

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

**Bioethics Bulletin**

Editor: Tim Madigan
November 1996

Volume Three, Number Eleven

Co-Directors: Gerald Logue, MD and Stephen Wear, PhD
Associate Director: Jack Freer, MD
Research Associates: Charles Jack and
Adrianne McEvoy Address: Center for Clinical Ethics and Humanities in Health Care
Veteran's Affairs Medical Center
3495 Bailey Avenue Buffalo, NY 14215

Telephone: 862-3412 FAX: 862-4748
Website: <http://wings.buffalo.edu/faculty/research/bioethics/>
Send E-mail to: wear@acsu.buffalo.edu.

**Newsletter Distribution**

This newsletter can be delivered to you via e-mail or fax. (forward your e-mail 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.

**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 of death and dying during the Fall/Spring semesters. There will be one meeting held in November, 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 November 13. Newcomers are welcome. Contact Adrianne McEvoy at the Center (862-3412) for information and materials.

**November Events**

November is a very important month for the Center. It is sponsoring two events of note, each of which fulfills the Center's mandate to try to bring greater harmony between Clinical Ethics and the Humanities. We encourage all Center members to attend these events, and to alert other interested parties as well.

**Leslie Fiedler Symposium**

The first event is a symposium to honor distinguished professor Leslie Fiedler, a respected literary critic, author and poet who has long been one of the most influential and well-respected instructors at SUNY-Buffalo, where he is the Samuel L. Clemens Professor in the Department of English. In his latest book, *The Tyranny of the Normal: Essays on Bioethics, Theology & Myth*, he writes that "Ever since the mid-seventies, I have found myself more and more often lecturing and writing not only on literature proper, high or low, but on bioethics, with whose very name I was not familiar until that very point."

Fiedler's new book, which has just released by David R. Godine Publishers, deals extensively with such medical ethics issues as the removal of life support, the role that doctors play in our society, the trend back to herbal medicine, the reasons people fear to donate their organs, and the media representation of nurses. A special symposium to honor Fiedler and his new work will be held on Friday, November 8th at 4:00 PM at the Center for Inquiry, 1310 Sweet Home Road. There will be three presenters: Jack Freer, Center Associate Director, will speak on "Images of the Doctor in Literature and the Popular Arts"; "Bioethics Bulletin" editor Tim Madigan will discuss "The Myths of Organ Transplantation"; and Center co-director Stephen Wear will speak on "The Tyranny of the Abnormal." Professor Fiedler will then give an informal reply, and discuss his own interests in the overlap between the humanities and bioethics. Copies of *The Tyranny of the Normal* will be available.

The Center is honored to have Professor Fiedler's participation in this event, and hopes that further discussions of the relevance of bioethics to the humanities will follow from it. The symposium is free and open to the public. For details, contact Tim Madigan at 636-7571; e-mail: timmadigan@aol.com

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

The second major event this month is a symposium held in conjunction with the SUNY-Buffalo Sesquicentennial celebration, from November 14-16. This will bring some of the leading experts in the field together, to discuss the leading bioethical issues on the contemporary scene.

**Friday, Nov. 15, 1996**

**8:45 AM: Keynote Address:** "Bioethics at the End of the Millennium: Fashioning Health-Care Policy in the Absence of a Content-Full Moral Vision." H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. (Rice University and Baylor University School of Medicine).

**10:45 AM - 12:15 PM:** Session One: "The Dilemma of Funding Health Care: Technology, Resources, and Priorities." Talks: "A Preventative Ethics Approach to the Managed Practice of Medicine," Laurence B. McCullough (Baylor University School of Medicine); "Saving Lives, Saving Money: Shepherding the Role of New Technology", E. Haavi Morreim (University of Tennessee Medical School); "Toward Multiple Standards of Health Care Delivery: Taking Moral and Economic Diversity Seriously", H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr.

