

Bioethics Bulletin

November 28, 2023

CENTER FOR PRACTICAL
BIOETHICS

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Donor Spotlight

Practical Approach to Ethical Dilemmas Inspires Mark Thompson

“I was initially impressed with the Center’s work around end-of-life care,” said Mark R. Thompson, JD, of counsel with Seigfried Bingham, P.C., and board member at the Center. “My mother passed away in 2018 and my father in 2022, so I saw the benefit first-hand of having their decisions regarding end-of-life care preserved and followed.

“I support the Center now,” he said, “because of the need for its practical approach to ethical dilemmas, from day-to-day healthcare to broader society issues.

“It’s hard to choose which Center activity excites me most. Its ongoing legacy work in [end-of-life care](#) and invaluable [consulting services for hospital ethics committees](#) are crucially important activities that are growing nationally. At the same time, knowledge gained from our cutting-edge [initiative in Artificial Intelligence](#), as well as research to develop tools for [Democratic Deliberation](#) have unprecedented potential to further equity and justice in healthcare.”

Mark’s practice at Seigfried Bingham is focused on 30-plus years of healthcare experience. As a senior member of the firm’s Healthcare Industry Group, Mark has served as counsel for hospitals, healthcare systems and private practice physicians.

BIOETHICS in **ACTION**

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Clinical Ethics Consultation How I Make a Difference on the Worst Days in People's Lives

Ryan Pferdehirt is a clinical ethicist at the Center who consults with patients, families and medical teams when decisions about what to do seem next to impossible.

Half joking, he often says that someone's worst day is his only day. What does he mean?

"Every situation that I have ever been asked to consult on is a grueling experience," he says. "Because why would you seek ethical clarification if the situation was straightforward, clear and uplifting?"

In this piece, Ryan describes how he manages the stress that accompanies working with people on the worst day of their lives.

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**This is how AI image
generators see the world**

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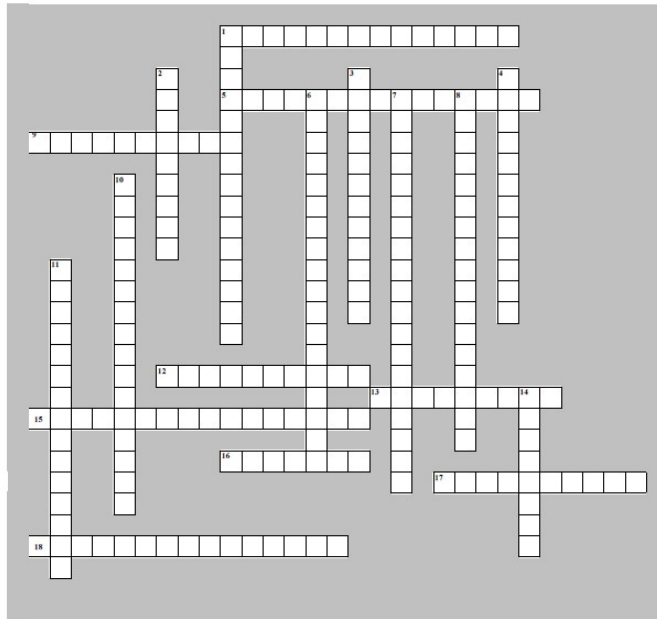
How AI is Crafting a World Where Our Worst Stereotypes are Realized **The Washington Post**

If the Center's focus on [Ethical AI](#) has you wondering what all the fuss is about, check out this recent article in *The Washington Post*.

“Artificial intelligence image tools have a tendency to spin up disturbing cliches: Asian women are hypersexual. Africans are primitive. Europeans are worldly. Leaders are men. Prisoners are Black,” write the authors. “These stereotypes don’t reflect the real world: they stem from the data that trains the technology. Grabbed from the internet, these troves can be toxic – rife with pornography, misogyny, violence and bigotry.”

While the authors focus on stereotypical images, biased datasets also produce biased outcomes in health and healthcare.

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