niversity at Buffalo

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

**Bioethics Bulletin**

Editor: Tim Madigan   
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The Center for Clinical Ethics and Humanities in Health Care

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**Center Library**

The Center is starting a research library, and would appreciate donations of books, articles and journals pertaining to biomedical ethics. These will all be made available for visitors to the Center.

**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 [JFreer@ubmedb.buffalo.edu](mailto:JFreer@ubmedb.buffalo.edu). If you would like to receive it by fax, call Lisa Bolten at the telephone number above and tell her your fax number. We encourage the use of e-mail and fax distribution rather than paper for the newsletter.

**Upcoming Center Meetings**

**Health Care Policy Committee**

Tuesday, September 19, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM. Conference Room 1104-1, VAMC. Topics to be discussed include update on Center activities; formulation of a more direct plan to involve hospital ethics committees in committee objectives; final update on surgical techniques paper; and managed care update. The meeting is open to any interested party.

**Community Affairs Committee Grand Rounds**

The Community Affairs Committee sponsors an ongoing series of bioethics grand rounds at area hospitals on a monthly basis. All Center members are encouraged to attend.

"Medical Futility." Friday, September 22, 8:00 - 9:00 AM. VA Medical Center, 3495 Bailey Avenue. 11th Floor - Room 1109C. AMA/PA and RN continuing education credit will be secured. Presenters: John Banas, MD; Benjamin Phillips, RN; Sally Schimmel, RN; Stephen Wear, PhD; Eric Ten Brock, MD. The issue of medically futile treatment has occasioned much discussion during the past decade, in the ethics and clinical literature, as well as in health care institutions. It is especially controversial in its claim that health care providers should be able to withdraw medical treatment that they deem to be without benefit even though the patient and/or patient's family is demanding that it be given. Whether such a claim amounts to a last, and particularly egregious, example of medical paternalism, or is a valid reaction to irrational desires by medical consumers, is part of the issue. Equally important is whether such a policy can be administered with equality and justice, and without abuse. The Buffalo VAMC has had a futility policy in place for over a year. Beyond presenting this policy (which has both "qualitative" and "quantitative" aspects), members of its ethics committee will briefly present

* (1) a few typical cases that the policy was intended to deal with;
* (2) a sense of the considerations that effected the evolution of the policy into its final form (i.e. a "procedural" policy which avoids providing specific definitions of futility);
* (3) the experience at the VAMC with various patients who were subsequently claimed to be futile under the policy;
* (4) a comment by a non-VAMC ethics committee member regarding the relevance of all this to other Western New York health care institutions.

Time for audience questions and participation will be provided. For further information, call Benjamin Phillips at 834-4270.

**Center Reading Group**

The Center will be establishing a reading group, the purpose of which is to discuss in-progress publications and encourage new publications. The first work to be discussed is Steven Wear's book *Informed Consent: Patient Autonomy and Physician Beneficence Within Clinical Medicine*. The book, published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in 1993, will be going into its second edition, and Wear is interested in receiving comments and suggestions. If you would like to participate in the reading group, please contact Tim Madigan at 877-9428, or by e- mail: [timmadigan@aol.com](mailto:timmadigan@aol.com).

**Upcoming Lectures**

Bioethics Workshop, at Medina Memorial Hospital, 200 Ohio Street, Medina, New York. Thursday, September 7. Presenters: Drs. Jane Greenlaw and Jeffrey Spike, University of Rochester. Topics include: withdrawing treatment; nutrition and hydration; medical decisions for minors; decisions by surrogate. For further information, contact Margo Kargbo at 798-2000.

"Writing Skills: Review and Refresher." Thursday, September 14, 7:30 AM. Presenter: Raymond Bissonette, PhD. Faculty Development Workshop - sponsored by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo through the Department of Family Medicine. To be held at the Erie County Medical Center, Family Medicine Modular Complex conference room. Contact Heather Hebeler [hhebeler@ubmede.buffalo.edu](mailto:hhebeler@ubmede.buffalo.edu) at 898-4743 for further information.

"The Hit Parade of Commonly Occuring Bloopers in Writing and Speaking." Thursday, September 14, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Presenter: Raymond Bissonette, PhD. Sponsored by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo through the Primary Care Resource Center. To be held at the Primary Care Resource Center, Beck Hall, Conference Room. Registration of $10 is required. Approved for 2.0 hours of AMA/PRA Category 1 Credit and 2.0 hours of AAFP credit. For further information call the PCRC at 819-3176.

Society for Bioethics Consultation Ninth Annual Meeting. September 14-17, Stouffer Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio. For information, write to Society for Bioethics Consultation, Clinical Ethics Program, Dept. of Medicine, University Hospitals of Cleveland, 11100 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-6033. Or contact the SBC President, Stuart Youngner, MD, at 216-844-3429; [sxy2@po.cwru.edu](mailto:sxy2@po.cwru.edu). This meeting is strongly recommended by Center members who have attended in the past.

The Family Living With AIDS - An Example of Disenfranchised Grief. Friday, September 22, 9:00 AM - 10:00. Presenter: Karen Briggs, RN. HIV Psycho-Social Grand Rounds. Sponsored by the Immunodeficiency Services and Life Transitions Center, an affiliate of Hospice of Buffalo, Inc. Held at Erie County Medical Center, Smith Auditorium (3rd floor). This program has been approved for 1.0 hour of AMA/PRA Category 1 credit. For further information, contact Lori Berds at 898-4119.

Second Annual National Primary Care Day, Thursday, September 28. "Can You Afford Not to be a Generalist?" University at Buffalo, Butler Auditorium, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM. Guest Speaker: Thomas Rosenthal, MD, Chairman, Department of Family Medicine.

