The Center for Ethics in Health Care is profoundly pleased to announce the appointment of Cliff Coleman, MD, MPH, as the inaugural Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication.

This new position will lead the Center’s ambitious program to transform the culture of health care through teaching and innovation that will build and promote skillful, compassionate communication throughout the health care system at OHSU and beyond.

A national expert in the field of health literacy, Dr. Coleman is passionately committed to improving communication training for health care professionals. In addition to leading national research to develop core health literacy competencies, he has led the curriculum on health communication, professionalism, and ethics in the OHSU School of Medicine since 2014, developing the first curriculum in the nation to integrate competency-based health literacy teaching as a running thread throughout the pre-clinical years. Importantly, he has a deep understanding of the interprofessional nature of health care, one of the Center’s core values, and is committed to building a program that includes all health care professionals.

Dr. Coleman is also a practicing Family Medicine physician, specializing in health care for underserved populations and individuals with complex medical conditions.

“We could not be more delighted to welcome Dr. Coleman to this new and vitally important role to lead and expand the Program in Compassionate Communication,” said Dr. Susan Tolle, Center director. “His passion and vision, combined with his unique qualifications in the field of health communication, are the perfect addition to the existing strengths of this program.”

The Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication, made possible by the generosity of the Storms Family Foundation, honors the inspiring legacy of hard work and quiet philanthropy of Doris and Marks Storms. It is dedicated to ensuring that all individuals and families are treated with utmost respect and deep compassion in the health care setting.

For additional information see the Center for Ethics in Health Care webpage at: https://www.ohsu.edu/center-for-ethics