



The Bioethics Bulletin

Jan 28, 2026

Make sure you receive this newsletter by adding info@practicalbioethics.org to your Safe Sender, White List or Address Book.

Update for Our Supporters

Dear Monica:

In almost any topic or setting, adopting a long-term perspective will create better outcomes and focus current efforts on what matters most. In this moment of significant change and the dismantling of norms, institutions, and approaches that have been used and held sacred for some time, it leaves me wondering if long-term thinking is in play, or we're just scrambling to knock things over. Without a view to the distant horizon, we'll just be left with rubble.

This month, we're embracing change of all types, including pieces on how clinicians and students may best react to an era in which truth and fact have lost objectivity and gained undue external influence. We are also extending a warm invitation to those willing to do the work necessary to build systems of care and ethical decision making that will endure. We hope to partner with you and your organization on change that will last and matter most to providers and patients.

We're grateful for the solid, visionary guidance of our board of directors. Our new board Chair, Maggie Neustadt, JD, CPHRM, FASHRM, personifies practical and effective leadership. It's just one more example of how we are in it for the long run, and we hope that you'll join us on the journey.

With gratitude,

James Stowe, PhD
CPB President and CEO

Board of Directors

Maggie Neustadt and Karen Johnson Step into CPB Leadership Roles

We're thrilled to announce the appointment of [Maggie Neustadt, JD, CPHRM, FASHRM](#), as Chair of our Board of Directors and [Karen S. Johnson, PhD](#), as Vice Chair.

Maggie is the Vice President for Risk Management for the BJC Health System. She joined the CPB Board in 2020 and most recently served as Vice Chair and Governance Committee Co-Chair. You can read more [here](#) about Maggie in this board member profile.

Karen is the Vice President of Practice Management and Health Policy and Management for the American Academy of Family Physicians. Karen succeeds Maggie as Vice Chair and Governance Committee Chair.



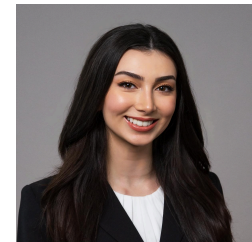
Empowering Medical Trainees to Confront the Misinformation Epidemic

In an era where social media shapes public opinion faster than any journal article, misinformation has become one of the most pervasive threats to public health.

Tragically, one of the most prominent purveyors of medical misinformation regarding vaccines is the current US Secretary of Health and Human Services. When patients rely on false or misleading information, autonomy itself becomes compromised. Yet most medical trainees receive no formal instruction on how to address misinformation during patient encounters.

For our [blog](#), CPB Francis Co-Chair Kayhan Parsi and one of his medical students, Lily Rajae, examine the misinformation problem and propose a framework involving three steps that can help guide productive conversations with patients.

Also, learn about Kayhan and Francis Co-Chair Nanette's Elster's approach to ethical reasoning and their bioethics focus areas in this [joint Q & A](#).



[READ BLOG](#)

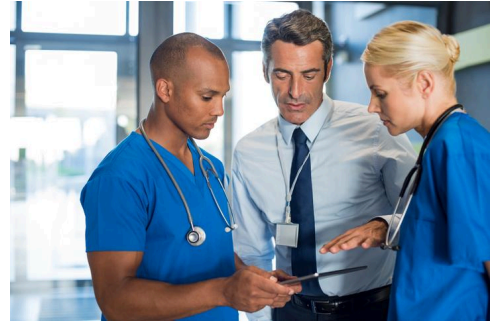
[READ Q & A BLOG](#)

You Aren't Alone

Proven Ethics Services Strengthen Decisions, Teams and Outcomes

THE ETHICS PROBLEM

Ethical issues arise every day in healthcare. When organizations are unprepared to address complex ethical issues, the impact is real. Patient outcomes suffer. Staff burnout increases. Risk, compliance, and safety are affected.



THE ETHICS SERVICES SOLUTION

Ethics services provide neutral, expert guidance. They help teams identify ethically sound courses of action. They also build internal capacity to respond effectively in the future. They save money by helping to avoid prolonged stays, difficult discharges, non-beneficial treatments, and costly staff turnover.

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

With over 40 years of trusted experience in healthcare ethics, CPB Ethics Services provide proven solutions to help organizations navigate complex ethical challenges. **We mitigate risk by offering trusted, neutral, and reliable guidance while empowering your team to build internal capacity and respond to ethical dilemmas with confidence—now and in the future.**

Questions? Contact Cassandra Shaffer-Johnson at cshafferjohnson@PracticalBioethics.org

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.

When Vaccination Status Leads to Conflict: Physicians Question Their Response to Anti-Vax Parents

Parents bring their child to the hospital to be evaluated after a brief episode of dizziness and loss of consciousness on the playground. They insist on further testing when doctors recommend discharge with instructions to eat, hydrate and rest, and they react defensively when doctors ask about the child's vaccination

status. The medical team requests an ethics consultation seeking guidance on how similar situations might be managed to reduce conflict and improve communication.

This case illustrates the January hot topic – Vaccine Policy in the Age of Distortion – where Cassie discusses the impact of myths about vaccination through the lens of the bioethics principle of nonmaleficence, or do no harm. In ethical musings on the topic, Ryan explores the foundations of and necessity for trust in medicine.



[READ THE DISPATCH](#)

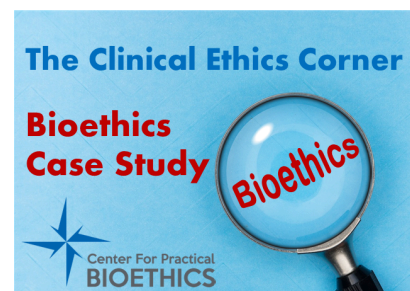
Clinical Ethics Corner Video Case Study

When a Parent Overrides Their Child's Best Interests

Jacob Needs a Baclofen Pump

Patient self-determination and personal autonomy are central components of ethically appropriate care. If patients have decision-making capacity, are able to understand the consequences of those decisions and accept the risks that might occur, it is typically ethically appropriate to support those decisions.

But how far does this principle extend? At what point do the best interests of the patient, and thus the principle of beneficence, overcome the patient's right to autonomy? This case looks at a demanding mom's impact on care for her eight-year-old son Jacob, who has suffered from severe medical complications his entire life, as well as on his medical team.



[WATCH THE SHORT VIDEO](#)

[READ THE CASE](#)

Ethics Committee Consortium Meeting

Save the Date

**Tuesday, February 10
12:00 PM Central Time**

**Presenters:
Kayhan Parsi, JD, PhD, HEC-C
Nanette Elster, JD, MPH**

More details and Microsoft Teams connection information to follow or contact Cassandra Shaffer Johnson at cshafferjohnson@PracticalBioethics.org.



To ensure you continue to receive our emails, please add us to your safe senders list.



DONATE



Center for Practical Bioethics | 13725 Metcalf Avenue, #427 816221100 | Overland Park, KS 66223 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)