



Digital Newsletter

November 2025 Issue

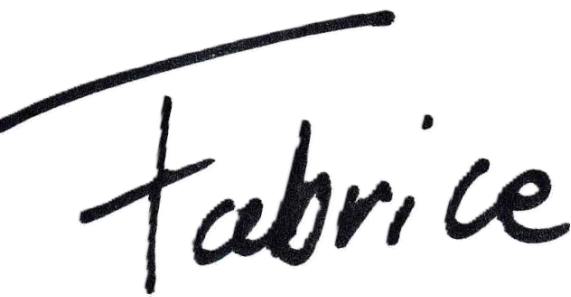


Center for Ethics in Health Care Faculty (from left to right): Dr. Fabrice Jotterand, PhD, Director of Center for Ethics in Health Care, Cornelia Hayes Stevens Endowed Chair; Dr. Katie H. Stowers, Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education; Dr. Christine Mullooney, Medical Director of the Oregon POLST Program; Dr. Cliff Coleman, Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication.

Dear friends,

We live in a time of much uncertainty. Across the country healthcare ethics centers are facing challenges that affect their ability to fully engage in activities that support their missions. This may be the new normal for many of our peers as the landscape continues to change. However, as Greek philosopher Heraclitus reminds us, "change is the only constant in life." But uncertainty also brings opportunities for constructive change, personal growth, and innovation.

The opportunities in a time of uncertainty, and the generosity of our donors' unwavering support, will help shape the future of the Center. After five months of my tenure as director, I am reminded every day the privilege it is to partner with a group of dedicated staff, faculty, volunteers, and donors. Without this special group of people, writing the next chapter of the Center would not be possible. I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing commitment and support that make the Center a unique place. As we enter the holiday season, and with Thanksgiving right around the corner, I hope we all find moments to practice gratitude. It might be the best medicine for the soul in a world that so desperately needs stability, peace, and purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink. The word "Fabrice" is written in a cursive, lowercase style. Above the first few letters, there is a long, horizontal, slightly curved stroke that extends to the left.

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



I hope to share pictures with you all of my Oregon and Pacific Northwest adventures as I get to know my new home. In July, my wife Silvia visited Portland and joined me for a hike on Dog Mountain in the Columbia River Gorge.

News Highlights & Program Updates

OBHC Kicks Off with Visit from Dr. Mary Ann Abrams

The Oregon Bioethics and Humanities Colloquium (OBHC) kicked off its 2025-2026 academic year of lectures on October 15th with a visit from Dr. Mary Ann Abrams of Ohio State University College of Medicine and Nationwide Children's Hospital. The Center for Ethics partnered with the Department of Pediatrics for the OBHC kick off lecture. Dr. Abrams, a national expert in health literacy, presented "Organizational Health Literacy: The Foundation for Achieving Health and Well-being" to a large and broad audience of pediatricians and ethics enthusiasts. This year, OBHC will host its virtual lectures one Friday per month from noon to 1 p.m. through June. See the upcoming events section below for additional details.

Health Literacy Symposium Provides Hands-on Skills Practice

The Center for Ethics co-hosted the second annual OHSU Health Literacy Symposium on October 16th in partnership with OHSU Brand Strategy. Chaired by Dr. Cliff Coleman, this year's symposium focused on skills-building of health literacy and clear communication best practices that can be applied in clinical services, research, and health professions education. Dr. Mary Ann Abrams, a national expert in health literacy and the use of teach-back, was the keynote speaker for the symposium. This year's symposium had a broad audience, and registrations included many people across the Portland-metro down to Eugene, Roseburg, and even out-of-state.

TalkOregon Receives New Grant to Teach Rural Nursing Students

Dr. Katie Stowers has received a new three-year grant from The Kinsman Foundation for the TalkOregon program. This grant will allow TalkOregon to pilot the integration of serious illness communication skills training into undergraduate nursing programs in Klamath Falls and La Grande. The grant will also provide continued support to TalkOregon's existing statewide partnerships established during the current 3-year grant from The Kinsman Foundation. The Center for Ethics greatly appreciates our continued partnership with The Kinsman Foundation.

Oregon POLST Program Creates Educational Resource for Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Oregon POLST Program has collaborated with Coalition stakeholders in long-term nursing care and the Oregon Department of Human Services' Safety, Oversight, and Quality to create a [double-sided, educational card](#) for staff at skilled nursing facilities to support the appropriate use of POLST in these settings. This quality improvement effort will help ensure that nursing facilities are using POLST in accordance with best practices. Distributions of these cards to all 128 Oregon-based skilled nursing facilities will begin by the end of this year.

Save the Date for the 2026 Kinsman Bioethics Conference

The 2026 Kinsman Bioethics Conference, "Communities Under Pressure," will take place on Friday, May 1st from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Westside Commons in Hillsboro. Registration will open in January 2026.

Recognizing Outstanding Work

Promotions in the School of Medicine

Congratulations to Drs. Tera Cushman and Briana Ketterer, Communication Coaches at the Center for Ethics, on their promotions in the School of Medicine. Dr. Cushman has been promoted to Associate Professor,

Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, and Dr. Ketterer has been promoted to Associate Professor, Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology.

