMMITTEE CONSORTIUM

Your Membership Supports Equitable Care and Better Outcomes

Nearly everyone in healthcare – from clinicians and administrators to volunteers and housekeeping staff – encounters troubling situations with ethical implications.

COVID-19 brought many of these situations and their risks to the forefront: threats to patient care, heightened institutional exposure and increased professional burnout. Reports indicate that as many as one-third of nurses may quit by yearend, with potentially serious impacts on access and quality.



The University of Kansas Health System Ethics Committee

Ethics committees stand in the breach to address issues arising from these problems. Evidence shows that patients whose care presents ethical dilemmas in facilities with well-trained ethics committees receive better, more equitable care with better outcomes for all involved.

Ideally, ethics committees — comprised of multidisciplinary professionals and volunteers — receive training from their institutions. Unfortunately, many committees, especially in smaller hospitals, receive neither the training nor tools to perform this work.

Thanks to you, the Center's Ethics Committee Consortium educates ethics committees nationwide.

Most Consortium members work for institutions that are Affiliates of the Center. As such, they have resources and training provided by our bioethicists, including monthly educational webinars, medical ethics immersion series, *Ethics Dispatch* newsletter and committee support. A growing number of students, academics and volunteers are joining the Consortium for a monthly donation of \$5 or more.

You can too! Contact Polo Camacho at 816-979-1366 or pcamacho@PracticalBioethics.org for details!

A PATIENT WITH DEMENTIA

A hospital care team was distressed by a challenging case involving a mid-life patient with dementia due to stroke. Lacking the capacity to make healthcare decisions, he routinely refused life-sustaining medications and insisted on being discharged to a home that his family reported uninhabitable.

The care team had to develop a safe discharge plan. What should be the care goals for this patient? What would be an ethically permissible outcome for this patient and his family? The hospitalist requested an ethics consult.

The hospital's Ethics Committee was able to facilitate a course of action that respected all participants' values, concerns and interests.

in
times
like
these . . .

improving equity and justice in healthcare.
safeguarding the voices of the unheard.
answering cries for help every day.
finding solutions to critical population health issues.
bringing ethics into life-and-death decision making.
teaching ethics committees.
undoing structural and systemic racism.
building trust in public health.

America's Nursing Crisis: What Should Be Done?

Three basic questions were posed leading up to the 28th Annual Rosemary Flanigan Event:

1. Is "crisis" an accurate description of what nurses currently are facing?
2. If so, was this crisis preventable or inevitable given the pandemic?
3. And, whatever this is, what should be done?

These and other questions were discussed by seven nurse panelists with nearly 200 virtual and in-person participants at Kansas City University on August 4.

Yes, it's a crisis in the U.S. and internationally. Probably it was inevitable; the pandemic merely accentuated it. And yes, there are actions that should be taken to ameliorate the crisis.

Here are a few of our panelists' suggestions:

- Increase compensation for nurses and for nurse educators.
- Maintain safe and sane nurse-to-patient ratios.
- Increase nursing diversity by improving access to nursing education for persons of color, including immigrants.
- Provide opportunities for nurses' voices to be heard in and outside of clinical settings. Train clinical ethicists more often to consider how ethics recommendations or decisions impact the nurses caring for patients and families involved.
- Reduce the time and frustration of charting/documentation via electronic medical record enhancements, including more training and use of scribes.

For the full list, go to www.practicalbioethics.org/in-the-news/americas-nursing-crisis-suggestions-on-what-should-be-done/.



Panelists Carole Thomas, Eva Karp and Joy Roberts (left to right)



Panelists Angie Knackstedt, Erums Iboaya and Maria Fox (left to right)

RYAN PFERDEHIRT, HEC-C A Philosopher Who Does Bioethics



Clinical ethics as a career path is not well known, in part because it's relatively new. Ryan Pferdehirt didn't know about it until he was in college, majoring in math and philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania.

By the time he left his clinical ethicist position at MultiCare Health System in Tacoma, Washington, in 2019 to join the Center for Practical Bioethics as Director Membership and Ethics Education, MultiCare was doing 120 ethics consults a year, had integrated clinical ethics in policy and standard patient interactions, started a new pediatric ethics committee for the system's children's hospital, and started a joint-venture internship with the local university.

