



Center For Practical
BIOETHICS

The Bioethics Bulletin

**September 24,
2026**

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32nd Annual Rosemary Flanigan Lecture **Healthcare in an Era of Mass Deportation: Values, Ethics, and Narratives**

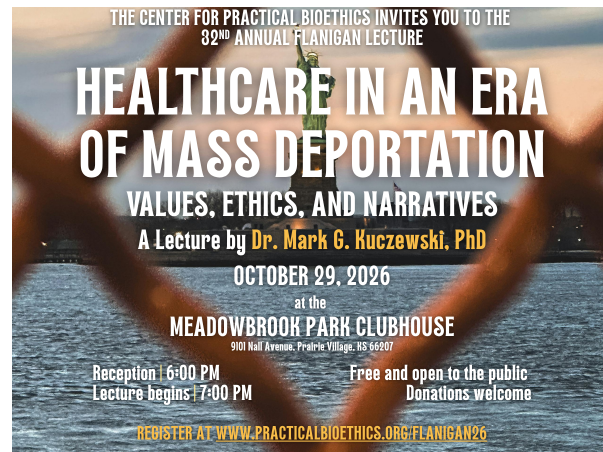
October 29, 2026

*Attend in person
OR via livestream*

Reception 6:00 PM
Lecture Begins at 7:00 PM

The Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse
Prairie Village, KS

*Free and Open to the Public
Donations Welcome*



As mass deportation reshapes the landscape of American healthcare, doctors, nurses, and institutions face an urgent question: what do we owe the communities we serve when policy and professional duty collide?



Join us with [Mark Kuczewski, PhD](#), to explore how the healing professions' core commitment to human dignity is being tested — and what's at stake for patients, providers, and the values that define medicine itself.

Dr. Kuczewski created the [Sanctuary Doctoring](#) program to provide resources to physicians to support their immigrant patients. He was also the catalyst for Loyola University Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine becoming the [first medical school in the nation](#) to welcome applications from DACA recipients.

REGISTER NOW

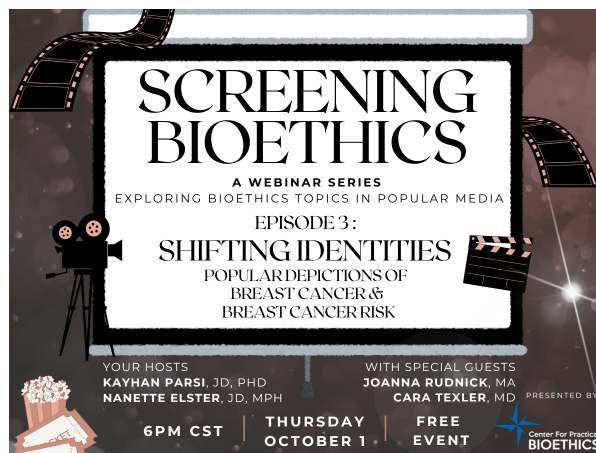
Screening Bioethics – EPISODE 3

Shifting Identities: Popular Depictions of Breast Cancer and Breast Cancer Risk

October 1, 6:00-7:00 PM CT

A Webinar Series
Exploring Bioethics Topics in Popular Media

Breast cancer narratives often invoke terms like survivorship and previvorship. How does popular culture reflect how women interpret their experience of breast cancer or breast cancer risk?



In this episode, hosts [Nanette Elster, JD, MPH](#) and [Kayhan Parsi, JD, PhD](#) joined by special guests [Joanna Rudnick, MA](#) and [Cara Texler, MD](#) will examine and discuss relevant ethical issues about breast cancer and breast cancer risk as depicted in both fictional and documentary film and television.

This 45-minute exploration will be followed by a 15-minute Q & A. Please register to receive the webinar link.

You can also read ahead about Nanette's mixed emotions surrounding a [bilateral prophylactic mastectomy](#), Joanna's reaction to [testing positive at age 27](#) for the breast cancer gene, and Cara's [ambivalence about survivorship](#).

REGISTER NOW

Separating the MMR Into Three Doses: Not in the Best Interest of Children

While the Trump administration has paid little attention to bioethical issues such as AI, medical aid in dying or reproductive rights, an exception is vaccine policy.

In our blog this month, Francis Co-Chairs [Nanette Elster](#) and [Kayhan Parsi](#) explain why the administration's invocation of bioethics principles – personal autonomy and informed consent – in Executive Order #14420 flies in the face of those long-established principles.



READ BLOG

The Ethics Dispatch

The *Ethics Dispatch* newsletter is a benefit we provide partner organizations and make available to all in the Bulletin. For information about how your organization can receive all the benefits of partnership, including the *Dispatch* and Ethics Committee Consortium membership, please contact Cassandra Shaffer Johnson at cshafferjohnson@PracticalBioethics.org

The Ethics of Maternal Mental Healthcare: When Asking for Help Feels Dangerous

The Lindsay Clancy case has raised questions about what happens when pregnant and postpartum women disclose maternal mental health issues. We argue that if healthcare institutions routinely ask patients to disclose deeply personal information, they must assume responsibility for ensuring that meaningful care exists when the answer is, “Yes, I need help.”

