

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

**Bioethics Bulletin**

Editor: Tim Madigan
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**Newsletter Distribution**

The Center newsletter can be delivered to you via e-mail or fax. If you would like to receive the newsletter over the Internet, please forward your request to Jack Freer, MD, phone: 887- 4852; fax: 887-5186; e-mail: jfreer@buffalo.edu. If you would like to receive it by fax, call 862-3412 and give us your fax number. We encourage the use of e-mail and fax distribution rather than paper for the newsletter. Please let us know if there are any people you would like to have placed on our mailing list.

**Center To Conduct Bioethics Mega-Course For UB Undergraduates**

In cooperation with the SUNY-Buffalo Department of Philosophy, the Center will conduct a bioethics mega-course (listed as PHL337) in the Spring of 1997. IT will aim especially at offering material relevant to undergraduates in nursing, health services and pre- med, for many of whom the course is a degree requirement. Lectures, panel discussions and clinical presentations by area clinicians will be a basic staple of the course as well as a strong clinical orientation. Anyone interested in participating in the organization and conduct of the course should indicate this by leaving a message at the Center (862-3412) so they can be placed on a task group that will design and conduct it.

**Welcome To New Center Research Associate**

As a result of the new course mentioned above, we also have the pleasure of welcoming Adrianne McEvoy, a philosophy graduate student, to the Center as a Research Associate for 1996-1997. She will, in part, assist in the design and conduct of the course, and will also be involved in supporting various Center functions and initiatives.

**Farewell**

With regret, but also with congratulations and best wishes, we must bid farewell to Ms. Lisa Bolten, the Center's secretary since its inception. Lisa has been appointed to a full-time staff position at the SUNY-Buffalo Medical School. Her assistance in supporting the Center's various activities has been pervasive and critical to its development and success; her energy and creativity will be sorely missed. Bon voyage!

**Upcoming Center Meetings**

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

**Ethics Grand Rounds**

**9/17 GRAND ROUNDS CANCELLED:**
The Grand Rounds scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 8:00 AM. Erie County Medical Center, Staff Dining Room, 2nd Floor has been cancelled. "Health Care Proxy and Interfacility Collaboration" will be rescheduled and announced ith the Bioethics Bulletin.

Wednesday, October 16, 8:00 AM. Kenmore Mercy Hospital. "Considerations Surrounding Brain-death Dilemmas in a Young Adult." Further information will be given in the October "Bioethics Bulletin."

**Center Reading Group**

The Center has established a second reading and research group (beyond the "Health Care Policy Group"), the purpose of which is to discuss in-progress publications and encourage new publications mad allied research activities. There will be two meetings held in August, at the Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road, between Maple and Rensch Roads (look for the twin red-and-white gates). On Wednesday, September 4 at 4:00 PM, local attorney Janet Kaye will give a presentation on ethical dilemmas related to the cosmetics industry.

The beginning of the Fall/Spring series of meetings of the reading and research group will occur at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, September 25. The group has chosen to focus on the general area of “death and dying” during the year. This will in part proceed on the basis of earlier discussions of the SUPPORT Study and related materials. The first session will be both organizational (i.e. regarding what reading/specific topics the group will focus on in subsequent meetings) and also introductory (i.e. we will start with a general presentation of legal guidelines and issues within the area of death and dying). Further materials will be sent to past group members. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Chuck Jack at the Center (862-3412) for information and materials.

**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.

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 to Co-Sponsor Lectures**

**IMPORTANT: NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR ADMIRAAL LECTURE**

Pieter Admiraal, MD, one of the leading exponents of the Netherlands' euthanasia policy, will be giving a public lecture on Thursday, October 3 (NOT September 26 as originally scheduled) at 7:00 PM, at the Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road, Amherst. He will be joined by Marilynne Seguin, RN, executive director of the Canadian organization Dying With Dignity. Further details, including the lecture topic and time, will be given in the next "Bioethics Bulletin."

