

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

**Bioethics Bulletin**

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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](mailto: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.

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](mailto:jfreer@buffalo.edu).

**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 Committee**

There will be a meeting of the Community Affairs Committee on Wednesday, March 5, at 4:00 PM, at the Erie County Medical Center, Conference Room A, to discuss the ethics committee orientation packet which the Committee has been working on for the past few months.

**Center Reading Group**

he Center has established a reading and research group, the purpose of which is to discuss in-progress publications and encourage new publications and allied research activities. There will be one meeting held in March, at the Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road, between Maple and Rensch Roads (look for the twin red-and-white gates). On Wednesday, March 12th at 4:00 PM, Sherrie Lyons and James Moran, professors of philosophy at Daemen College, will discuss "Organ Transplantation: Pros and Cons." Contact [Adrianne McEvoy](mailto:adrianne@netacc.net) at the Center (862-3412) for information and materials.

**Debate on Physician-Assisted Suicide**

The Center is consponsoring a debate with the SUNY-Buffalo Departments of Philosophy and Political Science and the Society for Real Debate, on the topic "Is There A Constitutional Right to Assisted Suicide?" It will be held on Friday, April 4th from 4:00 - 6:00 PM, in 106 OBrien Hall on the SUNY-Buffalo Amherst Campus. Panelists include SUNY-Buffalo Professors Lee Albert (Political Science), Richard Cox (Political Science), Richard Hull (Philosophy), Anthony Szczygiel (Law), and Canisius College Professor of Political Science Robert Klump. For further information, please contact Paul Cornish at 645-2251, extension 511.

**Special Symposium**

The Center will be co-sponsoring, along with the SUNY-Buffalo Department of Philosophy and the Center for Inquiry, a symposium honoring the work of Patrick Romanell, PhD, to be held at 4:00 PM on Friday, April 11th at the Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road, Amherst. Romanell, formerly H. W. Benedict Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas at El Paso, and currently a visiting scholar in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Arizona at Tuscon, was a pioneer in the field of medical ethics. For ten years, he was a resident philosopher at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston (1952-1962), and for three years at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center (1962-1965). Tim Madigan will give a talk on Romanells career in medical ethics, and Romanell will speak on "Conflicts of Life and the Problems of Good." Other speakers include SUNY-Buffalo Professor of Philosophy Peter Hare and SUNY-Cortland Professor of Philosophy John Ryder. A reception will follow. For details, contact [Tim Madigan](mailto:timmadigan@aol.com) at 636-7571.

**Upcoming Lectures**

Friday, March 7. "Beat the High Cost of Funerals: Death Be Not Pricey." Ted Bieniek, Director of the Buffalo Memorial Society, will discuss how to plan for a dignified funeral at a reasonable price: pre-planning, cremation rather than burial, non-traditional memorial services and other techniques. The Memorial Society is a nationwide network of voluntary organizations that help members secure mortuary services at a reasonable price. 8:00 PM, the Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road, Amherst. For details, contact Tim Madigan at 636-7571.

Thursday, March 20. "Problem-Based Learning in the New First-Year Medical Curriculum." Presenter - Myron Glick. Faculty Development Workshop - Sponsored by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, SUNY-Buffalo, through the Department of Family Medicine. 7:30 AM, Erie County Medical Center, Family Medicine Modular Complex conference room. For further information, contact Jason Osborne at 898-4745

. Thursday, March 20. "Community Clinical Ethics: Ethics Across the Continuum of Care." Presenter: James Reagan, PhD. The program consists of a presentation of pertinent bioethical issues, consideration of cases and a panel discussion led by local providers. Objectives include: Heightened understanding of pertinent ethical issues; improved ability to respond to the issues in both working with colleagues and caring for patients; enhanced recognition of local interfacility factors that both help and hinder extending continuity of care and establishing community bioethics standards. The program will be held from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at Sabella's of Union Station, Erie, PA. The registration fee is $39.00, which includes lunch. To register, call 1-800-513-5019. The conference is sponsored by the Lake Area Health Education Center (LAHEC) Website: [http://www.erie.net/~lahec/](http://www.erie.net/%7Elahec/), E-mail: [lahec@erie.net](mailto:lahec@erie.net)

Thursday, April 3. "Exploring the Connection Between Your Soul and Your Workplace", a presentation by Matthew Fox, sponsored by the Hospice Association. 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Junior League/Buffalo News Education Center on the Hospice Mitchell Campus, 225 Como Park Blvd., Cheektowaga. Fox, a best-selling author and renowned theologian, is author of the books *Original Blessing: A Primer in Creation Spirituality* and *The Reinvention of Work*. The cost is $35.00, including a continental breakfast. To register, call the Life Transitions Center at 836-6460. The deadline for registration is March 27.

