# Bioethics Bulletin April 17, 2024



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### 40th Anniversary Celebration You Made It a Memorable Evening

What a gathering of 400 people! We had former and current board members and volunteers. We had med students. We had civic leaders and elected officials. We had doctors, nurses, healthcare administrators, technology experts, and every kind of allied health professional all in the same room. We had you!

And because of you, we raised \$365,000 in support of our mission: To raise and respond to ethical issues in health and healthcare. There is still time to donate. <u>Make your donation today!</u>

We want to especially thank our Presenting Sponsors**American Century Investments**, **The Berkley Family**, and **Kansas City University**, as well as the extraordinary support of **Ellen and Irv Hockaday** and **Dianne Shumaker and Bob Southard**. Your especially warm embrace of our honorees --Mary Beth Blake, Myra Christopher and John Carney – will be long remembered.

Our gratitude further extends for understanding the challenge we faced when informed the morning of April 11 that our keynote speaker, Dr. Daniela Lamas, had been diagnosed with Covid and would be unable to attend. We hope you enjoyed our pivot to a conversation with our program staff leaders moderated by President and CEO James Stowe about clinical ethics, artificial intelligence, health justice and advance care planning.

# Watch These Short Videos about Our Mission and Work

40 YEARS OF PRACTICAL BIOETHICS **BIOETHICS IN ACTION** 

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## **Four Areas of Practical Bioethics**

Remarks by James Stowe, PhD, President and CEO of the Center, at our 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on April 11, 2024.

During the celebration, James Stowe spoke about joining the Center as the third President and CEO in its history.

"Now, having lived in the Kansas City region for a number of years with my wife, Becky, and our two kids, Parker and Sadie," he said, "I am more convinced than ever of the importance of the Center's work, even to each member of my family – as we age, make healthcare decisions, and as we encounter and grapple with new technologies in health and healthcare."

Dr. Stowe discussed the Center's current focus on four areas of practical bioethics:

Ethics Service Ethical Al Health Justice Advance Care Planning

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## **Investing to Keep More Americans Healthy**

Remarks by Erika Blacksher, PhD, John B. Francis Chair, at our 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on April 11, 2024,

I am a friend of science and am privileged to live in a nation that leads the world in making investments in basic biomedical research. These investments can lead to treatments that, like magic bullets, cure people with serious disease and illness.

But investments in biomedicine are not the only ones we need to make if we are going to protect our nation's health. Good medicine and excellent healthcare professionals – and of course terrific clinical ethics consultants like Terry and Ryan – are critical. More Americans need better access to these important resources.

But these are not the only investments we need to make if we want to keep more Americans healthy in the first place.

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## **Ethics Dispatch** Moral Culpability for Respecting Patients' Autonomy

Respect for patients' autonomy is a fundamental component of modern medical ethics. Every person has unique goals, which are reflected in their medical decisions, and for which healthcare providers ought to exhibit respect.

But the principle of respect for autonomy is only one of the four principles for biomedical ethics that are taught to healthcare providers for on-the-job moral guidance. How ought we respond when a patient's autonomous decision conflicts with one or more of those other guiding principles?

The hot topic and case study in this issue of the*Ethics Dispatch* explore the prickly question of when it can be ethically permissible for a healthcare provider to say no to doing something – or not – that they believe to be harmful. In situations where a provider and patient disagree, the authors offer insight as to the basis of their disagreement.

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