The Center for Clinical Ethics and Humanities in Health Care will also be sponsoring a presentation on Friday, October 18 at 7:00 PM by Olgierd Lindan, MD, on "Medical Quackery and New Age Medicine." Dr. Lindan is a longtime collector of controversial medical devices and is the proprietor of his own museum in Cleveland, Ohio. He will be demonstrating several bogus cures from his own collection. For details on these two events, please contact Tim Madigan at 636-7571 or timmadigan@aol.com

**Upcoming Lectures**

Friday and Saturday, September 6 and 7. "Health Care: History and the Future, A Conference on Chronicling Your Health Care History." Hinshaw Medical Education Center, Rochester General Hospital, Rochester, New York. Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM; Saturday, 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM. The aim of the conference is to bring members of the health care community together and demonstrate the how, why and uses of institutional archives and historical collections. Anyone with an interest in preserving their organization's history should attend. Cost of registration: $50.00 (covers lunches, coffee breaks and parking). Please mail conference fee to: Baker- Cederberg Museum & Archives, Rochester General Hospital, 1425 Portland Avenue, Rochester, New York, 14621.

Wednesday, September 11. "The Role of Conditioning in Pharmacotherapy: The Placebo Response?" Presenter: Robert Ader, Department of Psychiatry, University of Rochester. 280 Park Hall, SUNY-Buffalo, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM. In classical (Pavlovian) conditioning terms, the therapeutic actions of an action drug (an unconditioned stimulus, UCS) are unconditioned responses. Therapeutically netural environmental stimuli that are coincidentally associated with and reliably precede drug actions, such as the pill itself, are conditioned stimuli (CS). Repeated pairing of CS and UCS eventually enables the CS, alone, to elicit a conditioned response, an approximation of the unconditioned response. Thus, the "placebo effect" has been described as a conditioned response. Desptie the literature on conditioned phamacologic effects, however, few studies have attempted to manipulate the placebo effect as a conditioned response or to examine the therapeutic potential of conditioned pharmacotherapeutic responses. Studies evaluating drug effects involve two basic groups: a treated group that has received a drug (100% reinforcement schedule) and a placebo group that received the CS but not the UCS (0% reinforcement schedule). If the response to the placebo is a conditioned response, there is an alternative to the administration of drug **and** placebo - a partial schedule of reinforcement. In effect, reinforcement schedule, or the "active drug: placebo ratio" represents an additional dimension of drug treatment protocols and an alternative means of titrating cumulative drug does that may enable one to maintain some physiological responses within homeostatic limits using lower cumulative amounts of active medication. The evidence in support of this conceptualization, the implications for the design of crossover studies and for evaluating therapeutic drug effects, the predicted effects of adding a behavioral dimension to pharmacotherapies, and the advantages of adopting conditioningstrategies in some pharmacotherapeutic regimens will be elaborated.

Thursday, September 12. "Living Wills: From Legislatures to Living Rooms."Presenter: Peter Singer, director, Joint Centre for Bioethics. The Toronto Hospital, General Division, Norman Urquart Wing, Main Lecture Theatre, Room NUW-G-110.

Thursday, September 19. "Caring for Yourself as a Person in Grief," an educational workshop for those who are grieving which will include stress management and relaxation techniques, tips on nutrition and more. 7:00 PM. This workshop is offered by the Life Transitions Center. To register, call 836-6460.

Friday, September 20. Hospice Buffalo and Roswell Park Cancer Institute will host the 2nd Combined Conference on Palliative Care Issues. 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hospice Mitchell Campus Education Center, 225 Como Park Boulevard, Cheektowaga. Neil MacDonald, MD, world renowned author of \_The Canadian Palliative Care Curriculum\_, will discuss the development of palliative care curricula in the health care professional’s training. Deborah Gordon, RN, MS, who was instrumental in developing Clinical Care Pathways and has written many articles on this topic, will discuss implementation of pathways for palliative care. The pre- registration fee for physicians is $40 ($50 at the door); fees for nurses and other health care professionals will be $20 ($30 at the door). There is no fee for Hospice or Roswell Staff, SUNY-Buffalo School of Medicine residents, fellows or SUNY-Buffalo nursing and graduate students. For more information, contact Missy Danahy at 686-8291.

Friday, October 4. Hospice Clinical Education Day. "Healing Words: Communicating with the Seriously Ill or Dying Patient." A series of workshops will be offered featuring J. Donald Schumaker, Psy.D, president & CEO of the Hospice Association; Robert Milch, MD, medical director of Hospice Buffalo; Lauren Michalakes, MD, Hospice physician; Robert Stall, MD, medical director of Kresge Residence; Judith Skretny, vice president, Life Transitions Center; and Robert Fink, Hospice chaplain. To register, contact Joyce Ortman at Life Transitions Center, 836-6460.

The 8th Annual Conference of the Canadian Bioethics Society will be held from October 17-20 at the Hotel Delta Montreal in Montreal, Quebec. The theme of this year’s conference is "Deciding for Others: Power, Politics and Ethics." For more information, please contact Professor Rachelle Keyserlingk at 514-398-7043.

