

# CENTER *for* ETHICS *in* HEALTH CARE

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Dear Friends of the Center for Ethics in Health Care:

Demand for the Ethics Center's educational programs and conferences soared, exceeding both our expectations and current resources.

Last week, the twelve member panel just completed our 5-year strategic plan. This panel placed building programs of the **Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care** as our most urgent priority because we need more qualified leaders to expand our teaching capacity. Implementation is rapidly under way.

Through the generous support of hundreds of people, we have raised approximately \$1.5 million in record time. We seek your help in raising \$1 million necessary to sustain the program. This will insure that the professionals will less often leave patients feeling abandoned when they can no longer be cured and will impart communication skills needed to treat each patient with the compassion and respect that they deserve.

We gratefully thank you for your support.

Susan W. Tolle, MD  
Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair  
Director,  
Center for Ethics in Health Care  
November 2006

*Susan*



## OHSU Includes Ethics Center in Strategic Plan

President Joe Robertson has invited the Center for Ethics in Health Care to submit our five-year strategic plan to be integrated as part of his OHSU comprehensive strategic plan. We have submitted our recommendations identifying ways we can partner with others to further increase the compassion and respect with which health care is delivered throughout our state.

## Conference Registration Sets Records

Each of our three Regional Conferences this fall set a record for attendance. Despite projecting double the attendance levels and renting larger space, we exceeded capacity. In September, we squeezed everyone in at the Eugene Hilton but had to turn doctors and nurses away both in Medford in October and in Salem in November. We view the surge in conference registration as a reflection of the growing commitment of our colleagues statewide to improving their skills in pain management and end of life care. With support from **The Kinsman Foundation**, we strive to meet this remarkable demand. Jocelyn White, Chair and Erik Fromme, Co-Chair of the 2007 statewide Palliative Care conference have reserved space for 600 people on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion. Diane Meier from Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York and actress Megan Cole will be the key note presenters. We recommend early registration!

## View Our Newest Movie!

Over 50 people helped to create our newest movie entitled **"Honoring the Wishes of the Spanish Speaking Patient & Family."** The movie is available in both English and Spanish on our website at [polst.org](http://polst.org). We thank all of those who generously gave of their time and would like to especially recognize the contributions from **The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, the Yojdani/Trim Family Foundation, The Archstone Foundation and Bill & Karen Early** for making it possible to hire a professional film team. Our next challenge is getting this video in the hands of all of those who need it.

## New Ruling in IRA Tax Free Charitable Giving

Donors who have reached the age of at least 70-½ years have a new, tax-free source of philanthropic giving, thanks to the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Friends of the Center for Ethics may make tax-free gifts up to \$100,000 in both 2006 and 2007 directly to the OHSU Foundation from their IRA accounts. An additional benefit of this legislation is that tax-free contributions directed to the OHSU Foundation count toward the donor's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

As always, we recommend that you work with your tax advisor to determine if this new, limited time option is right for you. If you are interested in taking advantage of this new provision, the OHSU Foundation would happy to help you. Contact: Dee Metaj at (503) 494-5790.

## Actress Megan Cole to Perform for Students

Megan Cole who played the lead role in the play "Wit" will be performing for students on **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006** from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the **Vey Auditorium at OHSU**. She has the skill and passion to teach empathy and communication skills to the next generation of health care professionals. In this performance she will teach self care under the title **"Burnout"**. We have room for guests. Please call Emilie if you would like to attend at 503-494-4435.