



Digital Newsletter

June 2026 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, Director of Oregon POLST Program; Dr. Cliff Coleman, Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication.

Dear friends,

The Center for Ethics is fortunate to work with a group of dedicated volunteers who meaningfully and substantially support its work and help advance its mission. Many of the Center's activities depend on volunteers. This includes facilitators in the TalkOregon workshops, individuals serving on the Oregon POLST coalition, speakers in the OBHC speaker series, people serving on the Kinsman Bioethics Conference planning committee, teaching in the Pain Intersession course, and many other activities that are as equally important in the life of the Center.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you, our volunteers, for your commitment, support, and contributions. Your work not only impacts the lives of our learners and colleagues, but you also provide important insights that help shape the identity of the Center. Whether you are helping with daily activities, organizing events, or offering guidance, your efforts never go unnoticed. Due to your generosity and selfless service, our Center continues to grow and positively impact OHSU, our broader community, and countless individuals across the state. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission and for giving so freely of yourselves. We truly appreciate all that you do and are honored to have such caring and dedicated volunteers by our side.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fabrice". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

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

Program Updates

Dr. Daniel T. Kim, Ph.D., M.P.H., Named Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education

Dr. Kim joined the Center for Ethics as the newly appointed **Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education** on June 1, 2026. In this role, he will provide leadership

in advancing the Center's mission across education, research, and scholarship in ethics. Dr. Kim brings an expertise medical ethics education and mentorship, research, and scholarship. Dr. Kim also has experience in clinical ethics. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Kim to the Center for Ethics, and are excited to see how his interdisciplinary and international background impacts our mission, goals, and the ethics community across Oregon.

Save the Date for the 2026 Health Literacy Symposium

The 2026 OHSU Health Literacy Symposium will take place on Friday, October 23rd at the OHSU Auditorium. The one-day event will feature Dr. Cynthia Baur, Ph.D., Endowed Chair and Director of the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy at the School of Public Health for the University of Maryland, as the keynote speaker. OHSU President, Dr. Shereef Elnahal, will give the symposium's opening remarks. The symposium is Chaired by **Dr. Cliff Coleman, Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication**, and Vice Chaired by Samantha Birk, Communication Programs & Outreach Lead at the Center for Ethics.

TalkOregon Workshops Make Top 10 List

The TalkOregon program, led by **Dr. Katie Stowers, Ronald W. Naito Director in Serious Illness Education**, made VitalTalk's Top 10 list of programs who taught the most learners in serious illness communication skills at their institution for the second year in a row. TalkOregon (listed as OHSU in the report) was 3rd on the list out of 403 institutions. TalkOregon, which teaches an adaptation of VitalTalk's "Powered By" workshops, taught a total of 421 learners in 2025. This outstanding achievement was accomplished with Dr. Stowers's oversight, Center's Communication Coaches and communication-focused Scholars, and several dedicated faculty volunteers.

Annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference Returns to Portland-metro Area for First Time in More Than 10 Years

The annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference returned to the Portland-metro area for the first time since 2015. More than 100 health care professionals and ethics enthusiasts from across the state attended the one-day conference on May 1st in Hillsboro. The conference was co-Chaired by **Dr. Christine Mullowney, Medical Director of the Oregon POLST Program**, and Dr. Sara Kolmes, Ph.D., a Senior

Clinical Ethicist at Providence Center for Health Care Ethics. This year's conference focused on hearing, caring for, and empowering marginalized and vulnerable voices in health care. The international keynote speaker, Dr. Tenzin Wangmo, Ph.D., from the University of Basel, talked about caring for incarcerated older adults in Switzerland. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the conference's focus on communities under pressure.

Candidate Search for Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care Begins

The search has officially begun for the next person to serve as the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care at the Center for Ethics. This position guides and supports the development and teaching of ethics, professionalism, and comfort care to medical students and health professionals around the state. This Chair also directs the Living With Life Threatening Illness undergraduate elective course in the School of Medicine, and the Oregon Bioethics and Humanities (OBHC) lecture series. More details about the position can be found [here](#).

Honoring Dr. Robert Lyman Potter

Dr. Robert Lyman Potter, M.D., Ph.D., a former Senior Scholar with the Center for Ethics from 2004 - 2014, died on January 23rd, 2026. Dr. Potter, along with Barbara Glidewell, MBS, led the Center's Interprofessional Health Care Ethics Certificate Program in partnership with the University of Washington from 2008 - 2014. During this time, they taught and mentored 29 interprofessional health care professionals in bioethics. Dr. Potter was also involved in the annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference, the Daniel Labby Senior Clinicians' seminars, and taught ethics to health professions students. Dr. Potter was a gifted teacher who inspired many and left a lasting impact on the Center for Ethics and the ethics community at OHSU and beyond.

