



OHSU CENTER FOR ETHICS IN HEALTH CARE

Impact Report 2025



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The Center for Ethics plays a unique role in health science education by fostering the character traits and skills essential to compassionate, equitable care and responsible biomedical research.

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FABRICE JOTTERAND, PH.D., M.A.

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



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

I am incredibly grateful to have had the privilege of leading the OHSU Center for Ethics as interim director. It's been an honor to support our talented faculty and to connect with many of you, our donors. Hearing your personal stories and understanding your motivations for supporting our work has been truly inspiring. Amidst immense changes over the past year in health policy and federal grant funding, being primarily funded by philanthropy has never been more crucial. Your generosity provides us with flexibility and stability to pursue our shared mission. Your support ensures we remain steadfastly focused on our mission: providing practical solutions to improve ethical and compassionate health care for all Oregonians. I'm excited for the continued growth and impact of a new director on the Center. Thank you for empowering our critical work.



KATIE H. STOWERS, D.O.

Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education
Interim Director, OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Taking on the directorship of the OHSU Center for Ethics represents a profound privilege. I am honored to build upon the legacy of exceptional leaders who came before me and to work alongside esteemed colleagues committed to addressing the increasing complexities and ethical challenges associated with the delivery of high-quality, comprehensive, compassionate and patient-centered care to all Oregonians. This work would not be possible without the steadfast support of our donors and advocates whose generosity makes our mission possible. You deserve heartfelt recognition as your unwavering commitment to the Center has been our anchor during turbulent times in health care policy and funding, while simultaneously empowering us to adapt, expand and meet our communities' changing needs with creativity and purpose. Looking ahead, I'm inspired by the prospect of strengthening the remarkable foundation we have built together. I am grateful for your confidence, collaboration and shared vision as we embark on this journey together.



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Program in Compassionate Communication

The Program in Compassionate Communication consists of the Ronald W. Naito Directorship in Serious Illness Education and the Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication. These programs work side-by-side, and as part of a cohesive team, to highlight the essential role of compassionate communication in the health care experience.

Health Literacy

Cliff Coleman, M.D., MPH, Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication

Funded by the Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication

- Coordinated the inaugural OHSU Health Literacy Symposium showcasing clear communication strategies and innovative campus projects to better engage with patients, research participants and community members across OHSU's many programs.
- Gave 14 national, regional and institutional presentations on health literacy and clear communication. Some specific topics included using clear communication to reduce health care inequities from system racism and systemic ageism.
- Published four peer-reviewed manuscripts, and co-authored four research posters, about health literacy and clear communication-focused training for health care professionals and decision-making for patients with lung cancer.

Serious Illness Education

Katie H. Stowers, D.O., Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education

Funded by the Ronald W. Naito MD Foundation

- Led the 8th annual testing of medical students in compassionate communication skills. The Center has tested more than 1,125 students since the onset of testing eight years ago.
- Directed 31 workshops teaching 352 medical residents, fellows and practicing clinicians serious illness communication skills.
- Gave six national, regional and institutional presentations on serious illness communication.
- Built a partnership with St. Charles Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care teams and Partners in Care Hospice in Bend, with grant support from The Kinsman Foundation, to mentor Drs. Jenny Blechman, Dana Rhodes and Dan Doan to become communication skills educators and create sustainable communication skills training for their programs.

Oregon POLST Program

Directed by Chistine Muldowney, M.D., Medical Director of the Oregon POLST Program

- Coordinated quality improvement initiatives to ensure appropriate and high-quality use of POLST. These initiatives included partnering with the Oregon Medical Board to provide targeted feedback to Oregon clinicians across the state.
- Expanded our community outreach by creating a workgroup of POLST stakeholders and state surveyors from the Oregon Health Authority. This workgroup aims to support appropriate use of POLST in long-term care facilities.
- Gave three regional presentations to primary care clinicians, skilled nursing facilities and state surveyors providing education on POLST use.



Using Game Play to Train Medical Students in Clear Communication:

Medical Students Joan Marie Hady and Alexis Burk (from left to right), School of Medicine Class of 2026 and members of the Patient Education Consortium, present at the inaugural OHSU Health Literacy Symposium about improving medical communication through game play for medical students.



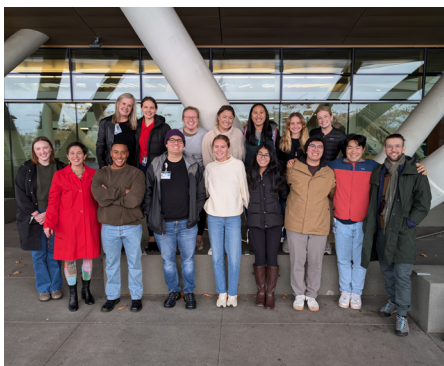
TalkOregon Partners with St. Charles Hospital and Partners in Care:

(from left to right) Drs. Jenny Blechman, Laura Mavity, Katie Stowers, Briana Ketterer, Jared Chiarchiaro and Dana Rhode at Partners in Care Hospice House in Bend. Drs. Stowers, Ketterer and Chiarchiaro spent two days in Bend mentoring Drs. Blechman, Mavity and Rhode in becoming leaders in teaching serious illness communication skills.



