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Next Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2011

VA Greater L A Healthcare 11301 Wilshire Blvd 90073
Bldg 500 Rm:6001 or 6400

Parking: free, enter east lot, ER side

5:30pm free dinner 6:00-8:30 meeting

[http://www.losangeles.va.gov/visitors/directi
ons.asp](http://www.losangeles.va.gov/visitors/directi
ons.asp)

agenda

1. POLST Grant Update
2. Wendy Kohlhase, Marcia Penido & Colleagues from Huntington Memorial Hospital, Pasadena:
"Protection of Patient Rights Gone Awry"
3. Stanley Terman: For Patients at Risk of Developing Advanced Dementia: a new tool for Advance Care Planning--research proposal /request for collaborators. Paul arranged the VANTS audioconferencing system for 10 lines. Call in at 6pm Dial 1-800-767-1750 enter code n 21440, title of conference SCBCC..

>>>A Wider View<<<

Local: CMA's long-running court battle over Medi-Cal provider cuts heads to Supreme Court.

www.calhipso.org

CMA is calling on state legislators to reject Gov. Brown's budget proposal to cut Medi-Cal provider rates in 2011-12. "Medi-Cal payment rates for physicians are ridiculously low—among the lowest in the nation for Medicaid—and to cut them further would only serve to force more doctors out of the program and decrease access to care for millions of poor and unemployed Californians," said J. Hinsdale, M.D., CMA president.

"Regardless of the legal issues involved, slashing Medi-Cal rates is bad public policy that would undermine the state's health care system."

"We are confident that the Supreme Court will get it right....," said Francisco Silva, CMA's general counsel. "Already, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has rejected the state's request for the lower rate, and California courts, independent of federal courts, have blocked similar cuts for violating federal law."

*The U.S. Supreme Court has decided to review the appeal of the 9th Circuit ruling only on the question of private right of action, which is the question of whether the federal supremacy clause allows individuals to sue in federal court to enforce the federal Medicaid law.

*In separate cases, state courts ruled last year that the provider cuts can be challenged in state court and that those cuts are illegal. "

U.S. Solicitor General advised the Supreme Court to not grant the cert petition. Courts previously affirmed right of individuals to sue in federal court to validate the supremacy

of federal law over inconsistent state law. Contact:

Francisco Silva, 916/551-2888 or fsilva@cmanet.org.

National

Steve Jobs of Apple Computers fame, went to Memphis to get a liver transplant. The MELDscore **(Model for End-Stage Liver Disease) criteria is lower there than in San Francisco Bay area where Jobs is from.**

<http://www.cultofmac.com/memphis-hospital-confirms-steve-jobs-liver-transplant-with-jobss-permission/12124>

The hospital says Jobs had the highest MELD score of people on the list so he was at the top of the transplant list... That **MELD score averages are different in different parts of the country.** (one source said an average MELD in LA might be 33, while it's in the 20's in Memphis.) might encourage someone from LA to get a liver in another part of the country if personal resources are available for relocation.

Nature vs Nurture:

Researchers from the U of Texas at Austin used data on about 750 pairs of fraternal and identical twins, from all over the country. The children's mental abilities were tested at 10 months of age and again when they were 2 yrs old, with tasks like pulling a string to ring a bell, placing three cubes in a cup, matching pictures, and sorting pegs by color. The children's socioeconomic status was determined based on parents' educational attainment, occupations, and family income.

At 10 months of age, children from poor families performed just as well as children from wealthier families. It was over the next 14 months that a gap emerged. By 2 years of age, children from wealthier families were scoring consistently higher than the children from poorer families.

The researchers examined the extent to which genes were involved in the test scores. Among the 2-year-olds from wealthier families, identical twins, who share all of their genes, had much more similar tests scores than fraternal twins, who share only half of their genes, thus indicating that genes were influencing their tests scores. However, among 2-year-olds from poorer families, identical twins scored no more similar to one another than fraternal twins, suggesting that genes were not influencing their test scores. **The researchers concluded that something about the poor children's home life was suppressing their potentials for cognitive development.**

This study didn't look specifically into why wealthy children improve more. It could be that poorer parents



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may not have the time or resources to spend playing with their children in stimulating ways. A common goal of education policy is to decrease the achievement gap between poorer and wealthier children, says Tucker-Drob. "And I think the first step to achieving this goal is understanding the basis of these disparities."

He's working now on understanding exactly what it is that parents are doing differently -- analyzing videos of poorer and wealthier parents interacting with their children, for example, to see if he can find differences.

Comments from the bogosphere:

The study is basically saying that poverty strikes human beings at their core... Poverty appears to literally incapacitate, making us relatively less capable of developing the features that make us persons; **the idea that poverty dehumanizes us seems as frightening as the disintegration of personhood involved in late-stage Alzheimer's disease...** while one in five American children lives in poverty, the poverty of the majority of children in many countries is far worse. Except for a lucky few, their genetic inheritance gets pretty much laid to waste...this Texas study suggests the impact starts earlier than previously thought.

<http://globalbioethics.blogspot.com/2011/01/shocking-discovery-poverty-messes-up.html>

International The case against G. W. Bush under torture law. New York (CNN)

– reports recent efforts to have Switzerland open a preliminary investigation for torture against former Pres George W. Bush during his planned (then canceled) visit to Geneva. (In Spain) three on-going proceedings for torture involving U.S. officials, including one investigation related to torture at Guantánamo.

