

May 2020



Dear Friends,
The pandemic requires us to be nimble, to innovate, and to broaden the scope of the Center's work in new ways. Even though



in-person conferences and seminars are not possible now, we have risen to the challenge by creating a series of webinars to address the ethical and communication issues arising in the pandemic. With classes canceled, we have also designed ways to teach professionalism and ethics virtually. And the Center's faculty are playing expanded leadership roles in policy development and continue to facilitate POLST Program innovations. It is profoundly rewarding to work with such committed and talented colleagues.

Few are immune to the economic impact of the pandemic, and yet friends of the Center have remained most generous. We welcome new Founders Robert and Sherry Millis and give a most enthusiastic shout out to the Storms Family Foundation for their generous operating grant.

We are deeply grateful to each one of you who has given generously of your time and treasure as together we face suffering and hard decisions in the months ahead.

Susan

Susan W. Tolle, MD
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Responding to Ethical and Communication Issues Raised by COVID-19

When, after 30 years of the annual statewide Kinsman Ethics Conferences, we were forced to cancel this year's event, we immediately shifted our focus to producing webinars addressing issues raised by COVID-19. We released the first webinar on March 17 and have since released 11 videos with more in the pipeline. The webinars address four thematic areas:

- the moral distress of healthcare professionals and the community, to reduce the stigma that prevents so many people from seeking the support they need.
- the ethical issues surrounding resource allocation in times of scarcity, to provide an ethical foundation for health policy decisions.
- communication skills for healthcare professionals in how to talk to patients with serious illness about POLST and goals for care in the context of COVID-19.
- collecting innovations in POLST policy so that new effective policies can be rapidly shared between health systems.

We have been astonished by the popularity of the webinars. The first webinar has over 4,000 views and most of the webinars have more than 400.

Teaching Pharmacy Students Communication Skills in Asserting Their Professional Role

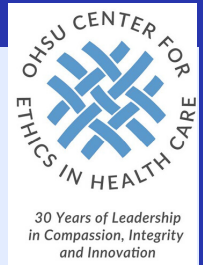
In partnership with the School of Pharmacy, the Center for Ethics in Health Care launched a new communication skills training module for third-year pharmacy students. Pharmacists have a reputation for effective communication with patients, but sometimes they are too deferential to physicians when patient safety is at stake. For example, when the pharmacist identifies a drug interaction that the physician has overlooked, the pharmacist has a professional obligation to speak up. This new module teaches pharmacy students the skills to be both professional and assertive.

Center for Ethics Annual Community Luncheon Moves to Virtual

COVID-19 is expected to continue to put a damper on large gatherings for some time to come. We do not know for how long. In the face of uncertainty, we have decided to transform the Center for Ethics in Health Care Annual Community Luncheon on September 21 to a virtual event. Please save the date. Details will follow as together we find ways to share the Center's newest innovations in teaching compassionate communication.

We hope you and your family remain well in the months ahead.

OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care's Response to COVID-19



Please visit the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care website at <https://www.ohsu.edu/center-for-ethics> to view all of these presentations.



Healthcare Communication in a Time of Resource Shortage (7:20)

In this presentation, Dr. Clarke models ways that health care professionals can bring greater compassion to conversations with patients and families. His particular focus is on conversations revolving around new restrictions and heartbreaking prohibitions on visiting hospitalized family members during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Created by: David Clarke, MD, Assistant Director of the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care



Caring for Yourself and Caring for Others During a Disaster/Epidemic (25:31)

Susan Hedlund shares wisdom and experience from her decades of responding to international disasters. She provides guidance to health care professionals in managing the tremendous and growing stress of the COVID-19 pandemic.



A Nation's Grief: Loss in the Time of COVID-19 (12:45)

This webinar discusses the process of collective grieving we are experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Created by: Susan Hedlund, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, Director of Patient/Family Support Services at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, and Senior Scholar at the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care



Fear and Its Ethical Management in a Time of Pandemic (8:00)

In this video, Dr. Jansen examines the rationality of fear and the ethical considerations around 'fear management' in a pandemic.



Created by: Lynn A. Jansen, PhD, RN, Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education at the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care



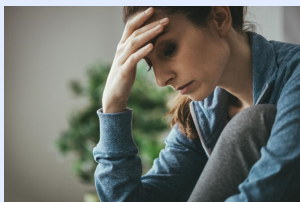
Communicating in a Crisis: Skills to Honor the Previously Determined Preferences for Medical Care (18:55)

Dr. Stowers guides emergency physicians and hospitalists through key questions and compassionate communication strategies to ensure that their patients' wishes for care are honored in this time of pandemic crisis.



POLST Conversations for ED Physicians with a Capable Patient (5:16)

In order to support over-stretched emergency physicians, Dr. Stowers presents a single, shorter video that focuses on how to have compassionate conversations with patients capable of expressing their preferences for care.

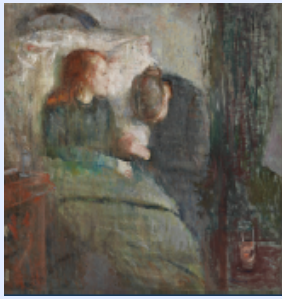


POLST Conversations for ED Physicians with a Surrogate (5:34)

This short video offers guidelines for how to communicate compassionately with a surrogate (a loving daughter) who represents a patient who no longer has capacity to speak about their health care goals and preferences.



Created by: Katie Stowers, DO, Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education and Associate Director of the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care



Moral Distress During a Time of Health Care Crisis: When Following the Rules Doesn't Feel Right (11:05)

In this talk, Dr. Tate discusses the emotional pain many health care workers are experiencing as they have to enforce strict visitation policies on families in order to protect both patients, and themselves.



Created by: Tyler Tate, MD, MA, Director of Professionalism and Comfort Care at the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care



POLST and Coronavirus: If You Get Sick, Will Your Orders Match Your Wishes? (5:42)

Dr. Tolle explains why it is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency that POLST orders reflect people's current wishes for care, and how to change POLST orders if their wishes have changed.

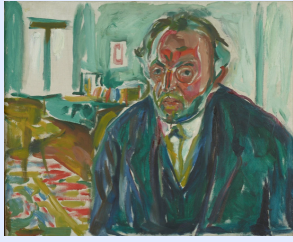


Sharing POLST Policies and Innovations Related to COVID-19 (18:53)

The Oregon POLST Program developed this video to share some of the valuable innovations in POLST policies, procedures, and educational efforts that are taking place across the state of Oregon during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Created by: Susan W. Tolle, MD, Chair of the Oregon POLST Coalition, Director of the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care, and Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair



Acting Ethically in a Pandemic:

What's the Same, and What's Different? (12:07)

In this presentation, Dr. Macauley explores how in a pandemic, public health takes precedence over individual autonomy, raising the question of how to fairly allocate scarce resources.



Created by: Bob Macauley, MD, FAAP, FAAHMP, Cambia Health Foundation Endowed Chair in Pediatric Palliative Care and Senior Scholar at the OHSU Center in Ethics in Health Care

