

**Summary of September 19 Meeting of Consortium**

New Chairman Paul Schneider convened. Judy Citko, Executive Director of California Coalition for Compassionate Care, initiated an explanatory discussion on the POLST Initiative. Schneider provided a governance update with the circulation of a draft policy defining the principles of governance, and reintroduced Executive Committee Members. Request was made for a volunteer to create an SCBCC web site. Neil Wenger is following up on the prospect of research opportunities with which SCBCC could become involved. Ron Koons promoted the idea of teleconferencing meetings. Discussion ensued on the use of the \$1500 given to SCBCC from Centinela Hospital. Vote approved to save the money, particulars to be determined in near future with various recommendations made by members.

Next Meetings and Location

November 8, (Thur.) Torrance Memorial Medical Center, 3330 Lomita Blvd., West Tower Rm C 5:30 dinner, 6:30 meeting, speaker Stuart Finder, PhD, Cedars Sinai
 --January 16, 2008 (Wed.)
 --March 13, 2008 (Thur.)
 --May 21, 2008 (Wed.)
 WLA-VA and UCLA offered to host future meetings

Agenda of Upcoming Conferences

--*Medical Dilemmas and Ethical Decision-Making Hard Choices For Us All*

Nov 17, 2007 (Sat.) Providence St Joseph Medical Center, Burbank 10am-12:30 --or- Providence Holy Cross Med Center, MissionHills 2-4
 RSVP: 818-847-4535 by Wed. Nov. 14

--*Living into Leadership* (Bowen McCoy)
 Nov. 27 Tuesday noon-1pm, lunch provided, UCLA 33-15CHS

--*Babies by Design: Redefining Humans?*
 January 27, 2008 (Sun.) Grand Horizon Room Sunset Conference Center UCLA
www.socgen.ucla.edu

--*7th UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters* May 18-21, 2008 (Sun.-Wed.)

TorranceMarriotHotel(PacificPublic Health Training Center)
 Contact C Burnstein 310-794-0564

**** Glossary******Terms used frequently used in Bioethics consults**

Persistent Vegetative State (PVS) – a condition of severe brain damage resulting in a state of wakefulness without detectable awareness, from which patients do not recover within 30 days. Patients are unresponsive to external stimuli, except possibly pain. They may experience sleep-wake cycles or be in a state of chronic wakefulness. Unlike patients in comas, their eyes may be in a relatively fixed position, track moving objects, or move in a disconjugate manner. According to the American Academy of Neurology, after a year, the chances that a PVS patient will regain consciousness without significant disability are low. See link for statistical findings related to age, manner of injury, and time from brain insult. (Consortium members are invited to forward updated reference data to Balance Sheet.)

http://www.aan.com/professionals/practice/pdfs/pdf_1995_thru_1998/1995.45.1015.pdf

Medical Futility*- interventions that are unlikely to produce any significant benefit in a patient because treatment no longer:

1. prevents or reduces the deterioration of health
2. prevents impending death
3. effectively or appreciably alters the course of disease.

(Any of the above criteria can make treatment medically futile)

*Thanks to Leslie Janel JD, for insights

--Contact Us--**Weigh in Your Thoughts via Email**

Editor-in-chief: Kendra Fleagle Gorlitsky, M.D.

- kfgorlitsky@clinicaromero.com

Managing ed.: Elvina Torres-Campos, M.D.

Contributors: John Paul Cisneros

**A Widger View**

States: - New Jersey bill if approved would mandate pregnant women to undergo HIV testing

<http://www.wkrn.com/nashville/news/ap-nj-plan-would-mandate-hiv-tests/94799.htm>

International:- French law to require DNA testing of immigrants wanting to join family members.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7059186.stm>



Hot Topics and Controversies

- Future physicians lack insight of role to uphold Geneva Conventions
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1675614,00.html>
- Disclosure of study details to participants of products never reaching marketplace
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/30/business/30device.html?_r=1&ei=5088&en=e86516ad5bfca01c&ex=1351656000&adxnml=1&oref=slogin&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss&adxnmlx=1194411650-EKxkDafRFqGb1KVZm5AoXQ
- Gendercide in Asian countries resulting in skewed birth ratios
<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=39839>

Where do you stand on...?

- *New York's Mandating Diabetes-Monitoring Blood Tests:* Is it a violation of confidentiality by the state to mandate the reporting of a non-communicable disease?
<http://www.nysun.com/article/30369>
- *Genetic Property:* Is an individual's genetic information exclusively the patients' or does it belong to society?
- *Multiple pregnancies in IVF:* Should multiple embryos be used to increase implantation success despite known complications and burden?
- *Parental Decision Making:* Is dispensing contraception in America's middle schools without parental knowledge acceptable?

Ideas for Enhanced Training & Advanced Degrees

The Center for Bioethics at New York University introduced last month a Master's program in "Bioethics: Life, Health, and Environment"

For more information:

<http://bioethics.as.nyu.edu/object/bioethics.0709.grad.progreq.ma.html>

The Balance Sheet invites contributors!

Contact: Kendra (213) 201-2780

~~~~~ *Bioethics in History* ~~~~~

**Dr. Hans Conrad Reiter:** a German physician in allegiance with Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich. He erroneously diagnosed nongonococcal urethritis, conjunctivitis, and arthritis as a type of spirochetal infection, which he called *spirochetosis arthritica*. Further, he enforced racial sterilization and euthanasia on hundreds of inmates at Buchenwald Concentration Camp. After WWII, he was found guilty at Nuremberg of his involvement in the death camp. In 1977, appalled by his war crimes, a group of doctors began a campaign for the term "Reiter's Syndrome" to be abandoned and renamed "Reactive Arthritis."

**NEW BOOKS** in the Field of Ethics

- **Darwin Day in America: How Our Politics and Culture Have Been Dehumanized in the Name of Science** by James G. West tracks the evolution of American public policy as influenced by the interpretation of Darwinian biology. The author contends that these opinions have resulted in the degradation of American culture in the past half century via their impact on criminal justice, welfare, business, education, and bioethics.
- **Administration of Torture** by Jameel Jafeer and Amrit Singh draws the connection between current administrative policies and the torture and abuse that is not only occurring at Abu Ghraib Prison but is pervasive throughout U.S. detention facilities. Hundreds of documents are referenced and exposed.
- **Living Into Leadership: A Journey in Ethics** by Bowen McCoy, former president of Morgan Stanley examines the pursuit of a business career in the light of personal and societal ethics standards.

*Steering Committee*

- Paul Schneider, M.D. [Paul.Schneider@med.va.gov](mailto:Paul.Schneider@med.va.gov)  
 Jim Hornstein, M.D. [jimfamdoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimfamdoc@sbcglobal.net)  
 Neil Wenger, M.D. [NWenger@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:NWenger@mednet.ucla.edu)  
 Bola Akinwale, M.D. [batraumama@hotmail.com](mailto:batraumama@hotmail.com)  
 Kendra Gorlitsky, M.D. [kfgorlitsky@clinaromero.com](mailto:kfgorlitsky@clinaromero.com)  
 Margie E. Spies [margie.e.spies@kp.org](mailto:margie.e.spies@kp.org)  
 S.Siefert [SSiefert@mptvfund.org](mailto:SSiefert@mptvfund.org)