Thursday, April 10-Friday, April 11. "Physician-Assisted Suicide: A Multidisciplinary Discussion." Alumnae Hall Auditorium, Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA. Sponsored by the Ethics Institute, a joint venture of Cedar Crest College and Lehigh Valley Hospital. Speakers include: Timothy Quill, MD, professor of medicine and psychiatry, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; George J. Annas, JD, MPH, professor and chair of health law department, Boston University School of Public Health; and Allen D. Verhey, PhD, chair and professor of religion, Hope College. For information and registration material, call 610-740-3790.

Saturday, April 26. Spring Clinical Day 1997 - "Rationing of Health Care." Buffalo Marriott Hotel. The morning program will provide strategies for avoiding the pitfalls and maximizing the advantages of various managed care organizations. Managed care will be discussed from three perspectives: the hospital CEO, the private physician, and the insurer. During the morning, a panel discussion is planned with case histories illustrating some of the tougher issues concerning the rationing of health care dollars. At noon, the keynote speaker will be Barbara A. DeBuono, MD, MPH, the [Commissioner of Health for the State of New York](http://www.health.state.ny.us/). In addition to giving the luncheon address, Dr. DeBuono will be participating in the Rationing of Health Care in America panel discussion. For further information, call 829-2778.

Wednesday, May 14. "Ethics of Human Genetics: Christian, Jewish and Secular Perspectives." Sponsored by Duquesne University and St. Francis Medical Center. The conference will bring religious and secular insights to bear on the implications of the human genome project. For information, call Christine Sedlack at 412-622-4210.

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Monday, June 30. Joseph J. Fins, MD will be in Buffalo for a number of activities, including City-Wide Ethics Grand Rounds. Dr. Fins is on the staff of Cornell University Medical College, the Hastings Center, and is the Director of Clinical Ethics at New York Hospital. More details concerning his visit will appear in future issues of the "Bioethics Bulletin." (Please note the change of date from the last "Bioethics Bulletin".)

**SUNY-Buffalo Courses on Bioethics**

Two courses devoted to Biomedical Ethics are being offered this Spring semester at the SUNY-Buffalo South Campus. Center members are welcome to attend individual sessions of interest.

Stephen Wear, PhD, Center co-director, is offering a course for undergraduates, "Social and Ethical Values in Medicine," Tuesdays from 4:00 PM to 6:20 PM, Diefendorf 148. March meetings are as follows:

* March 25: Dr. Wear will offer a general introduction to "Death and Dying," and then Dr. Jack Freer will lecture on legal guidelines, with comments by area attorneys and clinicians.

A course on Graduate Research Ethics is being offered by SUNY-Buffalo Professor of Philosophy Richard Hull. He is the course coordinator and principal lecturer. The course was previously offered under the auspices of the SUNY-Buffalo School of Pharmacy, but in view of its general importance it has been adopted by the Graduate School. It offers a broad analysis of ethical issues in science, ranging from scientific misconduct, intellectual property rights, data handling and preservation, and issues around genetic diseases and information. The course meets every Thursday, from 5:15 PM to 6:50 PM, in Room 111 Kimball Tower, South Campus. For further information, contact the Graduate School, at 645-7315.

March meetings are as follows:

* March 6: "SUNY at Buffalos Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee: A Real Meeting."
* March 13: "Ethics of Experimental Design, Data Management." Elaine Hull, PhD, Behavioral Neuroscience, Psychology; Bruce Holm, PhD, OB/GYN, Pharmaceutics; Linda Duffy, PhD, Pediatrics.
* March 20: Non Class (Spring Break)
* March 27: "Ethics of Deception in Research: Pre-randomization in the Lumpectomy Study." Richard Hull.

**Conference News**

On April 4-5, 1997 D'Youville College will host the Eastern International Region Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Papers to be presented will include a wide range of issues in the academic study of religion. Because of D'Youville's strong association with degree programs in health care fields, one of the featured themes at this conference will be religion and health. Featured speakers include: Professor Stephen Post of Case Western Reserve University, on the topic "Religion, Ethics, and the Human Genome Project"; and Professor Leslie Fiedler of SUNY-Buffalo, author of the recent book *The Tyranny of the Normal: Essays on Bioethics, Theology, and Myth*. Other anticipated papers deal with such topics as healing and symbols in medicine and religion; near-death experiences; the Genome Project; ethical and theological reflections on disability and retardation; and religious and medical approaches to the concept of the human body. Registration information and a program outline will be available in late January. To be placed on a mailing list, contact: Dr. Paul R. Johnson, Program Coordinator, AAR-EIR, D'Youville College, 320 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14201; fax: 881-7760.

**Call for Papers**

The Center for Multicultural Nursing & Health and African-Americans for Humanism will sponsor a conference on "Ethical Dilemmas Arising from Multicultural Differences in Health" in late Fall of 1997. To submit abstracts and/or manuscripts for possible presentation, or for additional information, contact: Essie Alberta Riley Eddins, PhD, RN, SM, PO Box 889, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New York 14722; phone and fax: 357-2479.

**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.

**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](mailto: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 March 15th.