



Next Meeting: Wednesday May 19

5:30 dinner (free) 6:30 program begins

Speakers: Kristina Cordasco, MD, K. Weinstein, RN, Matthew Eng, MD, Jonas Green, MD

Ethical Problems in the Provision of Humanitarian Relief Medical Care in Haiti as Seen by Four Los Angeles-area Participants

VA Greater LA Healthcare System Bldg
50011301 Wilshire Blvd 90073 Rm 6001

Parking free & abundant in lots surrounding Bldg 500

Directions: <http://www.losangeles.va.gov/visitors/directions.asp> No RSVP needed



Readings in the Field

Dr. Mel Kirschner (SCBCC member)

All Medicines are Poison! Making Your Way Through the Medical Minefield. Includes

discussions of backroom dealings in the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, and possible solutions to some of these concerns.

http://www.amazon.com/All-Medicines-Are-Poison-Minefield/dp/1449011659/ref=sr_1_fkmr2_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1268930620&sr=8-2-fkmr2

Diane Meier, Palliative Care: Transforming the Care of Serious Illness includes 25 articles by leading experts.

Glossary: Peripheral Bioethics, developed in countries where formal bioethics studies occurred later, are characterized by the importing of theories from 'central' countries (i.e. where the bioethics studies originated and were consolidated.) Central and peripheral determinations are temporary designations. An initially peripheral country may become central as new issues emerge .
http://www.scielo.org/scielo.php?pid=S0102-311X1999000500005&script=sci_arttext

>>>A Wider View<<<

International Australia is considering a ban on cigarette package advertising this July. They also plan to increase cigarette tax by 25%. Packages will only display health advisories in attempt to decrease the smoking burden. <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asia.pcf/04/29/australia.cigarette.packaging/index.html>

Local: Santa Clara County banned all toys in McDonald's kids meals that are considered unhealthy. County Supervisor K. Yeager, explains this ordinance "prevents restaurants from preying on children's love of toys to peddle high-calorie, high-fat, high-sodium kids' meals." <http://www.cnn.com/2010/LIVING/04/28/fast.food.toys.california/index.html>

National News "Prisoners are the only United States citizens who have a constitutional right to health care," says Michelle Andrews of the NY Times, explaining that they receive healthcare from state or federal taxpayers. Prisoners and undocumented immigrants are the only groups that will be excluded from the new Health

InsuranceExchange <http://prescriptions.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/29/will-immigrants-be-permitted-on-the-insurance-exchanges-prison-inmates/?ref=health>

Criminalization of Mentally Ill The odds of a seriously mentally ill individual being imprisoned rather than hospitalized in California are 3.8 to 1-- higher than the national average of 3.2 to 1. A very strong **correlation between those states that have more mentally ill persons in jails and prisons and those states that are spending less money on mental health services was found** in a report comparing statistics from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services and the Bureau of Justice Statistics collected during 2004 and 2005, respectively. North Dakota has an equal number of mentally ill individuals in hospitals as in jails or prisons. Arizona and Nevada have 10 times as many mentally ill individuals in prisons and jails than in hospitals.

In 1850, there was one public psychiatric bed available for every 5,000 Americans. In 1955, there was one psychiatric bed for every 300 Americans. By 2005 there was one psychiatric bed for every 3,000 Americans. Dr. Richard Lamb, Prof of Psychiatry at USC said, "This report documents what we see on a daily basis. Deinstitutionalization, restrictive commitment criteria and a lack of adequate community support programs are making it more likely for psychiatric patients to be in correctional facilities than in hospitals."

Among the study's recommended solutions are for states to adopt effective [assisted outpatient treatment](#) laws to keep individuals with untreated brain disorders out of the criminal justice system and in treatment. This is a less restrictive alternative to inpatient hospitalization **allowing courts to order certain individuals with brain disorders to comply with treatment while living in the community.** Studies show assisted outpatient treatment reduces hospitalization, homelessness, arrest, and incarceration among people with severe psychiatric disorders, while increasing adherence to treatment and overall quality of life.

www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org



Hot Topics: As unemployment rates remain high, people in the US continue to find themselves without primary care, frequenting ERs for common ailments. Even those with primary care physicians are often advised to go to the ER when their physician is not available. Perhaps the \$11 Billion allocated in the new healthcare legislation for the establishment of new community health centers will reduce the burden placed on Emergency Rooms. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/health/27brod.html?ref=health>

Though recent reports have published the **safety of vaccines**, one report found that many parents still believe that there is an association between **vaccines and autism**. While 9 out of 10 parents of children 17 and under who were polled believed that vaccines provided protection, 1 in 4 still felt that some vaccines cause autism. One in 8 parents refused a recommended vaccine. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/09/health/research/09child.html?scp=1&sq=one%20in%20our%20vaccines&st=cse>

SOMETHING TO PONDER??????? Can our opinions be bought or tainted by money, power or a sense of belonging? Christopher Meyers explores this potential in his thought provoking article **Clinical Ethics Consulting and Conflict of Interest, Stuctuarally Intertwined**. Hastings Center Report 37, no. 2, 2007: 32-40

*****Resources*****
 ASBH <http://www.asbh.org/>
 SCBCC website <http://www.socalbioethics.org>
 POLSTupdate: http://www.finalchoices.org/ccccchef_polst_grant.htm
www.KindEthics.com on state of elder care, etc.

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The Buzzzzzzz recent items/ conversations regarding Bioethics on the web
 ~"Medical journals are an extension of the marketing arm of pharmaceutical companies" said Richard Smith, former chief-editor of the BMJ, who described the many ways in which drug trial data can be manipulated.

It took "almost a quarter of a century editing for the BMJ to wake up to what was happening" (Smith 2005,e138).
 From Evidence-based Medicine to Marketing-based Medicine: Evidence from Internal Industry Documents Glen I. Spielmans & Peter I. Parry
 Received: 2 October 2009 / Accepted: 15 December 2009
 # Springer Science+Business Media B.V. 2010the way
 ~Can payment for living kidney donations be constructed ethically? A study of the responses of individuals across a spectrum of incomes was conducted to determine if payment represented an undue inducement to risk, depending on income, and whether it would hinder altruistic donations. Authors Scott D. Halpern, MD.PhD, et al, interpreted the findings to suggest that payment was neither an undue nor unjust inducement to donate, and would not alter willingness to donate altruistically (hypothetically.) Results were published in the Annals of Internal Medicine 2010;152:358-365
 Clarence H. Braddock III, MD, MPH, Stanford University Medical Center and David Magnus, PhD, Stanford University countered in an editorial:

Empirical Methods in Bioethics: A Cautionary Tale
Ann Intern Med. 2010;152:396-397.

Their scrutiny of the data suggests that low income individuals were almost twice as likely to give in to the inducements of financial reward, with the result that donors would more likely be poor people selling to rich persons who benefit.
 *They suggest a market (particularly in cases of living donation) could damage the patient-physician relationship. A physician might find it difficult to refuse to honor a patient's request for a procedure that will financially benefit the patient—even if it counters the physician's sense of professional integrity.
 *Donating a kidney includes risks. Exposing patients to harm for no medical benefit presents ethical challenges.
 *Others may object believing that a market in body parts devalues human dignity.
 *They also raise the issue of should vs ought and caution against the practice of using empirical finding to justify morally objectional practices."Even if all the other kids are doing it, that doesn't make it right."



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