Leadership, Collaboration and Teamwork:

With two vacant faculty positions in the Center for Ethics, Drs. Christine Muldowney, Katie Stowers and Cliff Coleman (from left to right) have stepped up to help lead established activities that fall under these positions. Their dedication has helped the Center remain focused on its mission during a time of transition.



Fostering Compassion in Caring for Patients Nearing End-of-Life:

Dr. Sara Taub (bottom row, second from left), a senior scholar with the Center for Ethics, directed the 2024 Living with Life-Threatening Illness elective course with co-teachers Susan Hedlund, Dr. Robin Brown and Dr. Ladawna Gievers (top row from left to right). In this picture they pose for the traditional last-day-of-class photo with medical students.



Awarding Excellence in Community Service and Clinical Science:

Dr. Cliff Coleman was honored with two awards this spring — the Allan J. Hill Award for excellence in clinical science from the School of Medicine's Program Faculty Awards, and the Walter C. Reynolds Community Service Award from the School of Medicine Alumni Awards (pictured here).

The following programs fall under Chair positions that have remained unfilled until our new director, Dr. Fabrice Jotterand, is able to lead recruitment for these positions. With support from all Center for Ethics faculty, staff and many volunteers, the Center has remained dedicated to advancing the mission of each one through established programming.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following individuals who have helped keep these programs running:

- **Living with Life Threatening Illness Course:** Sara Taub, M.D., M.B.E., FAAP, Robin Brown, M.D., and Ladawna Gievers, M.D., and Susan Hedlund, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C
- **Oregon Bioethics and Humanities Colloquium (OBHC):** Eran Klein, M.D., and Prasanna Krishnasamy, M.D., MPH, FACP
- **Annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference:** Susan Hedlund, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C and Laurie Morrison, M.D.
- **Pain Intersession Elective Course:** Cliff Coleman, M.D., M.P.H.
- **Madeline Brill Nelson Speaker Series:** Katie Stowers, D.O., FAAHPM

Professionalism and Comfort Care

Funded by the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care Endowment

- Coordinated the 34th annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference. The statewide conference was held April 17th-18th in Bend with nearly 100 attendees from across the state. It featured four plenary talks, four panel discussions and 12 breakout sessions throughout two days.
- Directed the Living with Life-Threatening Illness elective course and coordinated 15 patient-teachers for students to partner with. This course continues to be a favorite among medical students and has an influential and meaningful impact on many of them.

Ethics Education

Funded by the Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education

- Led three Pain Intersession elective courses focusing on ethics and inequities in pain treatment. Over the three sessions, 65 students took the course.
- Coordinated the Madeline Brill Nelson Speaker Series in Medical Ethics. Dr. Robert Arnold, a national leader in Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, and co-founder and chair for the Board of Directors for VitalTalk, the leading nonprofit organization teaching clinicians how to develop better relationships with their patients through communication skills, came to OHSU for two days of presentation and discussions with faculty, physicians-in-training and medical students.
- Hosted seven guest speakers for the third annual Oregon Bioethics and Humanities Colloquium (OBHC). Dr. Paul Ford, program director for Cleveland Clinic NeuroEthics, came to OHSU for two days to kick off OBHC and meet with faculty and students. Dr. Ford's presentation focused on ethics in neurology. OBHC is funded by the Educate Future Health Care Ethics Leaders Endowed Fund.

Cornelia Hayes Stevens' Transformative Bequest

We are profoundly grateful to the late Cornelia Hayes Stevens for her generous bequest. This remarkable gift more than doubles one of the Center's operational endowments, providing vital income for all the Center's programs. Cornie's decision to holistically support the Center's programs reflects her humility, understanding of how each program builds upon the others and pride in the Center's work as a whole.

As one of the Center's earliest and dearest friends, she recognized from its inception that its mission was vitally important and believed in the Center's vision and values.

Cornie played an integral role in helping establish the Center through her passion and unwavering commitment. As a volunteer, she often contributed up to 40 hours a week for fundraising and donor stewardship, and she chaired the advisory council from 1991 to 2005. In 1999, the Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair was named to honor her dedication, generosity and humility.

Cornie died on July 15, 2024. Her gift exemplifies her compassion and generosity. Her legacy gift will help sustain the Center's vital work for generations and will make a lasting impact on the health care experiences of Oregonians and people everywhere. We are deeply honored by this meaningful gesture, which reflects her decades-long commitment and belief in the Center's work.



Cornie standing next to a calligraphed list of the Center's founders

“Cornie was profoundly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the Center and to be part of the community of people there. Her involvement was a blessing to her, something she cherished and found deeply fulfilling. We were all touched by her sense of purpose and abiding love for the Center.”

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STEVENS FAMILY

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

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MARGARET MEAD



Fabrice Jotterand, Ph.D., M.A.
Director, Center for Ethics
in Health Care
Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair



Katie H. Stowers, D.O.
Ronald W. Naito Director
in Serious Illness Education



Cliff Coleman, M.D., MPH
Doris and Mark Storms Chair in
Compassionate Communication



Christine Mullooney, M.D.
Medical Director of the Oregon
POLST Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

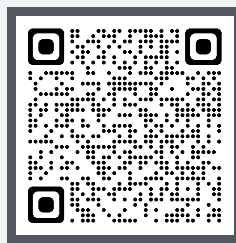
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**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OHSU CENTER
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