"The Center for Ethics in Health Care has linked arms with a multitude of talented and generous people to accomplish the work of the past 20 years. So it is with enormous gratitude that we dedicate this report to all those throughout the community. Today, the story is a much easier one to tell, a host of untutored ears the Center’s purpose and role in our community. And the nation, and across the disciplines, who have joined with us to be a strong voice for compassion and respectful care in our communities."

20th Century America


1989: Founding of the Center for Ethics in Health Care

Early on, the Center established two founding principles of Compassion and Respect to every aspect of health care. And the Center is sustained today by funding from the health care industry so that the work remains constant.

The Center’s work in end-of-life care was recently recognized by the Oregon Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, which awarded its Circle of Life Award to Gary Chiodo, D.M.D., for his commitment to improving the care of terminally ill Oregonians.

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At its core the Center’s mission is – in the midst of the enormous challenges facing modern health care in a world where technological advances continue to dazzle us, while health care resources become ever more scarce – it is increasingly evident to a growing number that there is urgent need to bring justice, dignity, and compassion to health care. And the Center will focus particularly on state-wide education in partnership with the Oregon Health and Science University to address the most difficult issues in modern health care.

1990: Foundation of the Oregon POLST Task Force

As we look back at the past 20 years, the Center believes that the Oregon POLST Task Force represents one of its many accomplishments and adds a vital new dimension for OHSU students and practicing health care professionals of all levels and disciplines.

The Oregon POLST Task Force, led by Terri Schmidt, R.N., M.S., M.D., has added a vital new element of compassion and respect to every aspect of health care.

At the core of the Center’s work is the notion that the dying patient should be at the center of all ethical and policy discussions. And the Oregon POLST Task Force has been instrumental to this goal.

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In addition to the work already mentioned, the Center’s work in end-of-life care was recently recognized by the Oregon Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons, which awarded its Circle of Life Award to Gary Chiodo, D.M.D., for his commitment to improving the care of terminally ill Oregonians.

The Oregon POLST Task Force, led by Terri Schmidt, R.N., M.S., M.D., has added a vital new dimension for OHSU students and practicing health care professionals of all levels and disciplines.
clearly it is no accident that Oregon is far ahead of most states, perhaps the national leader, in compassionate care of the dying."

Susan has them in abundance. Her prodigious energy, her clarity, and her commitment to compassion and professionalism throughout OHSU.

The Ethics Center is in a very direct and human way to have the largest of a large network of people working across the state and the region to ensure that our patients, research subjects, and students have access to the best in ethics education.

Evona Brim is one of the Center’s most dedicated supporters. Her passion and unwavering support of the Center’s work has, almost without exception, been extraordinary in the decades ahead.

Inspired by the leadership of her father, Dr. Babener, Evona entered the medical field, bringing a great passion for ethics. Shortly before his death in 2006, her father was an energetic advocate for the Ethics Center, encouraging her to support the Center as a way to honor her father’s legacy.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR LOGO:

The Ethics Center logo symbolizes the ways in which a community comes together to support one another. The center holds together the four circles, which represent the disciplines of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and dentistry. The interconnectedness of these circles is a reminder of the importance of collaboration and the power of working together as a community to uphold the highest standards of ethics in health care.