**Society For Health And Human Values Conference**

The Society for Health and Human Values (SHHV) will be holding a joint meeting with the Society for Bioethics Consultation in Cleveland, Ohio from October 10-13, 1996. Last year about a dozen members of the Center attended. For details, please contact Jackie Kenney at SHHV (telephone: 703-556-9222; fax: 703-556-8729; e- mail: shhv@aol.com).

**Symposium on Ethics and Values in Medicine and the Biomedical Sciences**

In conjunction with the SUNY-Buffalo Sesquicentennial celebration, the Center is helping to sponsor a major symposium, to be held from November 14-16. Speakers include H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. (Rice University and Baylor University School of Medicine), Lawrence McCullough (Baylor University School of Medicine), E. Haavi Morreim (University of Tennessee Medical School), Eric Juengst (Case Western Reserve University, Dorothy Nelkin (New York University), Kathryn Montgomery Hunter (Northwestern University Medical School), Julie Rothstein (Yale University), and Howard Brody (Michigan State University. For registration information and further details, contact:Professor James Bono, phone: 645-2282; e-mail: hischaos@acsu.buffalo.edu.

**Free Treatment For Depression**

The SUNY-Buffalo Department of Psychiatry is offering treatment for depression and premenstrual syndrome. For information, call 898-5089.

**Memorial Society Meeting**

The Greater Buffalo Memorial Society, Inc. will hold its annual membership meeting on Sunday, October 13 at 2:30 PM, in the Parish Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo. Dr. Thomas T. Frantz, Chairman of the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology at SUNY-Buffalo, will speak on "Bringing Comfort to Grieving People." Refreshments will be served, and attendance is open to anyone. The Memorial Society is dedicated to simplicity, dignity and economy in funeral arrangement.

**Does the Body Matter?**

As part of next fall's 150th anniversary celebration, SUNY-Buffalo is sponsoring a major academic symposium entitled "Does the Body Matter? A UB Sesquicentennial Symposium on Frontiers of Knowledge in Nature, Society and Culture.", on Friday, October 4 at the Slee Concert Hall, North Campus. This will bring together a distinguished group of scholars: Gerald Edelman, Nobel-Prize winning neuroscientist; N. Katherine Hayles, leading cultural critic of changing technologies; Bruno Latour, sociologist of science; Richard Lewontin, biologist- critic of the human genome project; Margaret Locke, anthropologist of non-Western cultures; and a panel of notable SUNY-Buffalo faculty. The symposium will address the ongoing redefinition of the human body in contemporary society. The "Bioethics Bulletin" will have further details in future issues.

**Anti-Euthanasia Web Page**

Patrick Pullicino, a neurologist at Buffalo General Hospital, has set up a web page for physicians against euthanasia: <http://www.wp.com/JMV/Anti-Euthanasia> If you would like further information, contact Pullicino at 859-7521, or pager 629-1284.

**Call For Papers**

The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics invites submissions for its sixth annual meeting, March 6-8, 1997, Washington, D.C. at Washington National Airport Hilton. Submissions can address ethical concerns in various fields such as public administration, law, the environment, accounting, engineering, computer science, research ethics, business, medicine, journalism, the academy, and on issues that cut across professions. Demonstrations in ethics teaching, discussion of moral education, and curriculum development are welcome. Deadline for presentation submissions is October 31, 1996. Presenters will be notified by November 30, 1996. For details, contact the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, 410 North Park Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47405. Telephone: 812-855-6450; fax: 812-855-3315; internet address: appe@indiana.edu.

**Visiting Fellowships At Stanford University**

The Program in Genomics, Ethics and Society (PGES) is inviting applications for Visiting Fellowships. PGES addresses the compelling social, ethical, legal and political implications of advances in human genetics. Each year, a multidisciplinary PGES Working Group will examine a different theme related to genomics. For information, please contact Barbara Koenig (phone: 415-723- 6103; e-mail: mr.bak@forsythe.stanford.edu).

**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.

Wear, S.E.: "Sanctity of Life and Human Dignity at the Bedside" in *Sanctity of Life and Human Dignity*, edited by Kurt Bayertz; Dordrecht, Holland: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1996, pp. 57-71.

Wear, S.E. and Logue, G.: "Informed Consent for Organ Transplantation: Mandating the Participation of the Family", *Law and Policy*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (April 1996), pp. 210-216.

**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 September 15th.