OHSU ROSE Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Briana Ketterer for receiving an OHSU ROSE Award. ROSE (Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence) Awards are given to those who show exceptional acts of service excellence, such as compassion, dedication, tenacity, generosity, and communication, and leadership. Recipients can be nominated by patients, supervisors or fellow employees.

AAHPM Leadership Scholar

Congratulations to Dr. Eriko Onishi, one of the Senior Scholars at the Center for Ethics, for receiving one of five 2025 Leadership Scholarship awards from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. The AAHPM Leadership Scholarship recognizes outstanding commitment to advancing hospice and palliative care.



Publications & Media

Publications

[Assisting, Replicating, or Autonomously Acting? An Ethical Framework for Integrating AI Tools and Technologies in Healthcare](#) in *Bioethics*. Written by Aasim I. Padela, Rwan Hayek, Aliya Tabassum, Fabrice Jotterand & Junaid Qadir.

[Large Language Models in Neurology Treatment Decision-Making: A Scoping Review](#) in *Journal of Medical Systems*. Written by Rushabh Shah & Fabrice Jotterand.

[Mind the gap: bridging ethical considerations and regulatory oversight in implantable BCI human subjects research](#) in *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*. Written by R. Bert Wilkins, Tara Coffin, Michelle Pham, Eran Klein & Megh Marathe.

[The hidden curriculum undermines teaching about health literacy and clear communication, promoting inequities in care](#) in *Social Science & Medicine*. Written by Cliff Coleman, Samantha Birk, Katie Stowers, Christine Mullooney & Marie Chisholm-Burns.

[Values Exploration Roadmap: Five Key Steps](#) in *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care*. Written by Shunichi Nakagawa & Eriko Onishi.

Staff Spotlight



Get to Know Dave Hoyt, the Center's Statewide Ethics Education Coordinator

Dave Hoyt joined the Center for Ethics in March 2022 as the Statewide Ethics Education Coordinator supporting the Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education and the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care. Dave plays an essential role in planning, coordinating, and connecting others to make many events happen throughout the year, such as the annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference, Oregon Bioethics and Humanities Colloquium (OBHC) lecture series, the annual Madeline Brill Nelson lecture, the Living with Life-threatening Illness course, and Pain Intersession. Dave is truly the glue that holds all of the ethics programs together.

Dave first started working at OHSU in 2006. In 2017, he received a Golden ROSE award for service excellence for his work in helping new patients navigate Oncology. Prior to joining the Center, he was the Emergency Medicine Residency Program Coordinator. It was in this role during the Covid-19 pandemic that Dave watched clinicians struggle with burnout and mental health wellness. He realized that organizational obstacles existed that were difficult for conscientious providers to overcome. These dynamics are what motivated Dave to join the Center for Ethics, as he saw the Center as a place where they could be addressed.

Born and raised in Oregon, Dave says "Oregon is more than my home, it makes up a piece of my identity. My family has always worked in public service and an effort to improve my local community is ingrained in me." He loves being able to work on projects that have a statewide impact, being a facilitator and advocate, and connecting people together for innovative projects that benefit Oregonians across the state.



Upcoming Events

December

AGI Global Summit: Portland Mini Summit

with "Examining ethics of AI in healthcare and human enhancement" presented by Dr. Fabrice Jotterand
Friday, December 5th, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

[Get tickets here](#)

TalkOregon Mastering Tough Conversations CME Workshop*

Friday, December 12th, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Course full, email ethics@ohsu.edu for waitlist

OBHC: Alyssa M. Newman, PhD**

"Medical Mistrust: Conceptual Insights and Empirical Challenges"
Friday, December 12th, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
[Virtual via Webex](#)

January 2026

OBHC: Drew Grabham, LCSW**

Topic: Building resiliency in our staff, a debriefing model for addressing moral injury (Title TBD)
Friday, January 9th, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
[Virtual via Webex](#)

Kinsman Bioethics Conference Registration Opens

Check the [Center for Ethics website](#) for details.
Date TBD

February 2026

OBHC: Clara Bosco, MD**

Topic: Surgical ethics (Title TBD)
Friday, February 6th, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
[Virtual via Webex](#)

March 2026

Madeline Brill Nelson Lecture

[James Woodruff, M.D.](#)
Topic: Professional identity formation and moral formation in health care.
Tuesday, March 3rd, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

TalkOregon Mastering Tough Conversations CME Workshop*

Wednesday, March 11th, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Virtual via Webex
Fee: \$50
[Register here](#)

April 2026

Annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference

Friday, May 1st, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Westside Commons
801 NE 34th Ave
Hillsboro, OR 97124

May 2026

TalkOregon Mastering Tough Conversations CME Workshop*

Tuesday, May 12th, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Virtual via Webex
Fee: \$50
[Register here](#)

OBHC: TBD**

Speaker: TBD
Topic & Title: TBD
Friday, May 15th, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
[Virtual via Webex](#)

June 2026

OBHC: Fabrice Jotterand, PhD, MA**

Topic: AI Ethics (Title TBD)
Friday, June 12th, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
[Virtual via Webex](#)

***TalkOregon Mastering Tough Conversations CME Workshops Continuing Education Credits Information**
Accreditation: Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Education (ACCME) to provide continuing education for physicians.
Credit: OHSU School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 3.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

****OBHC Continuing Education Credits Information**
Accreditation: Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Education (ACCME) to provide continuing education for physicians.
Credit: OHSU School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

