



Next Meeting: Wed. Sept 23'09

Huntington Memorial Hospital

100 W California Blvd. Pasadena 91105 West Tower
conference rooms 5-7

<http://www.huntingtonhospital.com/ME2/Default.asp>

Self park in North parking Lot at corner of California Blvd
& Fairmount Ave. Enter off Fairmount. Elevator to M
(main entrance), turn right thru cafeteria dining rm to
conference rm

5:30 dinner, 6:30-9:00 meeting

Huntington Memorial and its Ethics Program, by
Wendy Kohlhasse, et al

Old Business

Pandemic update

POLST review of 1/30/10 conference plans

Meeting teleconferencing, webconferencing

Roles and Responsibilities in Clinical Ethics

(Stuart Finder)

Cases from the field

Upcoming Conferences

--The American Society for Bioethics and

Humanities (ASBH) 11th annual meeting,

Oct 15-18, Washington, DC <http://www.asbh.org/>

--**"Bioethical Issues in Response to a Flu Pandemic"**

by A. Plough, Public Health and Safety Officer for LA
County, & **"The EMR and Privacy"** Paul Schneider,

California Hospital Medical Center

Friday 12-2:30 November 13

1440 So. Grande Ave. (lunch), 213 201-2780

--**"Plagues, Pandemics, and Risks to Health Care**

Professionals: Back to the Future" Les Rothenberg, JD

Cedars Sinai: Harvey Morse Aud. (So. Tower, Plaza
level) **10/28 noon** <http://www.csmc.edu/13954.html>

--**"Palliative Care for Patients with ALS"** H.

Mitsumoto, MD. DSc UCLA Healthcare Ethics Center

noon lecture Thurs. **10/16**, NPH Aud. C8-183NPH

Aud. (lunch) call 310 794-6219 for schedule

On The Chin

"Your Life , Your Choices" a VA document designed

to aid end of life decision making among veterans

came under attack by several politicians and

journalists who portrayed it as vehicle for

disenfranchising patients from the decision making

process and pressuring disabled vets to forgo critical

care. The misleading implication was forcefully

countered by a statement by the Board of Dir of ASBH

<http://www.asbh.org/responsebrdltr.pdf>

SCBCC website <http://www.socalbioethics.org>

A Wider View

Local News: The propofol dosage reported in the
Michael Jackson case was just 25 mg according to Dr.
Murray, Jackson's physician. However, preliminary
toxicology reports found "lethal levels" of propofol in
Jackson's blood. Final toxicology and autopsy reports
have not been released by the LAC coroner's office.

K. Yoshima 8/27/09 www.latimes.com

Ethics concerns include the appropriateness of
physicians to treat outside the confines of their
specialty, especially in potentially hazardous/ lethal
situations & surroundings where a profit motive is
suspected as a primary impetus.

National: New Jersey governor signed Senate Bill 735
to provide ***involuntary commitment to outpatient***

treatment as an alternative to inpatient

hospitalization for patients with severe mental illness

including schizophrenia and bipolar disorders with

incapacitating symptoms who otherwise refuse

treatment, making it the 43rd state to utilize such a

mechanism. www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org

--NY Times article ***Mental Stress Training is Planned***

for U.S. Soldiers, author Benedict Carey reports, "the

army plans to require that all 1.1 million of its soldiers

take intensive training in emotional resiliency" in an

attempt to help soldiers deal with mental health

problems and improve their combat performance. The

program will focus on dealing with depression, post-

traumatic stress disorder and suicide.

One New York Times reader stated, "Characterizing

this as 'mental toughness' is the height of stupidity in

this reporting. People who have PTSD do not have a

problem of 'mental weakness' or lack of mental

resiliency' that is overcome by the power of positive

thinking. (Associating) PTSD (with) 'mental

weakness' will guarantee that fewer people will admit

to dealing with PTSD symptoms and those that do will

suffer even greater stigma."

www.nytimes.com/2009/08/18/health/18psych.html

International:

Euthanasia has received increased attention in the UK.

