



Next Meeting Thursday, Jan 17, 2013

Greater Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Wadsworth Bldg (500)

11301 Wilshire Blvd. LA 90073

6th floor

SW corner San Diego Freeway (405) & Wilshire Blvd.

Exit Wilshire Blvd West from San Diego Freeway,

immediate right on to campus west of freeway.

free parking in visitor lots

310-478-3716400

5:30pm free dinner 6:00 meeting (no RSVP needed)

Agenda

1. mediated discussion

"Why California needs revision of its mental-health laws?"

2. POLST Grant Update

8:30 adjourns

Controversies

A recent law against conversion of adolescents by therapist, while expected to stand, is likely to be challenged in coming months. It appears to be a face off between the freedom of speech by the therapists who wish to practice what they feel is in their clients best interests, and society's understanding, albeit recent, of the risks for depression, etc. that adolescents who consider themselves gay may be placed at, by participating in conversion therapy. [NYTimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/05/us/judge-blocks-california-conversion-therapies-law.html>

Glossary

conversion therapy:

Also known as **reparative therapy** by its proponents, is a range of treatments that aim to change sexual orientation based upon the assumption that the patient should change his/her sexual homosexual orientation.

moral injury:

The pain of guilt and shame from loss, betrayal of by leaders, the psychological burden of killing, bearing witness to human suffering, seeing death and participating in it, failing to save a comrade.

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

Editor: Kendra Gorlitsky, MD gorlitsk@usc.edu

Contributors: Nick Vidar ,MS2 KSOM, Sara Etemad, MS2 Creighton School of Medicine Alyson Kil, MS3-USC (KSOM)

HOTTTT Topics!

from Carol Bayley, Bioethicist from Dignity Health...

In addition to the role as consultants for actual cases, hospital Bioethics Committees may be utilized to examine the ethics-related content of hospital policies, as well as the development of ethics policies themselves, which when implemented well, can reduce the need for case consultation.

In an article in The American Journal of Bioethics, "Opening the Black Box of Ethics Policy work: Evaluating a Covert Practice." 12 (11) 13-15 2012 by Andre Frolic et al, the means and appropriateness of hospital policy review by Bioethics Committees are analyzed using two examples,

- 1) the use of advertising within a hospital.
- 2) review of a policy of blood product administration to the minors of Jehovah Witnesses.

BOOKS

~*Farewell, Fred Voodoo, a letter from Haiti,* Amy Wilentz, 2013

~*Rubble Nation, Haiti's Pain, Haiti's Promise* Herlinger and Jeffrey, 2010

As the 3rd anniversary of Haiti's earthquake is noted, we are in a position to review some of the efforts to assist that half island nation when thousands of NGO's descended on it. Above are two books which put the practice in perspective and raise some ethical concerns about how we serve.

Both are written without patronizing the subject matter but rather noting the resilience of the populace and offering historical perspective to the country's woes.

Get Smart: Training Opportunity

Columbia University Masters of Bioethics Program announces new On-Line Certificate Program

<http://ce.columbia.edu/certificates/bioethics>

**New Theory of PTSD & Veterans**

Reported by Tony Dokoupil Dec 3, 2012, *The Daily Beast*

Self-harm is the leading cause of death for members of the Army, which has seen its suicide rate double since 2004, peaking this past summer with 38 in the month of July. Every month nearly 1,000 Veterans attempts to take their own lives. ...by mid-decade one in five soldiers with PTSD or major depression, one in two veterans who report to the VA, looking for help with their mental health "It's an epidemic," Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta admitted this summer.

While PTSD therapy continues to address fear, there may be something else at work. "These veterans rarely mention fear. Instead they talk about loss or shame, guilt or regret. They had tried to be heroes, to protect the weak, save their buddies, take the hill. But then they mistakenly killed civilians, forced themselves to drive past wounded children, sometimes missed their moment of truth. ... Even after the Battle of Fallujah, in 2004, where William Nash served as a combat psychiatrist, fear wasn't a factor. 'Survivor's guilt, moral injury, feeling betrayed by leaders,' says Nash, the lead author of the current Navy and Marine doctrine on stress control, 'That's what I saw every day.'"

Nash looked at the effects of combat on about 200 Marines involved in heavy fighting in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010. Three months after coming home, interviews showed that 15 likely had PTSD linked more closely to guilt than to fear for their lives. Killing is obviously one source of guilt. Another is failing to save a

comrade. One prior study of veterans found that surviving a friend in combat is tied to more severe symptoms of grief than losing a spouse, even 30 years later, and even if the spouse died in the last six months.

Comment: *Is moral injury a consequence of war that encourages its victims to petition against armed conflict and on behalf of negotiation? Will the current push toward unmanned combat vehicles or drones reduce the sense of responsibility soldiers (operators) have in participation in the tasks of war.* ~editor

CME**~April 9-10 CCCC Conference**

Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront,
600 Airport Blvd. Burlingame, CA

Passion, Purpose and Possibility

End of life experts join colleagues around the state, including

Martha Hayward, Lead for Public and Patient Engagement at the Conversation Project, Boston based nonprofit helping people talk about end of life wishes

Mikek Rabow, M.D. Internist and Director of Symptoms management Service at UC San Francisco Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Lisa Kreiger, Science and Medicine Report for San Jose Mercury New/Bay Area News Group author of moving account of her father's last days, "The Cost of Dying."

~March 21-22**National Nursing Ethics Conference**

Universal Hilton Hotel, L.A

Cultivating Ethical Awareness: Moments of Truth

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In Memoriam for Dr. Eugene

Berman, longtime SCBCC member,
from Karen Pavic-Zabinski and Paul
Schneider:

Dr Berman was a long time practicing physician at Providence St Joseph Medical Center and started the ethics committee there over 30 years ago and was a founding member of the Southern California Bioethics Committee Consortium. His commitment to the hospital, our organization, his patients and to ethics are what we will always remember him for. The best wishes and prayers of SCBCC members are with his family and colleagues. We remember him fondly for his quiet dignity and strength.