



November 2019



30 Years of Leadership  
in Compassion, Integrity  
and Innovation

Dear Friends,  
We have exciting momentum that propels us forward in the growth of each of our programs.



Our newest recruits, Drs. Katie Stowers and Tyler Tate—both gifted teachers—are rapidly assuming leadership roles at the Center. Dr. Tate partnered with Dr. Dallas Carter to co-chair a regional conference in Coos Bay in October, and he is now leading the *Living With Life Threatening Illness* Course. Dr. Stowers is mentoring faculty in how to teach ways of giving bad news more compassionately and how to walk the path with those with serious illnesses. We congratulate Dr. Stowers on her growing national recognition as an outstanding teacher of some of the hardest conversations any of us will ever have in medicine. We are deeply grateful for the renewed investment that The Kinsman Foundation has made in our work, and extend our profound thanks to every person who has so generously given to the Center this year.

With gratitude,

*Susan*

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### The Kinsman Foundation Funds New Grant

**The Kinsman Foundation** and the Center for Ethics have expanded their partnership with a new grant entitled: *Partnering with Oregon Communities to Promote More Respectful Health Care*. Susan Tolle and Tyler Tate will be leading this three-year initiative to design programs that meet the unique needs of each community. Learning goes in both directions—each community gives us fresh ideas for teaching, and we share innovations in communication, changes in the POLST Program, and other content areas of interest to each community. We are most grateful to The Kinsman Foundation.

### Katie Stowers Advanced to Senior Associate with National VitalTalk Initiative

The OHSU VitalTalk initiative is making waves with many recent successes, locally and nationally. Katie Stowers, the Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education, has been promoted to the VitalTalk senior teaching team, becoming one of a small group to lead national communication and faculty development courses for the organization. Closer to home, our second cohort of OHSU faculty completed VitalTalk instructor training this fall. With eight faculty now trained through this initiative, the impact is already being felt across the institution, teaching individuals in numerous specialties (pediatrics, oncology, palliative care, primary care, trauma surgery, etc.) since the beginning of the year. The impact of future training is just beginning and will ripple across the region.

### Center for Ethics Celebrates its 30-year Anniversary

Nearly 200 people attended our annual luncheon, as we celebrated the Center's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For those who could not attend, we produced a six-minute video about the Center's mission, values and major accomplishments, and we recorded the entire live presentation. Both videos can be viewed on the Center's home page at <https://www.ohsu.edu/center-for-ethics>. The program focused on three theme areas: Compassion, Integrity and Innovation, and concluded with inspirational remarks by Dr. Phyllis Beemsterboer, who shared why she and her husband Joe have included the Center in their estate plans. We are most grateful to the more than 100 people, who made gifts related to the luncheon. Please save the date of September 21, 2020 for next year's luncheon celebration!

### Oregon POLST Registry Celebrates its 10-year Anniversary

The Oregon POLST Registry, funded by the Oregon Health Authority, makes POLST orders rapidly available in a crisis. It began operation on December 3, 2009, and since then it has received over 500,000 forms, and the Emergency Communication Center has fielded 10,000 calls requesting POLST orders for patients in a crisis whose POLST was not available at the scene. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT describes the Oregon POLST Registry as the most widely used and advanced POLST Registry in the country.

