



### Next Meeting: Wed, Jan 21

St. Vincent's Hospital, Conference room AB&C  
Next to cafeteria on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
(below ground level)

2131 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St LA 90007, (213) 484-7111

Park on Alvarado and 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

<http://www.stvincentmedicalcenter.com>

RSVP to [paul.schneider@va.gov](mailto:paul.schneider@va.gov)

5:30 pm dinner, 6:30-9 PM program

#### Agenda

1. Intro to St. Vincent's Medical Center and its ethics program  
(Dr. N. Kockler, Dr. T. Horowitz, Sr. Caridad)
2. Roles and responsibilities in ethics consultation, cont'd (Stuart Finder, PhD.)
3. Bioethics Consultations in Nursing Homes—quality gap?
4. Unbefriended Patients, Revisited  
(Malcolm Shaner, M.D.)
5. Case presentations from field
6. Consortium business
7. POLST: SCBCC grant update

#### A Wider View... from the literature

~"Improving the Quality of Health Care - Who Is Responsible for What?"

J. Frank Wharam, MB, BCh, BAO, MPH; D. Sulmasy, OFM, MD, PhD *JAMA*. 2009;301(2):215-

~"Transparency Standards for Diabetes Performance Measures"

David Aron, MD, MS; Leonard Pogach, MD, MBA *JAMA*. 2009;301(2):210-212.

~"The Neurontin Legacy — Marketing through Misinformation and Manipulation"

C. Seth Landefeld, M.D., and Michael A. Steinman, M.D. *NEJM* Vol 360:103-106, Jan 8, 09. No 2.

~*Altered Nuclear Transfer*

WB Hurlbut, RP George, M Grompe, Hastings Center Report 36, no.5 (2006):42-50

[www.alterednucleartransfer.com](http://www.alterednucleartransfer.com)

#### SCBCC Steering Committee

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### Upcoming Conferences

~*The Many Faces of Culture...challenges for Clinical Ethics* Mark P. Aulisio, Ph.D. Case Western Reserve

1/21 Wed 12-1pm Cedars Sinai Series

Harvey Morse Aud. (So. Tower, Plaza level)

~lunch & CME Education Auditorium, 885-5479:

1) *When Doing Everything is Morally Problematic*

S. Finder, 1/27 Tues 12:30-1:30

2) *Palliative Care in 2009*, G. Komatsu, M.D

Director Palliative Care, Little Co. of Mary MC

2/24 Tues. 12:30-1:30

3) *A Market in Human Organs: Why Not?*

A. Capron, JD, Co-director, Pacific Center for

Health Ethics, former Ethics Director, WHO

3/24 Tues. 12:30 -1:30

<http://www.csmc.edu/5387.html>

~"Trust No One"...How One Surgeon Actually

Learned to Trust, Paulene Chen, M.D. transplant

surgeon discusses care of dying patients,

Fri. 1/23 3pm USC (Keck) Health Sciences

Campus, Mayer Auditorium

~ *Putting POLST into Action* 3/30

California Coalition for Compassionate Care Annual

Meeting, Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento

<http://www.finalchoices.org/events.html>

Hotel Reservations: (800) 325-3535 by 3/6

~The American Society for Bioethics and

Humanities (ASBH) annual meeting, Washington DC

October 15-18 <http://www.asbh.org/>

~UCLA Healthcare Ethics Center noon lectures

Wed. Ronald Reagan Aud. Rm B -130 (lunch)

Call Ethics Center 310 794-6219 for calendar

<http://www.uclahealth.org/ethics>

#### The Buzzzzzz

(recent bioethics conversations on the web)

Paul Schneider initiated discussion regarding

the involvement of hospital ethics committees with

affiliated nursing and convalescent homes. RB Miller

and others, illuminated a variety of approaches by

nursing homes in addressing bioethical issues.

Inconsistencies and discontinuity of ethical decision

making and execution after transfer of patients from the

acute to the convalescent setting suggest that SCBCC

might play a role in future cooperation and collaboration.

