

Bioethics Bulletin

March 12, 2024

CENTER FOR PRACTICAL
BIOETHICS

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Join Us for the Center's 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner April 11, 2024, at The Abbott

KEYNOTE: WHO DECIDES?

Daniela Lamas, MD, is a New York Times contributing opinion writer and a pulmonary and critical care physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Her keynote address will explore the increasing tension in decision making at key junctures of illness and the role of clinical ethics to help mediate, followed by dialogue with the Center's Rosemary Flanigan Chair in Bioethics, Tarris (Terry) Rosell, DMin, PhD, HEC-C.

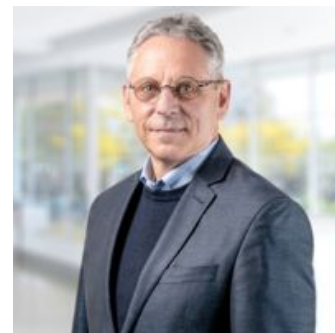
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New Ethics Dispatch **Autonomy in the Absence of Decisional Capacity**

Patients should be treated with respect and a means of demonstrating that respect is by treating them as capable of making their own medical decisions. But in modern healthcare, many variables can arise that complexify the principle of respect for autonomy for particular patients.

A frequent disruption to a patient's right to self-determination (autonomy) is when the patient's decision-making capacity is diminished or gone. Does the principle of respect for autonomy then no longer apply?

In this issue of the *Ethics Dispatch*, Ryan Pferdehirt and Terry Rosell examine when it becomes appropriate to rely on a surrogate, how to ascertain the most appropriate surrogate, and ways to address the situation when a surrogate wants something other than what it is known that the patient would have

wanted.

READ DISPATCH



Ryan Pferdehirt: A Philosopher Who Does Bioethics

Clinical ethics as a career path is not well known, in part because it's still 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 MultiCare Health System in Tacoma, Washington, in 2019 to join the Center, the system 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



KANSAS CITY

AI in Kansas City Balancing Potential and Risk

A recent story in the Kansas City Beacon explores AI's potential to enable clinicians to remain more focused on interactions with patients and to do more with less, how several area providers are using it, and reasons to proceed with caution.

The story also explains how, since 2021, in the absence of governmental regulation, the Center's Ethical AI Initiative has taken a lead in mapping out AI standards, with hope for their eventual adoption by all Kansas City area providers. For now, hospitals aren't required to tell patients when they're using AI.

"Because, unfortunately," said Lindsey Jarrett, PhD, vice president of Ethical AI at the Center, "no one's really telling them they have to."

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