We follow up with what the healthcare industry can learn from Lindsay Clancy, but not at the expense of recognizing the underlying human tragedy.

And, in this issue, there’s a case study about “right to try” involving a child.

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

Ethics Committee Consortium Meeting Join Us to Discuss Challenging Discharges

The Ethics Committee Consortium (ECC) is open to employees and volunteers of CPB partner organizations.

At the next ECC meeting on **Tuesday, October 6, from 12:00–1:00 PM CT via Microsoft Teams**, we’ll discuss **challenging discharges**, exploring the ethical issues that can arise when a patient is medically ready to leave the hospital, but a safe, appropriate, or acceptable discharge plan is anything but straightforward.



Meeting link, suggested readings, and additional details coming soon!

We hope you’ll join us for the conversation. For more information about partnering with the Center, contact Cassandra Shaffer Johnson at cshafferjohnson@PracticalBioethics.org.

Newest Wave of Anti-Aging Skincare Products Are Growth Factors Ethically Sourced?

Before you try growth factors, the newest wave of anti-aging skin care in trusted brands' products, you might want to ask: how were the growth factors in this product sourced? Until recently human tissue donations were needed to boost collagen and repair tissue and many beauty brands still use them.



"The way the process usually works is, you donate your body, or you donate your tissue to an organization, and then they can make a determination on how to distribute those resources," [Ryan Pferdehirt](#), VP of Ethics Services, told [Coveteur](#), a magazine that covers luxury fashion, beauty, and lifestyle and reached out to the Center for an ethical perspective.

According to Ryan, the ethical issue is consent. "If you have patients who are being human trafficked, having their skin and tissue procured against their will, I would say the harms that are coming from this industry would outweigh the benefits of a person feeling better."

It's up to consumers, he says, to research how companies are sourcing their growth factors. While most are quite opaque about their procurement processes, consumers have the power to change that.

READ NOW

Breakfast of Champions You Helped Make Vital Ethics Services Accessible!

Thanks to everyone who joined us on September 17 at Sporting Park! Because of you and our wonderful sponsors, we raised funds for 175 ethics consultations that will support up to 875 patients, families and care team members.



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Seigfreid Bingham

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Kansas City University
Karen S. Johnson, PhD
Maggie Neustadt & Brian Rotert

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Erin Khouri, DO
Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor at
the University of Kansas Medical Center
Raghu Adiga
Tarris & Ruth Rosell

Screening Bioethics – EPISODE 2 REVIEW

Depictions of Death & Dying Decisions

After screening five clips, Screening Bioethics webinar series hosts Kayhan Parsi and Nanette Elster suggested that the common thread was patients making end-of-life decisions autonomously with a trusted family member or friend to support them.

Roxie in *The Pitt* had a death doula, as well as her husband and children. Molly in *Dying for Sex* had her best friend Nikki, a compassionate physician, and an enthusiastic hospice worker. Deborah in *Hacks* had her writer-turned-best-friend Ava.

Discussion moderated by Stephanie Van Slyke homed in on the role of and growing interest in death doulas, misconceptions around the use of drugs to alleviate pain at the end of life, physician skill in breaking bad news to patients, the need to demystify dying, and the importance of allowing the dying to do it on their own terms.

Mark October 1 on your calendar and join us for Episode 3 of Screening Bioethics!

[REGISTER NOW for EPISODE 3](#)



Thank You!

You Made Rosemary's 100th Birthday Special



Who's Who at CPB

Monica Delles

Monica joined the Center in July 2016 and is the Digital Marketing and Technology Integration Manager. Her diverse professional background includes nonprofit volunteer coordination, co-owning a business, professional sales, college and corporate computer training and freelance writing. Monica has always enjoyed volunteering in her community and currently enjoys teaching kids to read in response to the recent education cuts.



Although she has called Kansas City home for 25 years, Monica grew up living in numerous states—mainly on the east coast—and overseas. She did stay on the Virginia Peninsula long enough to earn her BA, with honors, from Christopher Newport University in English with an emphasis in Professional Writing.

What I'm....

Listening to: many genres including Alternative, Rap, Jazz, and Classical. Cake, Queen, and Twenty One Pilots have been popular on my play lists.

Wanting to visit: The salt flats and Pike's Peak driving my car.

Reading: The breaking news on AI and digital marketing. Planning to read *We Two: Victoria and Albert: Rulers, Partners, Rivals* by Gillian Gill on my next vacation.

Watching: *Ted Lasso* and *Pluribus* on Apple TV+

Getting Exercise: walking my little Bichon Frise around the neighborhood and yard work.

Worrying about: Guardrails for AI and the brain draining of America.

Wishing for: Less talk and more listening.

Looking forward to: Track time!



Save the Dates - [click on the logo to read more](#)

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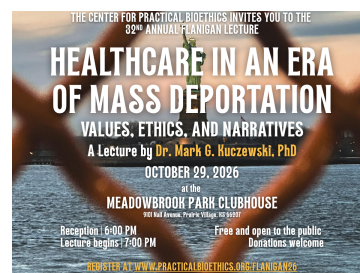
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Rosemary Flanigan Lecture

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Village, KS



Guest Lecturer: Mark G. Kuczewski, PhD, HEC-C

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