



Next Meeting Thurs 11/13

Torrance Memorial Medical Center
3330 Lomita Blvd. Torrance 90505
West Tower, 2nd Floor, Rm D
405 So., exit & right on Crenshaw, right on
Skypark Dr., right on Medical Center Dr., left at
first stop into West Tower Parking lot (free)
5:30 supper provided free, 6:30 meeting

Agenda-- summaries of topics discussed at
annual conference of American Society of
Bioethics ASBH--teleconferencing of future
meetings. RSVP M. Hersh @ 310 891-6705

Hot issues in September SCBCC Meeting

Ethics of organ harvesting from an unbefriended
adult raised by R. Koons. Discussion continued
by email with members weighing in on concerns
including: 1) Acting on impulse to promote
society's greater good vs. respecting presumed
individual wishes 2) Respecting the practice of
assuming preference for *opting in* for organ
donation in our nation vs. *opting out* as practiced
in other countries

Upcoming Conferences

*11/13 California Hospital, 1400 Grand Ave. Keck
Hall, Noon -2:30, lunch and CME

~*Bioethical Dilemmas in Approaching a Pandemic*
Alonzo Plough, Director, Emergency Preparedness
County of LA

~*Privacy Issues and the Electronic Medical Record*,
Paul Schneider, WLA VA/UCLA Internist

*4/ 19/10 CCCC's (California Coalition for
Compassionate Care) Annual Conference,
Sacramento, Sheraton Hotel

*Cedars Sinai: Harvey Morse Aud. (So. Tower,
Plaza level). <http://www.csmc.edu/13954.html>

*UCLA Healthcare Ethics Center noon lectures
Wed. Ronald Reagan Aud. Rm B -130 (lunch)
Call Ethics Center 310 794-6219 for calendar

*January 2010 SCBCC Conference
look for upcoming announcements

Children's Corner 13 California counties,
including San Diego, will pilot and provide
hospice and palliative care through a formal
agreement with the Centers for Medicare and
Medicaid Services. Concurrent curative and
palliative care services are provided via a Partners
for Children waiver.

Ethics & "Indirect" Internet Use

Cancer is one of the top three diseases about
which Americans seek information on the web. In
a recent study, 120 cancer patients were
interviewed about Internet use among their
families and friends to examine how "indirect"
Internet use affects patient care. While most
patients found online support helpful and
comforting, physicians may need to encourage
and safeguard patient autonomy and protect
patients from dubious information sources.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18283559>

Home DNA Testing

Companies sell genetic tests directly to consumers
over the Internet, taking advantage of society's
desire to identify specific genetic markers for
various heritable diseases. Direct-to-consumer
genetic testing has potential dangers including the
false assurance that home DNA tests of
questionable reliability could bring.

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/01/health/01brod.html?_r=1

Readings in the Field *My Paper Chase*,

Harold Evans, newspaper editor in Great Britain
broke thalidomide story and was threatened with
prison for publishing pictures of deformed children.
Appealed to World Court and exonerated. Now
concerned with the further support of individuals
continuously afflicted as they age by the impairments
resulting from in utero exposure to thalidomide.

End of Life Care

Should the patient education and end of life
healthcare options vary between different doctors
and different states as they do now?

http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/content/230113/topic/WS_HLM2_LED/Problems-and-Solutions-in-EndofLife-Healthcare.html

POLST update

http://www.finalchoices.org/ccccchcf_polst_htm

SCBCC Steering Committee

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**Glossary:****CFACT**

Anosognosia source: Unawareness of illness, seen in some serious mental illness and neurological disorders according to X. Amador, PhD, Director of Psychology at NY Psychiatric Institute and Professor of Psychology at Columbia. A 1986 study by William H. Wilson, M.D. et al found 89 percent of patients with schizophrenia denied the illness. Amador et al found, in a 1994, study that nearly 60 percent of 221 patients with schizophrenia did not believe they were ill. He and coauthor Anna Johanson wrote *"I Am Not Sick, I Don't Need Help: a Practical Guide for Families and Therapists"* published in 2000, Vida press, www.vidapress.com/INSIDH-Main.tm

From (not so distant) History

The Road Past Mandalay John Masters describes triage decisions made in extremis during WW II including euthanasia of severely wounded (certain not to recover) and potentially vulnerable to imminent brutal enemy forces, referenced in *Forced abandonment and euthanasia: a question from Katrina* by Kenneth Kipnis published 3/22/07 in Social Research New York vol 74 examines the arguments supporting and refuting euthanasia in cases of intractable suffering or forced abandonment http://goliath.ecnext.com/coms2/gi_0199-6523854/

A Wider View

Local : LA Times columnist Steve Lopez' account of his experience obtaining a physician's recommendation for medicinal marijuana. http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-lopez28-2009oct28_0,874874.column.

Statewide: The California Healthcare Institute (CHI) invited members of the biomedical community for The California Healthcare Policy Forum in San Francisco on Nov 5. Speakers included Attorney General Jerry Brown, California Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner, and Assembly members Nathan Fletcher and Jose Solorio. The forum's stated purpose was "to help attendees better understand healthcare reform and what it means to medical innovation in California." <http://www.chi.org/basicpage.aspx?id=6462>

National: *Current healthcare reform bill in Congress prohibits the government from providing insurance subsidies for any other than citizens and legal residents, leaving undocumented workers uninsured, and questioning the "universality" of current healthcare proposals that leave millions to continue to seek care at emergency rooms. http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-ed-health6-2009nov06_0,1334958.story

* Battered (in country of origin) wife seeks asylum on that basis. Dept of Homeland Security determined her eligible after protracted appeal to immigration court (since 1995) *N Y Times* 10/30/9

International:

Patients with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are paid to take medication in a study at Queen Mary Hospital in London. The sum of about \$24 dollars per injection offered monthly is intended to encourage patients to avoid relapse and rehospitalization.

Such programs have been tried in patients with tuberculosis in the past. The bioethics issue raised, of course, is the question of coercion, but informed consent has always been a problem in patients who have diseases that may impair their reasoning capacity. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8290295.stm>

Resources

- *SCBCC website <http://www.socalbioethics.org>
- *ASBH website <http://www.asbh.org/>
- *Palliative Care Hotline, a toll free number for consultative and ed support sponsored by Institute for Palliative Medicine "877-PAL-MED4"
- *Journal of Palliative Care includes guidelines for incorporating spirituality in end of life care. (Concensus Conference sponsored by Archstone Foundation)

Weigh in with the Editor

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