Schneider hopes the SCBCC process will allow

integration of POLST policy in a consensus-driven

procedure generalizable to all hospitals. He advocates

the development of one new policy for POLST rather

than building it into already-existing policies, although

acknowledges the need to also build POLST into

existing policies as they come up for review.



## Resources

- SCBCC website <http://www.socalbioethics.org>
- California Dept of Public Health has issued "All Facilities Letter" regarding AB 3000  
<http://www.finalchoices.calhealth.org/docs/>
- The American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH)  
<http://www.asbh.org/>
- The Office of the President-Elect  
<http://change.gov/>  
Health care plan:  
[http://change.gov/agenda/health\\_care\\_agenda/](http://change.gov/agenda/health_care_agenda/)  
Economic plan:  
[http://change.gov/agenda/economy\\_agenda/](http://change.gov/agenda/economy_agenda/)

## Readings in the Field

- ~*The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama*,  
Gwen Ifill (Released January 20)
- ~*The Return of Depression Economics and the Crisis of 2008*, Paul Krugman
- ~*A Life in Medicine* (an anthology)  
Robert Coles with Randy Testa ed:  
including musings on clinical conundrums
- ~*Minding the Store*  
(reflections on the ethical quandaries of business)  
Robert Coles with Alber LaFarge
- ~*The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*, Zimbardo, Philip Rider Books
- ~*Oath Betrayed*  
(investigation of chain of command regarding authorization of torture while prisoners in US custody)  
Steve Miles
- ~*Politically-motivated torture and its survivors: A desk study review of the literature.*  
Quiroga, J & Jaranson, J.M. (2005)  
(Thematic Issue) 15 (2-3), 1-11

## Weigh in with the Editor...

Editor-in -chief:  
Kendra Fleagle Gorklitsky, MD (213) 201-2780  
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Rebecca Bertin, Matt Calzetta, Gina Capodanno  
(USC -Keck School of Medicine),  
Kyle Graham (UC Berkeley)  
Paul Birimbe, (CS Northridge)

## \*\*\*\*\*Hot Topics\*\*\*\*\*

"What to Do About the Torturers?" by David Cole  
*New York Review of Books*, January 15, 2009  
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/22232>  
Cole reviews three recent books that tell the story of America's use of torture in the wake of the Sept 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He explores the military's use of torture and its careful recording of tactics, as well as how the use of such tactics came to be approved. He also addresses the question of how the investigation of the policies and the blame for putting them into practice should be addressed, now that the administration is changing hands.

"Obama's Unhealthy Choices" by Robert J. Samuelson, *Newsweek* January 19, 2009  
[www.newsweek.com/id/178872](http://www.newsweek.com/id/178872)

Samuelson recalls Obama's speech regarding getting the federal budget under control, and notes that to accomplish this goal health care spending will need to be addressed. He quotes a study from the McKinsey Global Institute that showed that what really drives health spending is the costly services and procedures Americans receive much more often than our international counterparts. He offers some suggestions for the improvement of health spending.

POLST update

<http://www.finalchoices.org/polst-hcp.html>

## Heroes from History

### Dorothea Dix (1802-1887)

~ "In a world where there is so much to be done, I felt strongly impressed that there must be something for me to do."

A social reformer and mental health advocate of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Dix lobbied state legislatures and the US Congress to create the first generation of American mental hospitals. She began her work to improve the conditions of mentally challenged people who had been imprisoned in 1840 by organizing reforms that transformed jails into the first generation of mental hospitals.

Current advocates for improved treatment for mental illness may be heartened by Dix's success in getting states to build some 75 mental hospitals in 1880, despite the intervening civil war and economic instability.

[www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/dorotheadix.html](http://www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/dorotheadix.html)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothea\\_Dix](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothea_Dix)



Discussions of Laura's Law and how it can be applied in various California counties may be found at [www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org](http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org) along with other legislative efforts to address the needs of the mentally ill.