Read the whole story of how a baseball-loving kid in Pittsburgh became a clinical ethicist who, as CEO John Carney put it, "is helping to improve care, assisting patients, families and clinicians in building trust and making better shared decisions."

www.practicalbioethics.org/blog/a-philosopher-who-does-bioethics/



Bequest Your Values

A planned gift to the Center is a statement of deeply held belief in the principles of ethics and our duty to care in all settings for all people. A bequest through your will or trust, which costs nothing in your lifetime, is the easiest and most frequent planned gift. As a Legacy Society member, in addition to receiving our Sustainers Council Update newsletter, you'll be part of an exclusive group doing their all to ensure that this small organization with an outsized impact continues from strength to strength. Call the Center to learn more.

Short Takes

Social Determinants of Health How to Advance Health Equity in Your Community



Health is related to conditions in our lives known as social determinants of health – conditions in which we live, learn, work and play. The need to address social determinants of health is especially urgent for health systems serving minority and low-income populations.

This webinar on social determinants of health, presented live on September 8, is one of 10 monthly educational webinars that the Center typically provides *exclusively* for Ethics Committee Consortium members. To learn more about the benefits of Consortium membership, contact pcamacho@PracticalBioethics.org.

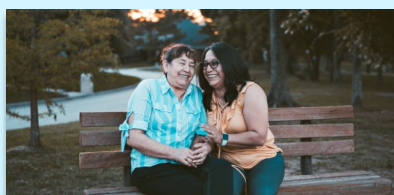
In this webinar, Dr. Sanne Magnan discusses:

- What we can do to change social drivers of health,
- What are some of the health-related social needs and social drivers of health challenges that patients face, and
- What are some successful interventions to address patients' needs?

Dr. Magnan is the previous co-chair of the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM). Currently, she is co-chair of the Health Care Expenditure Collaborative associated with the Roundtable.

Latino Advance Care Planning

Latinos often reject Western medical models of Advance Care Planning (ACP), putting them at risk for poorer outcomes in times of emergency and when dealing with progressive chronic disease. The Center was recently awarded a Health Forward grant to support bilingual, culturally sensitive online and in-person ACP workshops for adult Latinos in collaboration with El Centro in Kansas City, KS. The long-term goal of the project is to improve interactions between Latino families and care providers and to increase use of ACP resources by the Latino community.



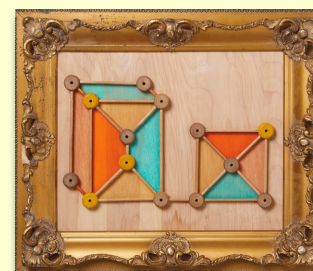
Dobbs v. Jackson



The U.S. Supreme Court's recent Dobbs v. Jackson decision overturning Roe v. Wade has sparked outrage, celebration and confusion depending on a person's perspectives, convictions, commitments and past experiences. Amid these emotions reside ethically complex questions requiring sober thoughtfulness and civil discourse. Terry Rosell, PhD, Rosemary Flanigan Chair, arrives at five ethical principles related to pregnancy on which we all might agree. Read them on our blog at www.practicalbioethics.org/blog/.

Ethical AI

At its first planning retreat, the Ethical AI Advisory Council developed action steps that will guide our efforts throughout the next few years to leverage the benefits and mitigate the risks of artificial intelligence in health and healthcare. Thanks to the University of Kansas' Community Tool Box and Christina Holt, who facilitated the event; Corvino Supper Club for hosting dinner; and Mid-America Regional Council for providing meeting space. We cannot effectively do our work without support from the Kansas City community.



Coming Soon Art of the Wish Symposium

You are invited to join us in person this fall at Village Shalom's Epsten Gallery, to explore how art expressing the wishes of elders can change lives. Andy Newcom and Marn Jensen will share creations from *Art of the Wish*, recently exhibited at the Center's 2022 Annual Event. Panelists at this Berkley Symposium will address how meaning and intimacy is discoverable in the forgotten and discarded, how personal growth can come from stories of resilience and how the most treasured and sacred moments of our lives can be revealed in the mundane. Date and time TBA. Admission free.



Center for Practical Bioethics
www.PracticalBioethics.org
816.221.1100



© Copyright 2022 All rights reserved.