



February 2022

Dear Friends:

As we recover from yet one more COVID surge that has severely stretched both our health care system and our community, we at the Center for Ethics have more reason than ever to be deeply grateful. Grateful that the Center has been able to expand the breadth and scope of its work to meet the pressing needs of our time. Grateful, most of all, for the extraordinary generosity of all those who have invested in our mission to transform the health care of our many communities.

Our hearts are warmed and our minds inspired as we reflect on the many exciting areas of growth that the Center is undertaking, knowing that none of this would be possible without the selfless commitment of our donor community. We are delighted to welcome Osamu (Sam) Muramoto, MD as our newest Founder, who joins a remarkable group of dedicated supporters. And we remain filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who shares our passion for this work and whose generosity brings it into being.

Susan

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Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair
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Graduating Medical Students Show Improved Communications Skills in Testing

Last month's annual testing of graduating medical students (now in its fifth year) gave us many reasons for celebration, not least the fact that we were able to do the testing in person this year! **Dr. Katie Stowers, the Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education** once again led a team of faculty and trained actors to test students on their communication skills during challenging conversations with their "patients." The dramatic improvement in students' skills this year when compared to the first year of testing are further cause for celebration. Chief among the improvements we noted were: much less use of medical jargon; more invitations to "patients" to ask questions, and more empathy as students listened to their answers; more humility and willingness to own mistakes; and more compassion and supportive presence with strong emotions. It is immensely gratifying to see this progress, knowing that health care truly will be transformed by new generations of doctors trained in these vital skills.

Major Milestone Reached on Goal to Raise Level of Endowed Chairs

The endowment for the **Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care** has successfully reached its goal of a gift value of \$3 million, the new threshold set for endowed chairs to meet current financial demands. We are deeply grateful to the Edwards family and many others for making this possible, and are eager to begin work now on raising the endowment level of the remaining chairs.

Dynamic New Education Opportunities

Two new lectures series are drawing statewide interest. The **Oregon Bioethics and Humanities Colloquium** is an academic series for deep, inter-disciplinary inquiry into biomedical issues. **Trust in the Ruins**, which is open to anyone, explores the issue of loss of trust in our health care system and how to rebuild it. Laura Specker Sullivan, PhD launches the series on February 25 with a talk entitled **Trustworthiness and Injustice in American Medicine**. We also invite you to save the date for this year's virtual **Statewide Kinsman Conference: Ethical Struggles During the Pandemic: Reflections and the Path Forward** on April 28-29. Registration is open to all health care disciplines.

New Faces at the Center

We are very pleased to announce two new additions to the Center's office team who will be joining us this month. **Samantha Birk**, who comes to us from OHSU's Intercultural Psychiatry program, will fill the newly-created position of Communications Coordinator funded by the **Storms Family Foundation**. **Dave Hoyt** becomes the new Education Coordinator for the Center. Dave began his OHSU career in 2011, most recently serving as Education Coordinator for Emergency Medicine Residency.

For help in making a gift to the Center for Ethics, please contact Liz Arrington at arringtl@ohsu.edu or 503-552-0716.



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Welcoming Senior Scholar, Dr. Osamu (Sam) Muramoto as our newest Founder

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Senior medical students, wearing N-95 masks, line up for communication skills testing with standardized patients