



Center For Practical BIOETHICS

Sept. 25, 2025

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Update for Our Supporters

Dear CPB Friend:

Three exciting announcements!

We are very pleased to announce a new partnership with **i.c.stars Kansas City!** Funded by a Capacity Building grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the project aims to develop a new learning pathway focused on ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The Center's VP of Ethical AI, Dr. Lindsey Jarrett, will spearhead the Center's involvement in the grant, which will launch a specialized ethical AI curriculum for i.c.stars' learners and program graduates and build internal staff capacity through a "train the trainer" model. Admirably, i.c.stars' mission is to connect potential with opportunity—finding, training, and launching underestimated talent into technology careers.

We are also thrilled to announce that we have appointed our next **John B. Francis Co-Chairs in Bioethics** – Nanette Elster, JD, MPH, and Kayhan Parsi, JD, PhD, HEC-C!

Nanette and Kayhan are faculty at the Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and were selected following a comprehensive national search. They bring excellence in bioethics research, teaching, productive scholarship, and alignment with clinical bioethics, a core area of the Center's work and impact, necessary to this prestigious appointment. We look forward to building practical programming and interventions related to their areas of interest, including supported decision making, ethics education, and enhancements in organizational and clinical ethics. More about Dr. Elster and Dr. Parsi soon!

And, finally, our **Breakfast of Champions** annual event was a gratifying testament to the excellence in bioethics happening in and through our region's healthcare systems and organizations. We honored Dr. Rick Butin, University Health, as our 2025 Ethics Champion, and Krystal Pence, LMSW, AdventHealth Kansas City, provided a moving account of how her and her hospital's bioethics leadership has impacted their care and patient outcomes.

The support of our partners and donors makes our mission both possible and effective, and we are grateful!

With gratitude,

Interview with James Stowe

Values, Partnership and Transparency

What is bioethics?

That is KC Cares' Ruth Baum Bigus's first question to James Stowe, PhD, President and CEO, in a wide-ranging interview, from how clinical ethics helps patients, families and providers navigate decision making at the bedside to the risks and benefits of AI at all stages and places in healthcare. Three words that kept coming up were values, partnership, and transparency.



KC Cares features nonprofits sharing their story. The interview with Dr. Stowe will be broadcast on **September 26** on [Facebook Live](#). You can find the webcast or podcast after October 10 on [YouTube](#), at [KCCaresonline.org](#), or on platforms like Spotify and Apple. To stay updated on nonprofit news, you can follow KC Cares on LinkedIn under Charitable Communications.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jazz, Bioethics, and the Moral Practice of Medicine

Jazz – understood as more than music – offers powerful insights for rethinking ethics in medicine. Join Patrick T. Smith, PhD, in exploring how jazz music concepts might inform our approaches to professional ethics and life together.

[Dr. Smith](#) is an Associate Research Professor of Theological Ethics and Bioethics at Duke University Divinity School, an Associate Professor in Population Health Sciences at Duke University School of Medicine, and President-Elect of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.



REGISTER

31st ANNUAL FLANIGAN LECTURE

**November 12, 2025
GEM Theater KCMO**

**Reception with Live Jazz at 6:00 PM
Lecture Begins at 7:00 PM**

Free and Open to the Public | Donations Welcome

Clinical Ethics Resources

You can use these free resources to educate your ethics committee and increase anyone's ability to respond to complex ethical issues.

Ethics Dispatch

Scapegoating, Health Care, and the Violation of Justice

Recent federal policy changes under the current administration will strip many immigrants of access to essential health and social services. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that 13 programs – including community health centers, mental health services, and Head Start – will now be restricted to “qualified” immigrants.

Cassie explains why – in addition to not lowering costs – the decision to scapegoat immigrants and strip away healthcare access is a cautionary tale about how easily ethics can be subverted by politics. It shows us how fear can be weaponized to dismantle justice, and how health policy can be turned into a tool of harm.

Why do we scapegoat? In Ethical Musings, Ryan argues that the human need to search for causation is part of the rationale behind recent federal decisions impacting healthcare, particularly immigrants' access to it.

