

CENTER *for* ETHICS *in* HEALTH CARE

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Dear Friends,

Please join me as we take a moment to honor and thank our 345 volunteers for the tens of thousands of hours they have given the Center for Ethics in Health Care during the past year. From community volunteers on our Advisory Council to quilt-makers, from health care professionals to lawyers; each person's gift of time makes the Center more effective and enhances the benefit of every financial contribution.

After two decades of enduring effort, the Center's legacy in transforming end-of-life care is receiving widespread acclaim. OHSU, Oregon community colleagues, leading medical journals, and the national media, respect the Center's preeminent role. This profound and lasting impact would not have been possible without the hard work, skill and dedication of our volunteers.

The path we have traveled together illuminates our vision for the future. Many thanks for your ongoing contributions.

Susan

Susan W. Tolle, MD
Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair
Director, Center for Ethics in Health Care



The Annual Kinsman Conference Crucial to Statewide Education

Ethics leaders from Oregon and Southwest Washington hospitals gathered in Eugene for this April's Kinsman Conference, "Beyond the Ethics Committee: Creating an Ethics Program for the Future." With the conference turning 21, the group was challenged by tough questions like "What to do when a physician feels uncomfortable participating in a patient's chosen treatment?" or "What should a nurse do about an unprofessional colleague?" or "How to make decisions when a family disagrees?" John Holmes, PhD was an outstanding chair and moderator for the meeting, co-sponsored by PeaceHealth of Eugene and the Center.

Dr. Lynn Jansen's Research on Unrealistic Optimism in National Media

Optimism is healthy for any person battling cancer and taking part in a treatment trial. But can a person be too optimistic? Dr. Lynn Jansen, Madeline Brill Nelson Chair of Ethics Education, published new research in March in *IRB: Ethics & Human Research* exploring this issue. Funded by the National Cancer Institute, the study learned why some patients in early cancer trials expect a higher level of benefit from the experimental treatment. These unrealistic expectations may actually be the result of how patients consider information about risks and benefits. They think they will benefit more than the average person and have fewer complications. This landmark study was featured by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times* and MSNBC.

POLST Evolving to National Standard

Colorado, Idaho, Pennsylvania, and Utah have been newly endorsed by the National POLST Paradigm Task Force, bringing the total to 13 states. The task force, coordinated by the Center in partnership with other national leaders, continues to help the majority of other states as they develop their POLST programs. *The Wall Street Journal* praised POLST efforts in two articles published on December 6, 2010 and March 15, 2011. In addition, the Oregon POLST Registry exceeded 50,000 form submissions with over 500 calls by emergency care personnel seeking POLST orders in a crisis. One key to these successes is the Center's POLST coordinator. After 5 years of outstanding contributions, Sarah Papp transitioned her position to Bill Pfunder who began his work with the Center in April. Margaret Carley RN, JD and Bill are taking the POLST program to the next level!

Upcoming Events

May 12, 2011

Madeline Brill Nelson Speaker Series

Charles Kilo, MD, Chief Medical Officer, OHSU

8:00AM-9:00AM

OHSU SON Auditorium

Overcoming Silos: Shifting toward Interprofessional Education and Practice

12:00PM-1:00PM

OHSU Vey Auditorium

Stewardship of Healthcare Costs

May 20, 2011

Building Bridges: Providing Palliative Care Along the North Coast

Seaside Civic and Convention Center
Seaside, Oregon

June 10, 2011

Annual Statewide Palliative Care Conference

Hidden Wounds and the Art of Possible

Oregon Convention Center
Portland, Oregon

September 16, 2011

Building Palliative Care in Small & Rural Hospitals Conference

Grants Pass, Oregon

September 23, 2011

Palliative Care in Eastern Oregon: Guidepost for the Journey

La Grande, Oregon