

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,

Our recent economic times create enormous challenges for all of us, including the Center for Ethics. The Center's endowments lost more than 20% of their value since last year, causing a significant decline in revenue. To maintain the Center's goals, we have initiated a number of measures to weather the ongoing financial storm. Budget cuts were made to reduce operating expenses by 8%. Staff compensation has been frozen at 2008 levels, and I have taken a 3% pay reduction. Ethics Center faculty and other health care professionals are volunteering more time to meet current program needs.

We are deeply grateful for the support of each of you who have stood by us during these challenging times. Given the national climate, the voice and impact of the Ethics Center has never been needed more.

With all best wishes and heartfelt thanks,

Susan

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



October 2009

20th Year Celebration

Madeline Brill Nelson visiting scholar, **Mark Siegler, MD**, helped us celebrate the Center's first two decades and challenged us to take on the myriad ethical issues facing health care in the next twenty years. Dr. Siegler has served as a consultant to the Center's; mentoring Dr. Tolle at the MacLean Center for Clinical Ethics at the University of Chicago in 1988-89. In the enclosed booklet, comments on our accomplishments highlight the collective wisdom in building our Ethics Center with private philanthropy and no health care industry support.

OHSU Receives Circle of Life Award

The OHSU Palliative Medicine & Comfort Care Program received the 2009 'Circle of Life' Award by the American Hospital Association. This prestigious award honors only three programs annually for their national leadership and innovation in palliative care. The selection committee specifically noted both the POLST initiative and our statewide educational outreach as reasons OHSU was chosen. **The Kinsman Foundation** plays a vital role in support of these efforts in statewide education. For example, health care professionals from 57 cities attended this year's statewide palliative care conference.

The Oregon POLST Registry to Launch Statewide

Under the leadership of emergency medical physician, **Dr. Terri Schmidt**, the Clackamas County POLST Registry pilot project is operational. A State contract with the OHSU Department of Emergency Medicine allows statewide implementation later this fall. Thousands of POLST forms are being submitted from Clackamas County and also from all over Oregon. The Ethics Center is fortunate to have a powerful statewide network of ethics and palliative care colleagues to teach the nearly 20,000 Oregon health care professionals what they need to know about the POLST Registry. It is exciting to lead the country in developing this innovation, making medical orders available when they are needed in a time of crisis.

November 2nd Community Luncheon: *Bankruptcy from Rising Medical Costs: How Unethical Practices Contribute to This Problem.*

The Advisory Council invites you to join our no-host community luncheon as we focus on incentives in medicine, their role in rising health care costs and the growing rates of personal bankruptcy. Advisory Council Co-Chairs, Cornie Stevens, Lisa Andrus-Rivera and Barbie Rice welcome two new Advisory Council members, **Karen Early and Gwyneth Gamble Booth.**

Upcoming Events

- October 25, 2009** **40th Daniel Labby Senior Clinicians' Seminar**, "*To Document or Not to Document, That is the Question balancing the Benefits and Harms of the Clinical Record.*" 10:00am – Noon, Casey Eye Institute, OHSU
- November 2, 2009** **Community Luncheon**, "*Bankruptcy from Rising Medical Costs: How Unethical Practices Contribute to This Problem.*" 11:30AM to 1:00PM, Multnomah Athletic Club