



Next Meeting Thursday 1/18/2012

Greater Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center Wadsworth Bldg (500)11301 Wilshire Blvd.LA, 90073 Operator: 310-478-37116400 (6th floor),

5:30 pm free dinner 6:00 meeting begins

The History of the LA Bar Association/LA County Medical Association Joint Bioethics Committee and its Relationship to Important Regional Bioethics Cases - Les Rothenberg, JD and Joe Indenbaum, MD with

co-chairs Terri Keville,JD, K Landis, MD free parking at the visitor lots around VA campus. **RSVP: None necessary.**

Located: SW corner San Diego Freeway (405) and Wilshire

Exit Wilshire Blvd West from San Diego Freeway, immediate right onto campus when West of freeway.

To call in through the VANTS line, the VA's national teleconference phone system. Dial 800-767-1750 and follow the voice prompts... enter the Moderator Code 35847 and the # key. You will connect to conference if your Moderator Code is correct. Otherwise, you will be transferred to a conference operator for assistance.

Changes

*The new federal health law of 2010 requires new health plans — those that have either just begun or have changed their benefits sufficiently to lose grandfathered status under the law — to screen adults for tobacco use and provide free smoking cessation interventions.http://www.latimes.com/health/la-he-stop-smoking-insurance-20120116_0,227787.story

*"3 Ways Healthcare Reform May Impact Medical Education"

Shift of Emphasis To Primary Care

Changes in Compensation

Increase in Patient Volume

<http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/medical-school-admissions-doctor/2011/05/02/3-ways-healthcare-reform-may-impact-medical-education>

Say It Isn't So

"Survey: Many Patient Harm Events Unreported."

A survey of 189 hospitals finds they all use incident reporting systems to capture events of patient harm, but that staff members don't report 86 percent of such events.

<http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/news/hhs-patient-harm-events-safety-hospitals-43851-1.html>

In Memorium ...

BOLA AKINWOLE, M.D

Died Jan 8 in her home in Redondo Beach.

Former SCBCC steering committee member, ER physician, Harvard graduate, Master's in Bioethics Loyola Marymount, former coordinator of Liga's El Fuerte free Medical clinic in Mexico, survived by her 95 year old mother, Ms. Margaret Earls, who lived with her many years and her daughter, 17 year old Crystal Harris.

Known for her holistic approach to patient care, "Dr. Bola" daily demonstrated heartfelt appreciation of every member of the medical care team including sanitation workers, maintenance staff, administrators and consultants alike. Her Bioethics Consults at California Hospital were exhaustive and enlightening, revealing the historical nature of the patient in question, discovering presumed wishes and best interests in her characteristically articulate investigative style.

The following was one her later web musings read at her memorial service 1/16

"Illness itself invalidates the person, thereby becoming a threat to human dignity. It is an ontological assault, i.e., when my big toe hurts I am my big toe. Or, as in the film WIT, when the focus of the dis-ease process confines itself to an ailing peritoneal cavity, one becomes that peritoneal cavity. There is a loss of recognition of the self by self... and others. It's quite insidious. One begins to lose one's identity as well as one's ego. Perhaps this loss of ego is good if one is fortunate enough to have that occur. It means one is that much closer to the source, which is goodness itself, from which one came."

Another service will be held in her memory, Friday 1/20 St. John of God's Chapel 11am, 2468 St. Andrew's Pl. LA 90018

Advanced Training

1/23/12 U of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center training program toward Certificate in Clinical Ethics, comprised of internet-based, e-learning events, live lecture, mentored practicum & trainee project, emphasis on consultation, issues in research, clinical trials, health policy, informed consent, end of life, genetics. Electives in pain management, psycho-oncology, disabilities, pediatrics included.

Description/application www.mdanderson.org/ethics-certificate. Contact Cheryl Conner, crconner@mdanderson.org.

Conferences/CME

Sat, 2/ 4 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

PURSUIING PERFECTION: HOW FAR IS TOO FAR?



