

# CENTER *for* ETHICS *in* HEALTH CARE

3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road UHN-86, Portland, OR 97230 · (503) 494-4466 · fax: (503) 494-1260 · www.ohsu.edu/ethics · ethics@ohsu.edu



Dear Friends of the Center for Ethics in Health Care:

2006 brings three new faces to the Center for Ethics in Health Care's team. **Emilie Eckert**, Assistant Director and Manager, comes to us from the OHSU Center for Women's Health. As a merit scholar graduate of Tulane University, she brings over 20 years of experience in grants management, HR and development.

**Monica Czapl**a joins us to provide expanded staff support to Dr. Patrick Dunn and the rapidly growing POLST program. Monica is a graduate of the OSU Microbiology department and has previously worked as a research assistant with the OHSU Prostate Cancer Clinical Research Group.

**Dr. Robert Richardson** retired from Kaiser in December to join the Ethics Center as an onsite faculty member. Dr. Richardson's prior experience will be instrumental in expanding our bedside teaching program in ethics, professionalism, and comfort care. He is already strengthening our networks with the OHSU ICU, palliative care team, and VA fellowship program. Our next newsletter will feature more news about Dr. Richardson's efforts catalyzing the growth of this new program.

A heartfelt thanks from all of us in the Center for Ethics in Health Care and those we serve for your generous support in 2005.

*Susan*

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

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## What Would You Do?

A 16 year-old woman requests an abortion and her mother supports this decision. The woman's physician finds her answers evasive when he asks her about the degree of emotional support she has from her partner. The physician suspects abuse and asks further questions when the young woman is under conscious sedation. During this questioning, the woman discloses that her biological father impregnated her. Was it ethical for the physician to question the patient while she was sedated? Discussions such as this case present new and engaging methods of teaching health care ethics.

## New Curriculum in Disclosure of Errors and Near-Misses

**Drs. Phyllis Beemsterboer** and **Geoff Gordon** have convened educators from health care disciplines across the OHSU campus to design new case-based, specialty-relevant curriculum in disclosure of errors and near-misses. We are grateful for the support of the **Non-Nocere Foundation**.

## More States Ask for Help Implementing POLST

**Dr. Patrick Dunn** and the National POLST Paradigm Task Force are providing consultation to leaders in multiple states such as Florida, Nevada, Hawaii and Idaho, where formal legislation to implement the POLST program is actively being proposed. Dr. Dunn and others are slated to speak at several national conferences in the year to come. Among these engagements, Dr. Dunn delivered a POLST presentation to the International Assembly of Chest Physicians in Montreal last November.

## Miles Edwards

Miles faces his terminal illness with the same wisdom and grace that has always characterized his life. He feels blessed to experience little physical discomfort most days other than extreme fatigue.

## Upcoming Events and Activities

- 2/28 **Dr. Gary Chiodo** will present a DOM grand rounds presentation about OHSU's Conscientious Objection Policy on Tuesday, February 28. This presentation will take place at 8 AM in University Hospital, room 8B60.
- 4/20 Our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Kinsman Conference, "**New Issues in Health Care Ethics in 2006**," will be held on April 20-21 at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon. Keynote speaker **Matt Wynia, MD, MPH**, is a graduate of OHSU and now directs the Institute for Ethics at the American Medical Association.
- 4/27 Under the leadership of **Trish Backlar**, the Portland State University Philosophy Department and the Multnomah County Department of Human Services will host a symposium entitled "**Stigma, Discrimination and Mental Illness: Does it Matter?**" This event will run from 5:30 – 7:30 PM in PSU's Smith Memorial Student Union, room 296.
- 5/10 Our 33<sup>rd</sup> **Dr. Daniel Labby Senior Clinicians' Seminar** will address the issue of conscientious objection in health care settings. The seminar runs from 10 AM – Noon in the Macdonald Auditorium at Casey Eye Institute.
- 6/16 Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Statewide Inpatient Palliative Care Conference, "**Palliative Care in Oregon: Looking Toward the Future**," will be held at the Kingstad Meeting Center in Beaverton, Oregon. Keynote speaker **Charles von Gunten, MD, PhD**, is Medical Director of San Diego Hospice and Palliative Care as well as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. We're also pleased to feature special guest **Megan Cole, MA**, who was the original lead actress in the stage production of "Wit."

