



OHSU CENTER FOR ETHICS IN HEALTH CARE

# Impact Report 2022



“

Your support makes it possible for us to remain steadfast in speaking out about conflict of interest and injustice in health care.

”

**SUSAN W. TOLLE, M.D.**

Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair and Director, OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care

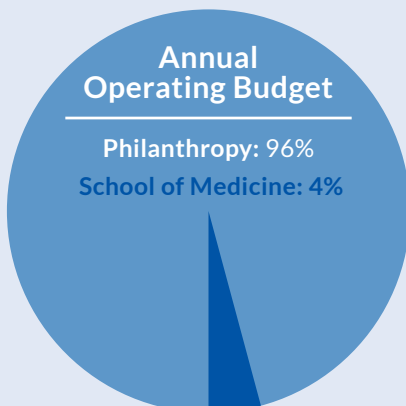


*In recent years, the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care has been incredibly fortunate to experience growth despite the challenges and demands of the pandemic. Your support has enabled us to remain flexible and creative, explore new opportunities and say “yes” when others are forced to say “no.” Because the Center’s support comes from philanthropic donations, your generosity, compassion and dedication to the Center and its mission is what has made program growth possible. Your trust and partnership fill me with gratitude. Together, we are making a difference.*

*Susan*

**SUSAN W. TOLLE, MD**  
Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair  
Director, OHSU Center for Ethics  
in Health Care

**Power of Philanthropy:** The Center for Ethics demonstrates the power of private philanthropy. Endowment income, new gifts and grants provide 96% of the Center’s annual operating budget.



## Leadership

Dr. Susan Tolle, the **Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair**, leads the Center’s growing team. She continues her efforts in advocating for more equitable and inclusive healthcare for people with disabilities, people who are aging and for those living with life-threatening illnesses. For example, she courageously testified on behalf of legislation ensuring that people with disabilities can have a visitor while hospitalized or in the emergency department. She served as co-chair of the 31st annual **Kinsman Bioethics Conference** and spoke about ageism, empowerment and ways to prevent the misuse of Portable Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST).

### Hired 7 New Positions

- 2 new faculty for endowed chair positions
- 2 new staff members for program support
- 2 new faculty coaches for resident education
- 1 new faculty POLST co-chair position

### 2022 Kinsman Bioethics Conference Impact

- 2 days
- 22 virtual presentations
- 265 attendees from across Oregon

## Serious Illness Education

**Katie Stowers, D.O., Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education**  
*Funded by the Ronald W. Naito MD Foundation*



**The Legacy Lives On:** Dr. Naito’s passion for teaching lives on through the Directorship in Serious Illness Education endowed by his Foundation.

- Tested 712 graduating medical students on competency in patient-centered communication skills over the past 5 years.
- Helped 7 specialties develop compassionate communication curricula to train medical residents and fellows in the last year.
- Led 10 communication skills workshops for medical residents and fellows at OHSU and Hillsboro Medical Center.
- Hired 2 communication coaches, with funding from the **Storms Family Foundation**, to meet the high demand of resident education.

## Professionalism and Comfort Care

**Tyler Tate, M.D., M.A., Director of Professionalism and Comfort Care**  
*Funded by the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care Endowment*

- Reached 524 healthcare professionals across Oregon through the **Compassion and Solidarity: Enhancing Ethical Medical Care in Oregon and Beyond** and the **Trust in the Ruins** virtual lectures series funded by **The Kinsman Foundation**.
- Issued 388 continuing education credits to practicing physicians, nurses and social workers.
- **Living with Life-Threatening Illness** class continues to be rated “Best Course in College or Medical School” by over 90% of medical students who took his virtual course.
- Developed and hosted the new **Oregon Bioethics and Humanities Colloquium** lecture series, which featured 8 presentations.

## Oregon POLST Program

- Entered 480,280 POLST forms into the Oregon POLST Registry during the first 12 years of operation.
- Translated POLST form into 15 different languages.
- Partnering with community health workers to create culturally-specific educational materials to empower Oregon's diverse aging and seriously-ill population.
- Hired **Christine Mallowney, M.D.**, with support from the **Bill and Helen Jo Whitsell Endowment for Ethics**, as the new Oregon POLST Program co-chair to help expand education and quality improvement.



## Program in Compassionate Communication

A year ago, Cliff Coleman, M.D., became the inaugural **Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication**. He is partnering with Dr. Stowers in launching the **Resilience and Empowerment in Later Years (RELY) program** by applying a health literacy lens to education efforts regarding medical care of older adults. He will also help ensure the Center is addressing health literacy in other programs as well; by making health literacy and clear language a priority for everyone, it is the most vulnerable who will benefit the most.

## Ethics Education

The Center for Ethics is pleased to have recruited Maureen Kelley, Ph.D., to assume the mantle of the **Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education**. Returning to the Pacific Northwest after seven years at the University of Oxford, Dr. Kelley brings more than 20 years of experience in teaching medical ethics and is an expert in women's health and gender equity, pediatric bioethics and international ethics research. Dr. Kelley will enhance the chair's influence on ethics education and expand it by bringing her internationally recognized scholarship to OHSU. She is mentoring other faculty and building a more robust program of ethics research and scholarship within the Center. Dr. Kelley's personal goal as a bioethicist, scholar and educator is to mitigate human suffering, disadvantage and social injustice.

## Educating Future Health Care Ethics Leaders

We have begun fundraising to expand our ability to educate the next generation of ethics leaders. We need to invest in mentoring future leaders who will have the skills and moral courage to address a broad range of issues – from justice and inequality, to teaching compassionate communication and to managing conflicts of interest. Future leaders will also need to develop the skills to address new and evolving challenges.

**A Culture of Caring:** The POLST Program empowers patients by translating POLST materials into other languages, providing people with the information they need to decide if POLST is right for them. This image is used in the new Spanish language materials.



**Putting Patient Needs First:** Health literacy's focus on clear language plays a vital role in keeping the patient at the center of our care.



**Focusing Forward:** Mentoring aspiring ethics leaders lays the groundwork for a more courageous and compassionate future.

*We remain full of gratitude to all those who have made this work possible. Thank you.*

“

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

”

**MARGARET MEAD**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Susan W. Tolle, MD**

Director, Center for Ethics in Health Care  
503-494-4466 | [ethics@ohsu.edu](mailto:ethics@ohsu.edu)

**Liz Arrington, CSPG**

Senior Director of Development, OHSU Foundation  
503-552-0716 | [arringt1@ohsu.edu](mailto:arringt1@ohsu.edu)

**OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care**  
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd., UHN-86  
Portland, OR 97239-3098  
[ohsu.edu/center-for-ethics](http://ohsu.edu/center-for-ethics)