**12:15 PM - 1:30 PM: Luncheon (Included with Symposium Registration)**

**1:30 PM:**

**A.) "Ethics Grand Rounds":**

**Case Presentations and Discussions by Western New York Ethics Committees.**

**B.) "Conference in the Disciplines":**

**Managed Care in Western New York: Implications for Providers and Educators."** Moderator: David Nyberg (SUNY-Buffalo Graduate School of Education). Panelists: David Triggle (Dean, SUNY-Buffalo Graduate School); Mecca Cranley (Dean, SUNY-Buffalo School of Nursing), Chester Fox (SUNY-Buffalo Department of Family Medicine, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences); Susan Regan (Magavern, Magavern & Grimm; Member, New York State Committee on Managed Care).

**Saturday, Nov. 16, 1996**

**9:00 AM - 11:30 AM:** Session Two: "The Human Genome Project." Talks: "The Challenge of Human Genome Research for the Professional Ethics of Medicine", Eric Juengst (Case Western Reserve University); "From Promises to Progress to Portents of Peril: Public Responses to Gene Therapy", Dorothy Nelkin (New York University); "Lessons from the History of PKU Screening", Diane Paul (University of Massachusetts at Boston).

**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Lunch (on your own)**

**12:30 PM - 3:00 PM:** Session Three: "The Physician-Patient Relationship." Talks: "A Medicine of Neighbors", Kathryn Montgomery Hunter (Northwestern University Medical School); "Can I Trust You Now? Trust and the Physician-Patient Relationship: Implications for Continuity of Care", Julie Rothstein (Yale University); "Can Relationships Heal - Cheap?", Howard Brody (Michigan State University).

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM:** Session Four: Roundtable Discussion.

There is a special rate of $75.00 for Western New York participants. For registration information, call 645-3705, or e-mail James Bono at: [hischaos@acsu.buffalo.edu](http://wings.buffalo.edu/faculty/research/bioethics/hischaos%40acsu.buffalo.edu).

**Upcoming Lectures**

Sunday, November 3. Gerald Jampolski, founder of the Center for Attitudinal Healing, will speak about love, intimacy and death on Hospice's Mitchell Campus in Cheektowaga, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This lecture is sponsored by the Hospice Association and the Unity Church of Practical Christianity. The cost is $35.00. To register, call the Life Transitions Center by October 25, 1996 at 836-6460.

Monday, November 4. "Libertarian Perspectives on Abortion." A panel discussion sponsored by the SUNY-Buffalo Forum for Real Debate, the SUNY-Buffalo Department of Philosophy, the Center for Inquiry, and the New York Association of Scholars. 3:15 PM - 5:45 PM, Student Union Theater, SUNY-Buffalo Amherst Campus. Libertarians hold that politically the highest public good is the protection of the right to individual liberty. This implies that the purpose of law is to protect the basic rights of individuals to life, liberty and property. Libertarians are in favor of free markets and against restricting any peaceful activity, such as consensual sexual behavior or drug usage. The issue of abortion concerns libertarians because of their strong support for the woman's right to control her own body, and because **when** another human being begins to exist determines when such a being also has rights that the law is supposed to protect. Does the fetus have rights? This and other questions will be discussed by a panel of distinguished libertarian speakers: Tom Flynn (Director, Center for Inquiry and Senior Editor, *Free Inquiry: The International Secular Humanist Magazine*); Doris Gordon (President, Libertarians for Life); Tibor Machan (Professor of Philosophy, Auburn University); John Walker (Research Director, Libertarians for Life). Richard T. Hull, Professor of Philosophy at SUNY-Buffalo, will be the panel moderator. For further information, contact Eva Koepsell at 645-2444, extension 781.

Nov. 15-16. Workshop For Voluntary Associations Concerned With Genetic Disorders. Hotel Plaza II, Toronto, Ontario. Sponsored by the Huntington Society of Canada. The workshop will address the critical ethical, legal and social issues arising from the dramatic advances in genetics research. Special emphasis will be placed on bioethics. For details, call 519-622-1002.

**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.

A review of Stephen Wear's *Informed Consent: Patient Autonomy and Physician Beneficence Within Clinical Medicine by Vivianne Nathanson (British Medical Association - London) appeared in International Digest of Health Legislation, Volume 47, Number 2, pages 273-275.*

*Joseph Kelly, Associate Professor of Business Law at Buffalo State College, had an article entitled "AIDS Phobia and Damages for Emotional Distress" published in Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section Journal, Vol. 24, No. 1, pages 8-12.*

***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 November 15th.*