American prosecutor in Nuremberg maintained that, providing legal advice that justifies and leads to war crimes or torture is criminal. In 1980, a U.S. Court of Appeals declared that "the torturer has become like the pirate and slave trader before him *hostis humani generis*, an enemy of all mankind." The federal court judges found that because torture is so egregious and widely condemned and is of "mutual concern" amongst the nations of the world, a torturer could be brought to justice wherever found.

The "mutual concern" to eradicate torture was expressed in the U N Convention Against Torture. Pres Reagan signed treaty. U.S. became a party to the Convention in '94.

Special to CNN.com 2/ 19, 2011 9:57 a.m. EST
opinions expressed in commentary are those of Michael Ratner:

Movers and Shakers in Bioethics:

Dan Brock

[American philosopher](#) and [bioethicist](#). Prof of [Medical Ethics Department of Global Health and Social Medicine](#) at [Harvard Medical School](#),

Current researches ethical issues in health resource prioritization, focus on cost-effectiveness analysis and genetic selection for enhancement and to prevent disability.

Served as a member of the Dept of Clinical Bioethics at [National Institutes of Health](#).^{[1][2][3]} B.A. in economics Ph.D. in philosophy. Pres of Amer Assoc of Bioethics (AAB)^{[4][5]} '95-96, founding Board Member of [American Society for Bioethics and Humanities](#).^{[6][7]} fellow [Hastings Center](#),

Buzzzzzz

(conversations on the web)

“How does a democratic society both nurture and regulate ...fast-evolving technologies poised to radically alter life?” On 12/ 16/10 the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues released [report on Synthetic Biology](#), considering the emerging science’s benefits and risks and to identify ethical boundaries to maximize public benefit and minimize risk.

<http://blog.bioethics.gov/2011/02/08/synthetic-biology-and-beyond-commissions-goal-keep-the-dialogue-going/>

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

Ed-in-chief: Kendra Fleagle Gorlitsky, MD
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Writers:



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Christine Kalinowski, Justin Levy

Alternate Decision Makers Inc. is a Minneapolis firm that serves as an independent guardian or conservator in disputed cases.

Glossary

transhumanism

International movement that affirms the possible desirability of transforming the [human condition](#) by developing and making widely available [technologies](#) to [eliminate aging](#) and to [enhance human](#) intellectual, physical, and psychological capacities.^[1] the study of potential benefits and dangers of [emerging technologies](#) that could overcome human limitations, and study the [ethical matters](#) involved in developing and using such technologies.^[1]

Transhumanists predict that human beings may eventually be able to transform themselves into beings with such greatly expanded abilities as to merit the label "[posthuman](#)".^[1] "[posthumanism](#)".^[2] symbolized by **H+** (previously **>H^[3]**), often used as a synonym for "[human enhancement](#)"
www.transhumanism.org/index.php/WTA/.../hplus/bioethics/

***** IN PRINT*****

Books on Bioethics

From Chance to Choice: Genetics & Justice
[Allen Buchanan](#), [Norman Daniels](#), [Daniel Wikler](#),
[Dan W. Brock](#)

RESOURCES

- *ASBH <http://www.asbh.org/>
- *SCBCC website <http://www.socalbioethics.org>
- *POLSTupdate:http://www.finalchoices.org/ccccchcf_polst_grant.htm
- * For insight as to how some of your colleagues feel about pressing ethical dilemmas go to <http://www.medscape.com/features/slideshow/public/ethical-dilemmas>*

Conferences

***3/16 Wed. Coalition for Compassionate Care** LA Marriott Hotel Burbank, CA 91505

D. Kessler discusses book, *Visions, Trips & Crowded Rooms: Who & What You See Before You Die.*

J. Lynn, MD, MA, MS, one of first hospice physicians in US discussing how to build a local end-of-life community.

M. Cadogan, DrPH, RN, NP, gerontological NP & Professor at UCLA Schl of Nursing, on latest research on CPR.

LaVera Crawley, MD, MPH, Asst Professor at Stanford U Center for Biomedical Ethics, examining culturally sensitive end-of-life choices.

***3/15 Tues. preconference workshop**
Addressing Cultural Biases

Lunch & Registration: 11:30am Program: 12pm - 4:30pm
info@coalitionccc.org (916) 489-2222

***3/ 24-25 Thurs. Fri.**

National Nursing Ethics Conference
Advocacy – Making a Difference for Patients

Amer Nurses Asso Ethics of Caring
sponsoring National Nursing Ethics Conference
LA Hilton Universal City

www.NursingEthicsConference.org

***Ethics Champions programs for '11 – '12**

Deadline for Yearly Registration for both programs is 3/ 18 5:00 pm (EST). After that individual presentations registration only.

To register for these teleconferences

<http://www.che.org/ethics/index.php?id=29>

4/ 6/2011 Bioethics Mediation: Bridging the Gap

between Mediation & Ethics Consultation... Alan Sanders

5/ 4 Ethics Mechanisms..Kevin Murphy

10/ 5 Organ Donation...Kate Payne

11/ 9 Home Health Ethics...Philip Boyle

12/ 7 Medical Error Management...Carol Bayley

1/ 4/12 Surgery Ethics...Gerry Heeley

2/8 Behavioral Health Ethics ...Philip Boyle

3/7 Ethics Committees ...Steven Squires

Saint Joseph Health System System Ethicist, Catholic Health East 678-843-7527

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