

CENTER *for* ETHICS *in* HEALTH CARE

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Dear Friends of the Center,

We are grateful to the growing number of volunteers who give generously of their time. Because of reduced endowment income we have tightened our belts and, with the help of volunteers, have continued all Center educational and service projects and programs.

Several retired doctors and nurses are volunteering extensive time to the Center. Years ago Dr. Robert Hugo Richardson joined to help build the Edwards Legacy and Dr. Robert Potter leads the Bioethics Study Group, and our TIE Fellowship program. More recently Dr. Sam Muramoto began teaching ethics to medical students and Margaret Carley, RN, JD has led more than a dozen training sessions about the POLST Registry to facilities in Clackamas County. These are but a few of the growing number of professionals who generously donate their time and expertise.

Lay volunteers remain critical to our teaching and service missions. We thank Tsura Tuenge for making the most quilts for the Compassion Quilt Program. We deeply thank each volunteer.

Susan

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



April 2009

Growing National Use of POLST

A new history section within the Oregon POLST website (www.polst.org) provides a timeline of the milestones in growth of the POLST initiative. Nine members of the National POLST Paradigm Initiative Task Force gathered in Austin, Texas to host a conference as part of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine annual meeting. The POLST conference drew over 100 leaders in end-of-life care from 32 states each with the goal of building or expanding POLST in their state. Interest continues to grow at the congressional level noting Representative Blumenauer's recent introduction of POLST legislation "The Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act of 2009."

POLST Registry Senate Bill 451 is Voted to Ways and Means

The POLST Registry will serve as a backup system to provide information to Emergency Medical Services in a time of crisis. Legislation to create the registry is needed to both support registry operations and remove legal barriers to effective use. Legislation (SB 451) to create the Oregon POLST Registry was approved by the Senate Health Care and Veterans' Affairs Committee and is headed to Ways and Means. This is a hopeful sign yet one can never predict what will happen in the legislative process. In the meantime we are moving forward with pilot testing in Clackamas County.

Ethics Center Upgrades Website

Please visit www.ohsu.edu/ethics and learn more about the programs of the Center for Ethics in Health Care. As we prepare for the Ethics Center's twenty year celebration this is one of several upgrades that are underway to better honor donors and volunteers who have made the Center what it is today and to make our projects and programs accessible to a wider audience.

Upcoming Events

May 7, 2009

Madeline Brill Nelson Ethics Education Lectures

Speaker: Dr. Matthew Wynia, Director, Institute of Ethics,
American Medical Association
School of Nursing, Room 144
8:00 AM: "National Health Care Reform"
Noon: "Origins of a Racial Divide"

May 18, 2009

39th Daniel Labby Senior Clinicians' Seminar

"Health Care Professional's Relationship to Industry:
Looking the Gift Horse in the Mouth"
10:00AM – Noon, Casey Eye Institute, OHSU

June 12, 2009

Annual Statewide Palliative Care Conference

"Palliative Care Across the Life Span,"
Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR

October 1-2, 2009

Madeline Brill Nelson Ethics Education Lecture & Center for Ethics 20 Year Celebration

Save the Date – More information to come!
Speaker: Dr. Mark Siegler

