University at Buffalo

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: BIOETH-LIST@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.

Center Website Chosen as "Web Pick of the Day"

The Center for Clinical Ethics and Humanities in Health Care’s website was chosen as HMS Beagle’s "Web Pick of the Day", as well as listed on the Beagle’s "Favorite Web Sites" page for 30 days. In addition, it has been permanently catalogued in BioMedLink. HMS Beagle is a webzine for biological and medical researchers, with a daily digest of the highest-quality Web resources and published materials. It was recently selected as one of Yahoo’s top 32 "incredibly useful" Web sites, and has thousands of visitors daily. To search the site, go to: http://hmsbeagle.com.

New Appointment to SUNY Buffalo Philosophy Department

The SUNY-Buffalo Department of Philosophy has made a one-year appointment of Dr. Scott DeVito to replace Richard Hull and serve as the Department’s "expert in bioethics." DeVito, presently a post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of Philosophy at Bowling Green State University, received his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Rochester in October, 1996. His B.A. in Philosophy was granted by Queens College, City University of New York in June of 1991.

Upcoming Center Meetings

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

Reading Group

The Center’s Reading Group has chosen to focus on the book The Healer’s Power by Howard Brody, MD. PhD. [ The Healer’s Power is available through Amazon.Com.] There will be 1 meeting in April. On Monday, April 13th at 4:00 PM, Tony Szczygiel, SUNY-Buffalo law professor, will discuss chapter 14, "The Social Power of Expert Healers", and Tim Madigan, "Bioethics Bulletin", will discuss chapter 15, "Power and Theories of Medical Ethics." The meetings are held at the Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road, between Maple and Rensch Roads in Amherst. Meetings are open to all interested parties. To receive copies of the reading material, or for further information, contact Adrianne McEvoy at 862-3412.

Upcoming Lectures

Monday, April 6. The Fourth Annual University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics Jus Lecture, in honor of Dr. Andzej Jus, will be held from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM at the Toronto Hospital (General Division). The lecture will take place in Banting Hall (101 College Street, NU-G-113). Dr. Floyd E. Bloom, Chair, Department of Neuropharmacology, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California, and Editor-in-Chief, Science, will be presenting on "Basically Honest is Not Good Enough in Science." For more information, contact Margot Smith; phone 416--978-0871; fax: 416-978-1911; e-mail: margot.smith@utoronto.ca.

Tuesday, April 14. "Creation vs. Evolution - the Debate Widens." Speaker: Eugenie C. Scott, executive director, National Council for Science Education. 8:00 PM. Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road. Dr. Scott, who recently appeared on a "Firing Line" debate on the topic "Should Evolutionists Acknowledge Special Creation?" will discuss the ongoing controversy over the teaching of evolution in high schools throughout the United States. For further information, contact Tim Madigan at 636-7571.

Tuesday, April 21. "Ethical Challenges of Care Delivery in the Community." Alumni Hall, Victoria University, University of Toronto. Professor Raisa Deber, Joint Centre for Bioethics and Department of Health Administration, University of Toronto is the plenary speaker. Anne Moorehouse, Mary Rowell, Peter Thompson, Peter A. Williams, and Rosemary Meier are workshop leaders. Christine Harrison will lead a case discussion at the end of the day. Hosted by Roger Hutchinson and Ted Reeve of Emmanuel College. For further information, please contact the co-chairs Kathy Carlin at 905-845-3585 or Louise Sanchez-Sweatman at l.sanchez@utoronto.ca. Registration is limited. To register, call Linda Sullivan at 416-530-6750.

Thursday, April 23-Friday, April 24. "The Human Genome Project: Science, Law, and Social Change in the 21st Century." Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts. For a meeting brochure, call, write or e- mail: Gus Cervini, Office of Public Affairs, Whitehead Institute, 9 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142; 617-258-0633;cervini@wi.mit.edu.

Course on Bioethics

The readers of "Bioethics Bulletin" are invited to attend a course on "Social and Ethical Values in Medicine", led by Center Co-Director Stephen Wear, PhD and Research Associate Adrianne McEvoy. The course meets every Wednesday from 4:00 - 6:30 PM in Knox Hall, Room 20, SUNY-Buffalo Amherst Campus. The following talks will be held in the month of April:

April 1: Janet Kaye, J.D., of Buffalo State College will discuss "death and dying in America" from a legal/journalistic/personal perspective; Gerald Logue, MD will comment.

April 8: Paul Johnson, PhD of D’Youville College, will present and comment on a film about physician-assisted suicide, and Adrianne McEvoy will offer a review of the affirmative action position regarding such a practice.