Volunteer Spotlight

Keren McCord, LCSW, has been a frequent volunteer with the Center for Ethics for over 10 years. She first got involved with the Center in 2011-2012 by participating in the Interprofessional Health Care Ethics Certificate Program taught by Barbara Glidewell, MBS, and Dr. Robert Lyman Potter.

"That training changed my life and my perspective about how I did my work and I am so profoundly thankful for it," says Keren. "It shifted my entire clinical practice." Keren credits the fellowship with opening the doors for her to previously serve on and Co-chair the OHSU Ethics Consult Service, and develop and serve on the OHSU Surrogate Committee.

Since completing the fellowship program, Keren has stayed involved with the Center by volunteering in many ways. She has served on the planning committee for the annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference multiple times and has presented at the conference many times. She often teaches in the Pain Intersession elective course for undergraduate medical students.

Keren has also played a vital role in connecting patients from her oncology practice, who she thinks would be a good fit, with the Center's Living With Life Threatening Illness course to volunteer as patient-teachers. "This class is the real deal. I had one patient who spent years in treatment and lost a sense of identity and purpose during recovery, so I helped them become a patient-teacher. For them, it was the most profound experience to watch a budding physician be curious while realizing that they could also have an impact on how this person would be as a provider down the road. They weren't expecting such a bidirectional impact. I love that we do this."

Over the years, Keren has found much of the Center's work inspiring and meaningful. "Kinsman is such a gift for the state — to watch the territorial factor go away and watch people collaborate and work together. We have to work together to keep things going, especially in a health care environment that's on fire." In more recent years, Keren has appreciated seeing how people from the Center for Ethics and the OHSU Ethics Consult Service pulled together during the Covid-19 pandemic to form an ethics task force, and watching how the Center has taken on educating about communication skills and seeing the impact the Programs in Compassionate Communication has had on hers and others' practice as clinicians.

When asked what one thing she would like people to know about the Center for Ethics, Keren said she wants people to know there are many educational activities and ways to engage with the Center. "I don't think enough people understand the educational opportunities. Everyone knows about Kinsman, and I would like people

to understand there are other ways to get involved."

The Center for Ethics is incredibly grateful to Keren for all her volunteerism over the years, the impact she has had on the Oregon ethics community, and for her continued partnership in years to come.

Celebrating the 2025-2026 Volunteers

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to our many dedicated and passionate volunteers who are vital to the success of our many essential programs. Thank you for all that you do.

Daniel Alvarez-Vargas

Brittany Arnold, M.D.

Katie Balske, LCSW

Jenniffer Barrientos

Melanie Birnbach

Mark Bonanno, JD, MPH

Betsy Boyd-Flynn

Lacey Brightly

Yeicell Brindis

Amy Brown

Eugenia Lio, J.D.

Emily Looney, M.D.

Mariana Mace

Laura Mavity, M.D.

Noami Mcclure, M.D.

Janet McFarlane

Martin Mendoza

Danielle Meyer, MSS

Mackenzie Murphy, M.D.

Jeff Myers, MPH, MMSc, PA-C, DFAAPA

Robin Brown, M.D.
Edgar Chavez
Marie Chisholm-Burns, PharmD,
Ph.D., MPH, MBA, FCCP,
FASHP, FAST, FACHE
Dave Clarke, M.D.
Kiersi Coleman, BSW
Maggie Converse
Sheldon Cowger, RN
Rachel Crawford
Tera Cushman, M.D.
Lani Day, MSW
Sumathi Devarajan, M.D., CMD
Dan Doan, M.D.
Abby Dotson, Ph.D.
Amanda Eaton
Lori Eckel, LCSW
Carmen Eckerson
Allison Enriquez, JD, M.A.
Shelby Enzler
Cameron Fehr, RN
Laura Fendel
Brandi Fleck, B.S.
Sarah Frazzini
Andrea Gepner, FNP-BC, ACHPN, RN
LaDawna Gievers, M.D.
Krisa Gigon, RN
Drew Grabham, LCSW
Barbara Hansen, M.A., RN
Barbara Harris, MDiv

Triana Nagel, BS, CIP
Annie Nagengast, M.D.

Aynun Naher, MBBS, M.S.

Elise Newman, M.D.
Joshua Nordberg
Rachel Olson
Eriko Onishi, M.D.
Molly Osborne, M.D., Ph.D.
Brian Park, M.D.
Roxanna Pascual
Jim Patterson, M.D.
Laura Perry, M.D.
Mariana Phipps, M.S.
Sarah Ponzar
Sarah Porter, MSW
Megan Pugmire, B.A.
Dana Pursley-Haner
Salvador Ramirez
Marci Ramiro-Jenkins
Vanessa Robles
Donna Routh, RN, MN
Jayden Ruff
Leen Saheb
Anna Scott, RN, MSN, MHA, CHPN
Lia Sebring, M.S.
Mel Shea
Don Siemsen
Abby Simpson

Susan Hedlund, MSW, LCSW

Banning Hendriks, MBA

Marisa Hori, M.D.

