Dear Friends,

The Center’s 25th anniversary year continues to unfold with educational events at OHSU, for our professional colleagues statewide, and a reunion conference for those who have completed an ethics fellowship.

In this issue of the newsletter we honor those who have given generously of their time and by sharing their skills and wisdom have made the Center what it is today.

Thanks!

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National POLST Leadership Conference
Amy Vandenbroucke was undaunted when an ice storm in Atlanta in February forced rescheduling of the National POLST Leadership Conference to May. The May 15-16 conference drew leaders from 39 states and a representative from the country of Japan. Oregon continues to lead national innovation with new research demonstrating a strong match between orders documented on the POLST form and treatment that people receive.

Kinsman Conference Expanded in Celebration of 25th Anniversary
Over 250 ethics and palliative care leaders attended the May 1-2 Kinsman Conference in Bend with the theme, Ethics, Difficult Conversations and Palliative Care: New Tools for Integrating Human Values into Future Healthcare. In celebration of our 25th anniversary, the conference offered a broader range of workshops with content in ethics, communications skills and palliative care. Laura Mavity of St. Charles Health System served as Chair and, with Lynn A. Jansen as Co-Chair, recruited faculty from across our state. This conference builds bridges and fosters strong collaboration among colleagues in urban and rural settings on some of the toughest ethical issues facing health care today.

Training the Next Generation of Ethics Leaders
Under the direction of Barbara Glidewell, five Interprofessional Health Care Ethics Fellows have completed their program and are proceeding to graduation: Rie Kimura, DMD, MSW; Debbie Lamberger, MPH; Maureen McCarthy, MPH, RD, CSR, LD; Wesley McMahan, RN; and Berklee Robins, MD. Each Fellow completed a capstone project expanding ethics understanding within their clinical department. A reunion conference for all prior graduates of the ethics fellowship is planned for September 18th.

Enhancing Education in Compassionate Communication
David Barnard and colleagues are advancing communication skills training both on and off the OHSU campus. This fall, regional conferences are planned in Coos Bay (Sept 5th), Enterprise (Sept 26th), and Astoria (Oct 24th).