Hospice News

The chair of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement will present a two-part seminar on grief issues, Friday, April 3 at the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, 225 Como Park Boulevard, Cheektowagea. Kenneth J. Doka, Ph.D., an ordained Lutheran clergyman and a professor of Gerontology at the College of New Rochelle, will lecture on "Disenfranchised Grief and Masculine Grief" from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. He is the author of seven books, co- editor of Unrecognized and Unsanctioned Grief, and has published more than 60 articles and chapters in the field of death, dying, and bereavement. Dr. Doka will explore the phenomena of disenfranchised grief or grief that persons experience when they incur a loss that is not or cannot be openly acknowledged, publicly mourned or socially supported. Experiences that can result in this type of grief are perinatal loss, abortion, divorce, pet loss, AIDS, and suicide. Registration for the full-day conference is $85.00 and includes a continental breakfast, box lunch, breaks, and material. To register, call the Life Transitions Center, an affiliate of the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, at 836-6460.

Canadian Bioethics Society

The 10th Annual Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Meeting will be held in Toronto on October 15-18, 1998. The conference is hosted by the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics. Confirmed plenary speakers include James Childress, John Lantos, Robert Levine, Laura Purdy, and Judith Wilson Ross. A call for workshops and abstracts will be issued soon. For further details, contact Peter A. Singer, MD, MPH, FRCPC, Sun Life Chair in Bioethics and Director, University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics; phone: 1-416-978-4756; fax: 416-978-1911; e-mail: peter.singer@utoronto.ca.

Society for Health and Human Values Regional Meeting

The Society for Health and Human Values announces its Spring Regional Meeting, April 17-19, 1998, at Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio. The theme of the meeting is: "Whose Ethics? Which Medicine?: The Tacit and Explicit Development of a Medical Ethics", sponsored by the Dr. James Dale Ethics Center at Youngstown State University. Medical ethics has come of age as an area of scholarship and research. Its scholars and researchers have made substantial contributions to public policy and to the public awareness of problems in the clinic and the laboratory. But all of this activity has posed new questions for practioners of these arts. This conference will provide a forum to examine the ways in which different approaches to bioethics determine our conception of medicine and its ethical issues, and it will consider the origins of medical ethics and knowledge of medicine. Speakers include Charles Bosk, Howard Brody, Tod Chambers, Larry Churchill, Richard B. Miller, Christine Mitchell, Rosa Lynn Pinkus, and Rosemary Tong. For information, contact: Jody Chicester, Center for Medical Ethics, 3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Intensive Bioethics Seminar

The Kennedy Institute of Ethics in Washington, D. C. is offering an Intensive Bioethics Course, from June 6-11. Standard tuition is $1350, which includes course materials, breakfast and lunch, receptions and evening banquet, but not other dinners or lodging. The tuition fee is due by June 1, 1998. For details, call 1-202-687-5477.

Bioethics Course Offered

The Midwest Intensive Bioethics Course 1998 will be held July 13-18 at Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. This year's theme is "Method in Bioethics: Philosophy, Law, Narrative." Case discussion, history, literature, and film will be used to illuminate basic ethical problems in health-care delivery. Tuition is $700.00. A limited number of partial tuition scholarships are available. Students may attend for $250.00. Several kinds of lodging are available. For information, contact Kristen Tym, Medical College of Wisconsin; phone: 414-456-4299; fax: 414-456-6511; e-mail: ktym@mcw.edu.

Call for Papers

The Fifth Biennial Conference on Psychiatric, Psychosocial and Ethical Issues in Organ Transplantation, which will be held October 2-4 at the Marriott Key Center in Cleveland, Ohio, is accepting abstracts for presentation. The conference will be multidisciplinary, with psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, ethicists, and transplant physicians. Abstracts must be submitted no later than March 15. For details, contact Margaret Kotz, 9500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44195.

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.

Jack Freer has been named to the Editorial Board of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) Web Site (http://www.asbh.org). The ASBH was founded in January 1998 through the consolidation of three existing associations in the field: the Society for Health and Human Values (SHHV), the Society for Bioethics Consultation (SBC), and the American Association of Bioethics (AAB).

Stephen Wear has just been appointed as a member of the Board of Professional Medical Conduct of the New York State Department of Health by its Commissioner, Dr. Barbara DeBuono, and confirmed by Governor George Pataki. This is the primary New York State organization for monitoring physician conduct and imposing disciplinary action when appopriate.

Timothy J. Madigan, "Cloning and Human Dignity", Free Inquiry, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 57-58.

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 April 15th.