Recently, an MS patient won the right to leave the UK,

where physician-assisted suicide is illegal, and go to a

country where the practice is legal. ***Polls in the UK***

found that most people want legalized euthanasia,

but most doctors are against it. There is growing

popularity amongst UK doctors to use conscious deep

sedation for end-of-life treatment of pain. Brimelow,

Adam. "The alternative to euthanasia?" BBC News. 12 Aug 2009

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8184108.stm>



Glossary (terms often used in Bioethics consults)

Futility is an operational term, dependent upon pre-defined goals in light of which action is evaluated (Finder)

Below are terms offered by one source

<http://www.mcg.edu/gpi/ethics/ph1syllabus/bioethic.htm>

Medical futility is used sometimes in reference to those hopelessly ill or dying. Three specific terms have also been employed.

Physiologic futility: the proposed intervention or continued treatment cannot reverse the physiologic condition in the patient that is leading to death

Personal futility: the proposed intervention or continued treatment may have the desired effect, but the resulting benefit does not outweigh the burden of continued life i.e. an unacceptable quality of life

Social futility: the proposed intervention or continued treatment may have the desired effect, and personal benefit may outweigh the burden, but the treatment is not available due to lack of resources

Heroes from History

Louis Pasteur worked with colleague Emile Roux to develop the first rabies vaccine. At a time when the vaccine had only been tested successfully on 11 dogs, Pasteur was confronted with a difficult ethical dilemma. After 9-year old Joseph Meister was bitten by a rabid dog, Pasteur decided to put his life and career on the line to treat Meister. Pasteur's success with the rabies vaccine was a significant factor leading to the development of the first Pasteur Institute. Forty-five years later, Meister served as the caretaker of Pasteur's tomb during the 1940 Nazi occupation of Paris. Sources report that Meister chose to commit suicide rather than degrade his hero's tomb after being ordered by German occupiers to open the crypt.

<http://www.pasteur.fr/ip/easysite/go/03b-000016-06r/pasteurandrabies>

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POLST update www.finalchoices.org

*****Hot Topics*****

Bipartisan report on reforming US Health

A bipartisan committee of members of Congress laid out its "four pillars" of

- 1) Promoting High-Quality, High-Value Care;
- 2) Making Health Insurance Available, Meaningful, and Affordable;
- 3) Emphasizing and Supporting Personal Responsibility and Healthy Choices;
- 4) Developing a Workable and Sustainable Approach to Health Care Financing.

Specific suggestions include increasing information provided to patients about treatments and conditions, creating a network of state or regional-level health insurance exchanges, and establishing a public health and wellness fund to provide support for evidence-based wellness, prevention, and care coordination programs.

The question at hand: Can common ground cool the rhetoric?

Executive Summary:

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/BPC12-09%20HC%20ExecSumm-8-20-09.pdf>

Full Report:

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/BPC8-09-PCHC%20Qual%20rpt-8-20-09.pdf>

The Buzzzzzz Swine Flu: Ethics & Pandemics

With the flu season approaching, the magnitude of the H1N1 influenza pandemic is yet to be determined. Prevention and management of a large scale pandemic poses many issues, such as the ethics of communication, allocation of resources and the ethics of individual worth vs. social worth. In an interview, Dr. Margaret McLean, Director of Bioethics at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University, talks with Dr. Kirk Hanson, the center's Executive Director, about the ethical issues of the swine flu pandemic.

<http://www.scu.edu/ethics-center/video/pandemic/index.cfm>

Airports such as Chicago's Ohara are already broadcasting flu control measures ("cough into tissue") along with their other multiple overhead announcements.

Readings: *Sophie's World*, a novel by Jostein

Gaarder is a painless way to familiarize oneself with ethical and philosophical postulates offered by Spinoza, Hume, Kant, etc. Written by a high school philosophy teacher, it was a best seller in Europe. (Yes, they offer philosophy in Norway's secondary schools!)

Weigh in with the Editor

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