- * *Medical Enhancement, Not Eugenics* - Neil Wenger, MD, Chair UCLA Ethics Committee
 - * *Designing Perfect Babies* - J Daar, JD Assoc Dean Whittier Law School
 - * *Raging Hormones: Teens to Seniors* - S Korenman, MD, Endocrinologist, Dean of Research Ethics UCLA
 - * *Is 'Enhancement' Medical Care?* - J. Hynds, PhD UCLA Ethicist, Theologian, Legal Scholar
- Mod: Andrea Stein, MD, OB/Gyn, Ethicist Santa Monica Public Library, Multipurpose Room**
— 2nd Floor 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica
RSVP: (800) 516-5323

Medical advances have led to medical enhancements for every stage of life. We can design the "perfect" baby, enhance athletic performance, reverse signs of aging and lose weight without dieting. Does medical technology go too far? Center for Humane and Ethical Care offers free forum.

2/ 16 Coalition for Compassionate Care
San Diego, Catamaran Resort
3/14 Wed. Ethics of Caring, Sunset Village UCLA
7:30-4:00 www.ethicsofcaring.org

National Issues

While comprising 11% of U.S. employment, healthcare's productivity is on the decline... a less efficient workforce in an already inefficient system. To alleviate pressure an increased number of tasks may be handed to non-MDs. While patient bias favors physicians, sophistication in education may make this transition of further delegation of jobs to nurses and non-physicians inevitable.

<http://www.tnr.com/articles/Health-Care/>

"Reversals of Established Practices: Abandon Ship"

The lack of clinical trials in assessing the effectiveness of long-established practices is exemplified by the use of vertebroplasty (the injection of polymethylmethacrylate cement into fractured bone) for treatment of osteoporotic fractures. A few million dollars spent in proper clinical trials before regulatory approval might have saved close to a billion dollars a year over a decade. The authors of this article believe, "Priority should be given to testing practices having limited or no prior randomized evidence for their use, reassessing old evidence that may no longer be relevant for current clinical settings, and evaluating therapies and interventions that are the most expensive." Investigators and manufacturers should resist conflicts of interest to increase sales and focus funding and attention on improving standards of medical practices. *JAMA* Jan 4, 2012-Vol 307, No. 1, pg 37

Books

Cullen Murphy "God's Jury: The Inquisition and the Making of the Modern World" (Houghton Mifflin

Harcourt) The science of interrogation is not so new: "extraordinary rendition" "enhanced interrogation" and "waterboarding" spring from practices of the medieval Church. a "harbinger of what can happen when moral certainty gets yoked to the machinery of torture." .Gui's *Liber sententiarum* (an accounting of torture performed in the Middle Ages) was discovered by philosopher John Locke in 1670s, who sent it to the historian compiling a history of the Inquisition, saying "When you see what it contains, I think you will agree with us that it ought to see the light." Locke in his *Letter Concerning Toleration in 1685*. "made the case for freedom of thought and expression—and a certain humility regarding one's own cherished beliefs—on the grounds that, no matter how much certainty is in our hearts, human beings cannot know for sure which truths are true, and that believing we can leads us down a terrible path. The Inquisition is not a closed chapter. It is an open book."

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/01/torture-r-8217-s-apprentice/8838/>The Atlantic Monthly Group

Movers and Shakers

The Coalition for Compassionate Care recognizes Tarek Mahdi, MD, CMD, FAAFP Chairman, Inland Empire Palliative Care Coalition Riverside... established the Inland Empire Palliative Care Coalition in 06 bringing together palliative care practitioners from the region, holding trainings with physicians, nurses, social workers, nursing home staff, emergency department physicians, chaplains and ethicists.

George Mark Children's House San Leandro, Ca... first freestanding, independent pediatric palliative care facility in US. Co-founded in 04 by K. Nicholson Hull, clinical psychologist, and B. Beach, pediatric oncologist, both from Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland. George Mark Children's House serves children who have a serious medical illness seeking family-centered medical care emphasizing quality of life in a supportive atmosphere as an extension of the child's own home. It serves eligible children to age 21, regardless of a family's ability to pay and is a model of care in San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

*****Weigh in with the Editor*****

Editor: Kendra Gurlitsky, MD gurlitsk@usc.edu
Contributor: Alison Kil, USC School of Medicine

SCBCC Steering Committee

Paul Schneider, MD Paul.Schneider@med.va.gov Jim Hornstein, MD jimfamdoc@sbcglobal.net
Neil Wenger, MD NWenger@mednet.ucla.edu
K. Gurlitsky, MD gurlitsk@usc.edu
Margie E. Spies, RN margie.e.spies@kp.org
Kenneth Landis, MD kwlscrdoc@aol.com
Theresa Drought Theresa.s.drought@kp.org
Webmaster: Stuart Finder Stuart.Finder@cshs.org