



Dear Friends,

Please join me as we honor and thank our volunteers for the tens of thousands of hours they have given the Center for Ethics

in Health Care during the past year. Our volunteers bring a range of skills and serve in diverse ways. Some generously donate their time to teaching while others make compassion quilts or host “friend-raising” receptions.

For example, Dr. Victor Menashe has ably served for the past five years as moderator of the Daniel Labby Senior Clinicians’ Seminars, while Barbie Rice recruits courageous volunteers for the Death Notification Role Play sessions, serves on the Center’s Advisory Council, and provides support to those in the Center’s “family” in difficult times.

Each person’s gift of time makes the Center more effective and enhances the benefit of every financial contribution. Our impact is greatly expanded by the compassion, hard work, skill, and dedication of our volunteers.

Many thanks to every one of you,



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

Enhancing Compassionate Communication Skills

Health care professionals struggle to complete expected charting in electronic records and at the same time communicate respectfully with patients. Sometimes, patients express frustration and dismay when the doctor spends most of the visit looking at the computer screen, particularly when the doctor is rather bluntly sharing bad news. With Dr. David Barnard, the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care, arriving on September 1, 2012, we have an unprecedented opportunity to develop a curriculum to help the next generation more wisely and compassionately use our new technology.

Oregon POLST Innovations Adopted by Others

Oregon continues to take the lead in POLST Program education and innovation. The resounding success of the Oregon POLST Registry is documented in the 2011 Annual Report (<http://bit.ly/OPRreport2011>). Statewide distribution of the “POLST in Action in Oregon” video reaches a broad range of professionals, from leaders in long-term care to estate planning lawyers. Our innovations are being used by others. Maine adapted our video for local use and parts of four countries have implemented the POLST Program: Canada, Germany, Australia, and Singapore.

Grant Awarded to Study Unrealistic Optimism

Dr. Lynn A. Jansen, the Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education, received a highly competitive five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute to expand her research and conduct a multi-site study. The primary goal of the study is to better understand how patients who enroll in early cancer trials understand their susceptibility to the risks and benefits associated with experimental treatment.

Interprofessional Health Care Ethics Fellowship Prepares Future Ethics Leaders

Our Fellowship depends very heavily on volunteer faculty. Under the tireless volunteer leadership of Barbara Glidewell, Administrative Director, and Dr. Robert Potter, Curriculum Director, a total of 29 ethics leaders have completed, or are now completing, the two-year Interprofessional Health Care Ethics Fellowship program. The June 2012 Fellowship Graduation Celebration, hosted by long-time Advisory Council member, Barbara Sloop, included: Jacqueline M. Brown, JD; Erik Fromme, MD, MCR; Bryan Gish, LCSW; Lori K. Irwin, RN,MS,CNS; Denise C. Mathes, RN,BSN,MPH; Anthony Mulholland, RN,BSN; and Helen N. Turner, DNP,RN-BC,PCNS-BS,FAAN. Graduate Fellows serve as leaders by enriching ethics education, policy development, and clinical care at OHSU and far beyond.