Dear Friends,

In May, Dr. Catherine DeAngelis, former Editor in Chief of JAMA, praised our national leadership: “Your interprofessional team is at the point of the arrow with what you have accomplished thus far.”

This level of recognition is made possible by the generous donation of thousands of hours by volunteers in support of the Center’s programs, from pro bono hours from the legal community co-teaching law and ethics, to those who make quilts for the compassion quilt program, to those who host “friend raising” receptions, to those who give talks statewide without honoraria, to those who mentor our fellows and help us build new programs and design new policies.

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

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Expanding the Program in Compassionate Communication

The Program on Compassionate Communication has been hosting a series of visits by national experts who are advising us as we create a curriculum to train Master Educators in Compassionate Communication. Next to arrive: Elizabeth Ryder, M.D., M.S.W., from Harvard Medical School in September, and Cynda Rushton, Ph.D., R.N., from Johns Hopkins University in October. We are beginning to recruit our first class of OHSU faculty, whose training will begin in January 2014. We deeply thank The Collins Foundation for their crucial support of this program.

Interprofessional Health Care Ethics Fellowship Prepares Future Ethics Leaders

The June 2013 Fellowship Graduation Celebration includes Nancy Burnett, BSN, MPH, CCRN; Joni Elsenpeter, MA; Amy Goltz, MA; Lissi Hansen, PhD, RN; Donna Kim, MD; Keren McCord, MSW, LCSW; Michele Megregian, CNM; Maureen Louise Ober, PharmD, RPh; and Susan Yoder, RN, BSN. Graduate Fellows serve as leaders by enriching ethics education, policy development, and clinical care at OHSU and far beyond. Our thanks to each of the faculty mentors who donated their time to review papers and guide projects. A special thanks to Robert Potter, MD as he retires after donating years of service as the Fellowship Curriculum Director. We remain grateful to Barbara Glidewell for her tireless volunteer efforts as the Administrative Director of the Fellowship.

Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Update

In April, Oregon was one of the two states first awarded “Mature” status by the National POLST Paradigm Task Force, in part due to our remarkable penetration in the use of POLST in all regions of Oregon. Susan Tolle, MD, was honored by receiving an invitation to present information on the development of POLST to the prestigious Institute of Medicine Committee on Transforming End-of-Life Care this past May at Stanford University.

25 Year Celebration

In 2014, the OHSU Center for Ethics will celebrate its 25th year of operation. We plan a series of events throughout the year to engage and honor those we serve. Four major events are planned: 1. a campus wide clinical ethics/communications skills intensive for students; 2. a statewide conference in Bend for ethics and palliative care leaders; 3. a conference for all former ethics fellows; and 4. an evening of celebration. Stay tuned!