

**Center for Clinical Ethics and Humanities in Health Care**

**Bioethics Bulletin**

Editor: Tim Madigan

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**Newsletter Distribution**

This newsletter can be delivered to you via e-mail or fax or over the internet (forward your request to: Jack Freer, MD at: jfreer@buffalo.edu). If you prefer fax, call 862-3412 and leave your fax number. We encourage and appreciate the use of e-mail and fax distribution rather than paper for the newsletter.

**Center Listservers**

The Center now maintains two automated e-mail listservers. BIOETH-LIST is primarily designed for those in the Greater Buffalo area and permits subscribers to post to the list. This list is available for posting local announcements, as well as a medium for discussion of relevant topics. It will also distribute the Center newsletter, "Bioethics Bulletin." If you are on this list, you can send a message to the entire list by addressing the message to: BIOETHLIST@listserv.acsu.buffalo.edu. Archives of old BIOETH-LIST messages are maintained at:<http://listserv.acsu.buffalo.edu/archives/bioeth-list.html>

BIOBUL-LIST is strictly used for distribution of "Bioethics Bulletin" and is mainly for those outside of Western New York. If you have further questions about this service, contact Jack Freer at 887-4852 or at: jfreer@buffalo.edu.

**Speaker's Bureau**

The Center is interested in compiling a list of speakers who could address current issues in biomedical ethics, for class discussions, media interviews and other presentations. If you would like to be on this list, please contact Adrianne McEvoy at the Center, with your name, a brief biography and the topic or topics you would be willing to speak about.

**Upcoming Center Meetings**

The Center currently has three committees: Community Affairs, Education and Research. All Center members are welcome to participate in these committees.

**Community Affairs**

Thursday, September 4. Reverend Kevin D. O'Rourke, Director of the Center for Health Care Ethics, St. Louis University, will present an Ethics Seminar at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, at 2:00 PM. He will discuss two issues: The istinction between killing and letting die, and limited resources and their effect on medical decisions. Father O'Rourke has written and presented extensively on a variety of health care ethics issues. All are welcome to attend. The seminar will take place in the cafeterium, 3rd level, Mercy Hospital, 565 Abbott Road. For further information, contact Sister Sally Maloney at 828-2023.

**Upcoming Lectures**

Thursday, September 18. A conference entitled "Placebo-Controlled Studies in Schizophrenia: Ethical and Scientific Perspectives" will be presented by the Schizophrenia Division, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, and the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, 250 College Street, Toronto. The conference will be of interest to clinical investigators, mental health professionals, health administrators, bioethicists, and individuals involved in the pharmaceutical industry and in the ethical/scientific review of clinical research protocols.

Further information concerning registration may be obtained by contacting Catherine Riley, Conference Coordinator, at the Education Office, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, 250 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1R8, telephone: 1-416-979-6963; fax: 1-416-979-4970.

Sunday, October 5-Monday, October 6. "Issues Regarding Organ Transplants: The Legal, Medical and Ethical Aspects." Sponsored by the University of Virginia Department of Surgery, Division of Transplant Surgery. The purpose of the conference is to provide an academic forum for the definition and discussion of national issues and concerns related to organ transplants. Registration cost is $100.00. For information, contact Mary D. Miller, 1-804-924-8394; e-mail: mdm9p@virginia.edu.

Wednesday, October 22-Friday, October 24. The State Society on Aging of New York announces its 25th Annual Conference, at the Desmond in Albany, New York. The conference theme is: "Building Generational and Cultural Bridges: A 25th Anniversary." For information, contact Duane A. Matcha, PhD, SSA Program Chair, Department of Sociology, Siena College, 515 Loudon Road, Loudonville, New York 12211-1462; telephone: 518-783-2944; fax: 518-783-4293; e-mail: matcha@siena.edu.

Friday, October 24. Jeffrey Kahn, PhD, MPH, Director, Center for Bioethics, University of Minnesota, will present "Past and Present Lessons in the Ethics of Clinical Research" at the Clinical Pharmacology Division, SUNY-Buffalo, (held at Millard Fillmore Gates) as well as city-wide ethics grand rounds. Information will be given in an upcoming "Bioethics Bulletin."

**Joint Meeting Announced**

The American Association of Bioethics, the Society for Bioethics Consultation, and the [Society for Health and Human Values](http://iphh.cal.msu.edu/shhv/) will be holding a joint meeting November 5-9, 1997 at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. The theme is "Visions for Ethics and Humanities in a Changing Healthcare Environment." This theme is meant to provoke reflection on both the perils and possibilities inherent in the rapid changes now taking place in the American healthcare system, and to some extent in healthcare systems throughout the world. Can ethics and humanities assist our society in gaining the wisdom and the political will necessary to realize the possibilities and avoid the perils? As traditional assumptions change about the way medicine and healthcare can be organized, delivered, and financed, does that mean the traditional frameworks of humanistic and value-based thinking will lose their capacity to inform our social decisions? Or will traditional norms and expectations become more important than ever?

Under this broad topic, three themes will organize many of the sessions featured at the meeting. These are "Institutions, Technology, and Culture." Presentations will be grouped around the relationship between ethical and humanities perspectives on institutional and organizational change, new developments in medical science and technology, and the cultural diversity and changing moral attitudes that are of growing importance in American society. For further information, please contact: Joint Meeting, 6728 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean, VA 22101; fax: 703-556-8729; e-mail: shhv@aol.com.

**Call for Papers**

The Department of Medical Humanities at East Carolina University School of Medicine will celebrate its 20th anniversary by holding a conference inconjunction with the Spring meeting of the Society for Health and Human Values on March 13-14, 1998, in Greenville, North Carolina. The conference will explore the broad range of medical humanities scholarship. Submissions of abstracts for 20 minute presentations on any topic in the medical humanities may be sent by October 1, 1997 to: Loretta M. Kopelman, PhD, Department of Medical Humanities, East Carolina University School of Medicine, Brody 2S-17, Greenville, North Carolina, 27858.

The Society for Health and Human Values will be holding its Spring Regional Meeting, April 17-18, 1998 at Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio. The theme is "Whose Ethics? Which Medicine? The Tacit and Explicit Development of a Medical Ethic." The conference will consider two types of questions: 1. The Origins of Medical Ethics: Where does medical ethics come from? Is there an implicit or tacit ethic of medicine? Is so, does ethics vary according to profession and specialty? 2. Knowledge of Medical Ethics: Who knows medical ethics? Is it the province of a particular kind of professional or type of person? Or is biomedical ethics a matter of common sense and common knowledge? Paper proposals should be sent in the form of an extended abstract, 500-1,000 words. Please submit 3 copies by October 1, 1997 to: Jody Chidester, Center for Medical Ethics, 3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

**Members Corner**

The Members Corner is designed to note research, presentations and published articles and books by Center members. Please send all such information to the newsletter editor so that the Center can keep members informed about the work occurring in this area.

Center member Bogda Koczwara, MD, who has been a senior fellow in medical oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute for the past two years, has returned to her home in Australia. Dr. Koczwara was a member of the Center's executive committee and a regular participant in its reading group. She reports that she will be keeping her interest in ethics alive, perhaps getting like-minded Aussies to also set up a Center for Bioethics. Bogda was a major supporter and contributor to many Center activities, and we will miss her enthusiasm, good humor and personal integrity. Bon Voyage!

**Comments and Suggestions**

Your comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are encouraged. Please send them to the Center address, or by e-mail to the newsletter editor, Tim Madigan timmadigan@aol.com. We also need information on upcoming events that would be of interest to Center members. The deadline for the next newsletter is August 15th.