



January 2021

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We did not send an end-of-the-year appeal. Instead, we waited until the New Year to demonstrate the impact of your gifts to the Center for Ethics.



I feel fortunate to work at OHSU because of the support for innovation. We can all take pride in OHSU's attention to justice and equity in implementing a massive vaccine program for OHSU employees. In the first wave of vaccines to frontline healthcare professionals, among those receiving the first doses of vaccine are those who clean the rooms and deliver the meals in the intensive care unit.

We have so much good news to share as we overcome obstacles and address the tremendous needs of the pandemic. We continue to lean into the challenges ahead and in the coming weeks we will virtually test all graduating medical students on their communication skills and remotely mentor those who are struggling.

Together we are making a difference, and we're just getting started!

Susan

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Clifford Coleman, MD, MPH to become the Inaugural Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Cliff Coleman as the inaugural Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication, starting July 1, 2021. The search committee for the Storms Chair unanimously endorsed offering Dr. Coleman the position after listening to him present his vision for the chair and what the Program in Compassionate Communication can become: <https://vimeo.com/496099438/56a7d3043b>. His vision is expansive and enhances the work of Dr. Katie Stowers, the Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education. Dr. Coleman brings nationally and internationally recognized expertise in the area of health literacy and shares our passion for improving communication skills across all health care disciplines.

Caring for the Whole Person with Physical Disabilities

The Center for Ethics is taking steps to reduce bias in the care of persons with disabilities. In this five-minute video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LYEIMPluuU>, Dr. Katie Stowers demonstrates the vital importance of seeing a person with disabilities as a person first and a diagnosis second. As she meets with her new "patient," Ian (an actor who uses a wheelchair from a childhood spinal cord injury, but does not have cancer), to give him bad news about his test results, she skillfully explores who he is as a person. Building this trusting and caring relationship significantly enhances future conversations about prognosis and goals of care, and Ian feels respected as an empowered partner.

Living with Life-Threatening Illness Course Successfully Conducted Virtually

Under the leadership of Dr. Tyler Tate, this year's Living with Life-Threatening Illness course was 100% virtual with medical students "meeting" with their patient/teachers on the screen rather than in person. The first-year medical students are remarkably skilled with virtual technology — it is all they have ever known. The patient-teachers have serious health conditions and welcomed virtual conversations with the students. The final session of the course was taught by a prerecorded video of Dr. Ron Naito sharing how to walk the path with those with serious illness. As in years past, more than 90% of the students rated the course as the best course in medical school or college.

Upcoming events:

January 15, 2021, All-City Palliative Care Lecture Series 12:00PM

"A Clinical Perspective on the Integration of Palliative Care for Patients with Hematologic Malignancies"
Jason Webb, MD

January 21, 2021, The Bioethics Study Group Series 12:00PM

"Ethical Answers to Spiritual Requests" A Multi-Disciplinary Panel

January 22, 2021, Oregon Statewide Lecture Series 12:00PM

"POLST and COVID-19: Supporting Those Who are Frail and Seriously Ill in Challenging Times"
Susan Tolle, MD

April 15-16, 2021, Annual Statewide Kinsman Bioethics Conference

"Truth, Power, Justice: Bioethics as a Voice for Health Equity" is the theme of this year's Kinsman Bioethics conference. The conference will be virtual, and is being cosponsored with the Samaritan Health System under the leadership of Wes Sedlacek, MDiv, and Lynn A. Jansen, PhD

All event information can be found on the Center's website at: <https://www.ohsu.edu/center-for-ethics>