Medical Practice in the Nursing Home: A National Conference on Nursing Home Care. Thursday, September 28, 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM. Radisson Inn Rochester, 175 Jefferson Road, Rochester, New York. For information on conference registration fees and other details, contact Pat Krupp at 829-2917, fax 829-2308.

Ethics, Medicine and Health Care: An Appraisal of the Thought of H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. Friday, September 29 and Saturday, September 30. Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio. The conference is convened in recognition of the publication of the second edition of H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr.'s The Foundations of Bioethics. It includes four plenary addresses, a panel presentation, and a comprehensive response by Engelhardt. It also includes constructive and critical papers on Engelhardt's bioethics, philosophy, theology, political and social theory, philosophical anthropology, and theories of medicine and health care. The conference fee is $75.00. The Banquet fee is $25.00. The combined fee for other meals (dinner on Friday, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday) is $30.00. To register, send a check or money order payable to Youngstown State University, Continuing Education Registration, Office of University Outreach, Youngstown, Ohio 44555- 3358. For further information, call Brendan Minogue at 1-216-742-1464. Center members Stephen Wear, Tim Madigan and Wade Robison will be giving presentations. If you would like to share a ride to the conference, please contact Tim Madigan at 877-9428, [timmadigan@aol.com](mailto:timmadigan@aol.com).

Tools for Clinical Precepting: A Novel Approach Using "Standardized Students." Monday, October 2, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM. Presenter: LuAnn Wilkerson, EdD, UCLA School of Medicine. Sponsored by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo through the Primary Care Resource Center's Teaching Effectiveness Program. To be held at the University at Buffalo South Campus, Lippschutz Room, CFS Addition, 3435 Main Street, Buffalo. $10.00 registration fee is required. Contact Diane Schwartz [DSchwart@ubmedc.buffalo.edu](mailto:DSchwart@ubmedc.buffalo.edu) at the Primary Care Resource Center for further information, 829-3176.

Society for Health and Human Values. Annual Meeting: October 12-15, San Diego, CA. Theme: "Values of Health Care: Diverse Perspectives." For information, contact the SHHV National Office, 6728 Old McLean Drive, McLean, VA 22101, phone: 703-556-9222, fax: 703-556-8729, e-mail: [shhv@aol.com](mailto:shhv@aol.com).

"Ethics at the End of Life," a presentation by lecturer and author Rev. Charles Meyer, M. Div. and M.S.Ed, will be given on Friday, October 13 from 9 AM - 1 PM in the Hospice Mitchell Campus Education Center, 225 Como Park Boulevard, Cheektowaga. Meyer will discuss ten strategies for surviving the death of others, issues of a good death, and ethical issues in the 90's. The presentation is the third in a series of Hospice Association Lectures sponsored by Independent Health. Meyer is assistant vice president, Patient Services, at St. David's Hospital, Austin, Texas, and author of the book *Surviving Death: A Practical Guide to Caring for the Dying and Bereaved*, which is in its second edition. Registration for the conference is $45, due by October 3. Walk-in registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For information, call 836-6460.

**Fall 1996 Sesquicentennial Conference**

A symposium on Ethics and Values in Medicine and the Biomedical Sciences will be held in conjunction with the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Science's sesquicentennial, November 14-16, 1996. There are three main themes for the symposium:

* 1.) The Human Genome Project;
* 2.) The Dilemma of Funding Health-Care: Technology, Resources, and Priorities; and
* 3.) The Physician-Patient Relationship.

There will also be a final session devoted to open-ended discussion of issues raised at previous sessions. Further information on the symposium will be given in upcoming *Bioethics Bulletins*.

**Call for Papers**

American Association for the History of Medicine, 1996 Annual Meeting. May 9-12, at the Hyatt Hotel, Buffalo. The Chair of the Program is James T. H. Connor, Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine, 14 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 101, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5R 1A9. Any person interested in presenting a paper at this meeting is invited to submit an abstract (one original and six copies) to Dr. Connor. Any subject in the history of medicine is suitable for presentation, but the paper must represent original work not already published or in press. Submissions on comparative aspects of the history of medicine (by period, region, country, or by culture) are especially welcome. Presentations are limited to twenty minutes. Because the Bulletin of the History of Medicine is the official journal of the AAHM, the Association encourages speakers to make their manuscripts available for consideration by the Bulletin upon request. Abstracts must be typed, single-spaced on one sheet of paper, and must not exceed 300-350 words in length. Abstracts should embody not merely a statement of a research question, but findings and conclusions sufficient to allow assessment by the committee. The following biographical information is also required: Name, title (occupation), preferred mailing address, work and home telephone numbers, and fax numbers, e-mail address, present institutional affiliation and academic degrees. Abstracts must be received by October 15, 1995. Please note that abstracts submitted by e-mail or fax will not be accepted. As in the past, the 1996 program will include lunch-time roundtable workshops and may include poster sessions. Those wishing to submit abstracts for these sessions should follow the instructions given above.

**Members Corner**

James J. Bono, assistant professor in the Department of History and the School of Medicine at the State University of New York at Buffalo, has a new book coming out in October, published by The University of Wisconsin Press. *The Word of God and the Languages of Man: Interpreting Nature in Early Modern Science and Medicine. Volume 1: Ficino to Descartes*. He shows how the new interpretive principles and scientific practices of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries evolved in response to new views of the relationship between "The Word of God" and the "Languages of Man" fostered by Renaissance Humanism, Neoplatonism, magic, and both the reformed and radical branches of Protetantism. Bono is editor of the journal *Configurations* and is currently president of the Society for Literature and Science.

**Comments and Suggestion**

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 September 15th.