niversity 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](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.

**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 and allied research activities. The group has chosen to focus on the general area of death and dying during the Fall/Spring semesters. There will be one meeting held in December, at the Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road, between Maple and Rensch Roads (look for the twin red-and-white gates). The date is Wednesday, December 4th. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Adrianne McEvoy [Adrianne McEvoy](mailto:adrianne@netacc.net) at the Center (862-3412) for information and materials.

**Spring Symposium**

The month of November was an important time for the Center, which sponsored two successful events: the symposium on SUNY-Buffalo Distinguished Professor Leslie Fiedler's latest book *The Tyranny of the Normal*, on Nov. 8, and the Symposium on Ethics and Values in Medicine and the Biomedical Sciences (held in conjunction with the SUNY-Buffalo Sesquicentennial Celebration), Nov. 15-16. Both were well- attended, and demonstrated that interest in biomedical ethics is high in the Western New York area.

The Center for Clinical Ethics and Humanities in Health Care would like to sponsor one or more similar events in the Spring, and welcomes your suggestions for topics and speakers. If you would like to help to plan such events, or have any suggestions, please contact Tim Madigan at 636-7571; e-mail: [timmadigan@aol.com](mailto:timmadigan@aol.com).

**Upcoming Lectures**

Thursday, January 2. "Evaluating Medical Learning in a Generalist Practice in the Ambulatory Setting. Research in Progress." 7:45 AM - 8:45 AM. Presenters: Paul James, MD, and Don Pollock, PhD. Lippschutz Room, Biomedical Education Building (formerly the C/F/S Addition). Sponsored by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, SUNY- Buffalo through the Department of Medicine. Approved for 1.0 hours of AMA/PRA Category 1 credit. For further information, contact Beverly Horrigan at 887-5016.

Tuesday, December 3. "Assessing the Rationality of Suicide and Assisted Suicide." 3:30pm. Dr Carlos G. Prado (Queen's University). University Hall 316, McMaster University:

Current debate about assisted suicide raises some complex questions: Can suicide be rational? Just how coherent is the notion of "assisted suicide"? If patients can shift the burden of suicidal decisions onto physicians, might not phy sicians shift the burden of euthanatic decisions to patients under the guise of assisting suicide? Is the worry about legalized assisted suicide being abused one about past and likely future practice, or is it about dangerous re-e ducation? Clinicians tend to be dismissive of ethical theory, more often seeking guidance in anecdotal "case studies" than in philosophical treatises; how can we close the theory/practice gap to insure that sound ethical principles will gover n legalized assisted suicide? Should empathetic understanding of particular patients' situations take precedence over abstract principles? For more information, contact [Jason Scott Robert](http://wings.buffalo.edu/faculty/research/bioethics/robertjs@mcmaster.ca) (905) 527-1038.

Monday, January 13. "Ethico-Legal Decisions: Crisis in Health Care." Buffalo General Hospital. 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM. Sponsored by the Professional Nurses Association of Western New York. This program is designed to be a forum in the exploration of ethical and legal issues commonly faced by registered nurses in their everyday practice. It will cover the opportunity for definition, clarification and application of principles learned. Speakers include: Donna M. Leney, RN, M Ed, MS, former director of the nursing program at Genesee Community College in Batavia, and developer of the educational module entitled "Ethical Decisions in Nursing"; Rev. Richard Augustyn, member of the internal review committee and the Institutional Review Board at Buffalo General, and co-pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church; and Julie M. Bargnesis, BSN, JD, a nurse/attorney with the firm of Damon and Morey. This program has been granted 6.6 contact hours of continuing education credit from the New York State Nurses Association. Registration fee: $35.00 for members of District 1, NYSNA; $50.00 for non-members; $15.00 for students who have not yet earned RN credit. Make checks payable to: District 1, NYSNA, Inc., 4248 Ridge Lea Road, Amherst, NY 14226. For further information, call Moira Schorr, Executive Director, at 832- 8455.

**Roswell Park Course To Be Offered**

Howard J. Allen, PhD, MSW, a doctor in the departments of Gynecologic Oncology and Biochemistry at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, will be offering a seminar in psychosocial genetics. The objective of the course will be to present, discuss and generate awareness of developing medical, social, ethical and legal issues emanating from current advances in genetics and how these issues may impact on individuals, families and society. The course will consider, but not be limited to, issues of predictive testing, confidentiality, privacy, insurability, employability, right-to-know, genetic legislation, standards of care, reproduction planning, protection from research risks, and economics. A date has not yet been set, but it will probably be offered in the Spring. If you would like further information, contact Dr. Allen at 845-5725.

**Call for Papers**

The spring meeting of the American Academy of Religion-Eastern International Region will be held from April 4-5, 1997 at D'Youville College. In recognition of strong degree programs in health related fields at D'Youville, one of the highlighted themes will be "religion and health." Dr. Stephen Post (Case Western University) will address the plenary session on "Religion, Ethics, and the Genome Project."

Proposals for papers or panels are invited. Proposals are especially encouraged in three areas to be highlighted at the meetings: religion and health; religion in the Eastern International Region; and the academic study of religion. Submissions should include a one page abstract, the name, address, telephone number and institutional affiliation of the person(s) submitting the proposal. Although later proposals will be considered, a first review of submissions take place at the November 1996 national meeting of the AAR; so **submission of proposals by November 15 is encouraged**. They should be sent to: Paul R. Johnson, PhD; Program Coordinator AAR-EIR; Division of Liberal Arts; D'Youville College, 320 Porter Avenue; Buffalo, NY 14201. The office telephone is 881-7608; fax is 881-7760.

**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 December 15th.