New Ethics Dispatch Ethics Committee Meeting in a Box

Monthly hot topic
New clinical ethics case study
Today's bioethics news stories
Ethical musing essay



[READ THE DISPATCH](#)

Clinical Ethics Corner Video Case Study

When What Is Right ≠ What Is Best Justice for Undocumented Patients

Justice for patients can be difficult to locate due to situational factors over which providers have little or no control, as illustrated by this case of a middle-aged woman suffering from respiratory distress.

The patient had multiple additional medical complications and two weeks earlier had to be intubated and put on a breathing

The Clinical Ethics Corner

**Bioethics
Case Study**



machine. The medical team discussed placement of a trach and PEG after which she would likely need to be sent to a skilled nursing facility to recover.

The patient, however, was undocumented with no path to insurance. Thus, finding placement was next to impossible.

[WATCH THE SHORT VIDEO](#)

[READ THE CASE](#)

ETHICS COMMITTEE CONSORTIUM NEWS

Expertise in an Age of Anti-Intellectualism

When the ECC gathered on September 16 to discuss the value of ethics expertise in an age of anti-intellectualism, consensus emerged around four themes:

- **Humility** – Stay within your professional domain
- **Multidisciplinary Perspective** – Ethics committees should include diverse viewpoints
- **Respect for Autonomy** – Patients generally make the best decisions for themselves; ethics should provide information and options.
- **Cultural/Socioeconomic Context** – Background can affect patients' understanding; some may be unaware of treatment options.

Stay tuned for details about our next ECC meeting tentatively in December.



Your Hospital Can Save Money

Cut Costs, Protect Staff, Elevate Patient Trust

Hospitals lose millions each year due to prolonged ICU stays, non-beneficial treatments, and costly staff turnover.

Clinical ethics consultation changes that. One health system saved **\$288,000 in just six months**. Another reported **\$157,000 in yearly savings**—all by ensuring care is appropriate, patient-centered, and conflict-free.



These savings aren't from denying care. Clinical ethicists can help your hospital avoid waste. That means fewer unnecessary procedures, shorter hospitalizations, smoother discharges, reduced legal risk, improved clinician resilience and retention, and less moral distress that drives turnover.

Clinical ethicists are your proven operational asset. For details, contact Cassie Shaffer Johnson at cshafferjohnson@PracticalBioethics.org.

Breakfast of Champions

You Helped Make Vital Ethics Services Accessible!

Thanks to everyone who attended our Breakfast of Champions event on September 18 at the College Basketball Experience. Because of you and our wonderful sponsors, we raised funds for 175 ethics consultations that will support up to 175 patients, families and care team members!

American Century Investments

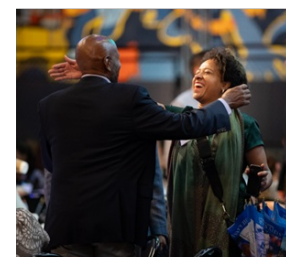
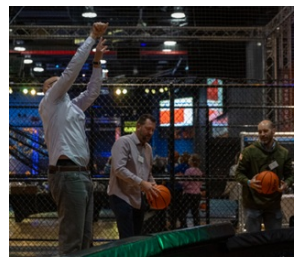
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Ethical AI in the Community

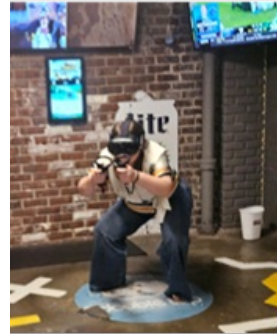
AI and IPAs Young Professionals Networking Event

For the Center's first-ever AI and IPAs event, we took the conversation about AI Ethics to DoubleTapKC's Virtual Reality Arcade and Pub in the River Market on August 28.

"It was a unique setting for the community to see and touch technology, meet others who are interested in AI, and learn about the intersection of ethics in this emerging space," said Dr. Lindsey Jarrett, Vice President of Ethical AI at the Center. "We were thrilled to welcome a diverse group of professionals, including data scientists, maternal health policymakers, accountants and even an actor."

Dr. Jarrett's presentation focused on the importance of creating trust. New perspectives homed in on the need to train users how to use AI in effective and safe ways.

By popular demand, stay tuned for future Ethical AI pop-up events in 2026!



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