Dear Friends,

The Center for Ethics in Health Care faculty publish in prestigious journals and receive local and national media recognition for the Center’s leadership and innovation in health care ethics. While they may be most visible to those who view the Center from afar, a closer look reveals the hard work and tremendous support of so many in our community who make the Center’s national leadership possible.

Thousands of hours of volunteer time fuel every aspect of the Center’s major programs from new innovations in the POLST Program, to outreach conferences, to co-teaching law and ethics, to making quilts, to hosting events in one’s home, to designing new programs, helping design new policies and making videos.

Our national impact is made possible by the compassion, hard work, skill and dedication of our volunteers. THANK YOU!

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Moving to a Fully Integrated ePOLST Program
OHSU is partnering with Vynca and the Oregon POLST Registry to develop and pilot an electronic ePOLST system. ePOLST can be directly accessed while logged on to the patient’s medical record, completed electronically, and directly submitted to the Oregon POLST Registry. The system was built with the capacity ultimately to be able to query the Registry directly while preserving integration with the trauma system to assure EMS access in a crisis. The system launched on April 7th with plans to integrate just-in-time patient education in the coming months. We are grateful to those who volunteer their time to support Oregon’s continuing POLST innovation, dissemination and quality improvement.

Statewide Outreach and Collaboration
Partnering with colleagues throughout the region remains a high priority for the Center for Ethics. This year’s Annual Kinsman Ethics Conference drew over 250 attendees and focused on ethical issues in population health. Each year, Dr. Lynn A. Jansen serves as co-chair with a different health system partner. This year’s conference was in Portland and was co-hosted with PeaceHealth. In 2016, we will be in Hood River with the Providence Center for Health Care Ethics co-hosting the conference. In addition to the annual conference, Dr. David Barnard, with support from The Kinsman Foundation, is convening regional conferences during 2015 in Lebanon, Burns and Tillamook. Each regional conference is different because they are planned with health care professionals from the region to feature the talents each region brings, and to address local communities’ unique concerns.

Save the Date of October 26th
We are grateful to The Collins Foundation for supporting the “Developing Master Educators in Compassionate Communication” grant. Ten gifted faculty will graduate on June 19th, enhancing the teaching capacity of OHSU in communications skills training in the Schools of Medicine and Nursing: Elizabeth Bower, MD; Linda Brown, MS, RN; Sarah Green, MD; Joe Hardman, MD; James Hayden, PhD; Katherine Iossi, MD; Catherine Rutledge-Gorman, BSN, M Div; Alex Verdieck, MD; Jennifer Watters, MD; Melissa Weddle, MD, MPH. This is a first step in an expanding initiative. Join us for the Center for Ethics Annual Community Luncheon on October 26th to learn about our broader vision for the Center’s new Program in Compassionate Communication.