Kathran Hudson, CMA

Marette Hulstrom

Katie Iossi, M.D.

Seiko Izumi, Ph.D.

Ann Jackson, Ph.D.

Nick Johnson, M.D.

Teri Judd, RN, BSN

Briana Ketterer, M.D., M.S.

Sara Kolmes, Ph.D.

Prasanna Krishnasamy, M.D., MPH,
FACP

Elizabeth Lahti, M.D.

Margo Lalach, MPH, RN

Taylor LaVoi, OTR/L

Hong Lee, Ph.D.

Katrina Leith

Sheldon Levy, M.D.

James Sims, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC,
CENP

Hales Skelton

Donn Spight, M.D., FACS, FASMBS

Mardi Spitzer

Fred Steele, JD, MPH

Brittany Tagliaferro-Lucas

Sara Taub, M.D., MBE

Kelsey Terland, M.D.

Mike Tewfik, M.D.

Rekha Thammana, M.D.

Mady Thomas

Greg Thomas, M.D.

Susan Tolle, M.D.

Nicole Tucker, D.O.

Deborah Unger, M.D.

Kimberly Vargas-Barreto, Ph.D.

Larissa Yoshino, MPH

Meredith Zauflik, MPA

Julia Zottola

Celebrating Faculty, Staff & Scholar Achievements

Dr. Cliff Coleman Awarded New Grant

Dr. Coleman has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Institute for Healthcare Advancement. The grant will be used to bring nine health literacy and health

education experts at OHSU to develop a national research agenda to accelerate the adoption of clear communication practice by physicians.

Dr. Eriko Onishi Receives Family Medicine Award

In April, Dr. Onishi received the 2026 OHSU Department of Family Medicine Fran Biagioli, MD Outstanding Didactic Award. Dr. Onishi received this award for exhibiting a strong commitment to teaching and mentoring medical students. Demonstrating a true Family Medicine educator, Dr. Onishi was recognized for being an adaptable educator with innovative teaching styles who can work well with all learner skill levels. Congratulations, Dr. Onishi.

Faculty, Staff & Scholar Activities

To see Faculty and Scholars' most recent publications, [click here](#).

Cliff Coleman, M.D., MPH

"The Winding Road to Clear Communication: Health Professions Education — Past, Present, and Future" presented as Keynote for Health Literacy Collaborative Summit, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX, April 23-24, 2026.

"Does that make sense?' Reliance on patients' self-reported understanding undermines quality and safety" presented at 2026 Kinsman Bioethics Conference, Hillsboro, OR. May 1, 2026.

"Effect of a Clear Communication Training on Medical Residents' Use of Jargon in Written Messages to Patients" virtual poster presentation at Institute for Healthcare Advancement's Annual Health Literacy Conference. Presented with Chelsea Lin, M.D., May 12, 2026.

"Does that make sense?' Reliance on patients' self-reported understanding undermines quality and safety" presented virtually at Oregon Office of Rural Health's 2026 Oregon Forum on Rural Population Health, May 15, 2026.

Susan Hedlund, MSW, LCSW

"Exercise for Men with Prostate Cancer: Training the Trainer" presented with OHSU faculty Kerri Winters.

"Keeping the patient at the center: Best practices in Oncology" for the American Association of Case Managers (No. CA), May 15, 2026.

Fabrice Jotterand, Ph.D., M.A.

"Flourishing despite Adversity: What Elephant Man teaches us about Human Flourishing" presented at 2026 Kinsman Bioethics Conference, Hillsboro, OR. May 1, 2026.

"Cultivating Excellence: The Role of Character in Professional Identity Formation" Keynote presentation at the American Academy of Dentists (OR Chapter) in Hood River, OR. May 2, 2026.

"Psychiatry and Moral Bioenhancement: The Case of Psychopathy" presented virtually at OHSU Psychiatry Grand Rounds, May 19, 2026.

"Flourishing despite Adversity: What Elephant Man teaches us about Human Flourishing" presented at Hillsboro Medical Center Grand Rounds, Hillsboro, OR. May 20, 2026.

Donna Kim, M.D.

"Ethical Dilemmas in Pediatric Ophthalmology" at OHSU Ophthalmology Grand Rounds, Casey Eye Institute.

Eran Klein, M.D., Ph.D.

"Community-Engaged Collaborations in Neuroethics" Panel Moderator, International Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting, Stanford University, April 15-17, 2026.

Elizabeth Lahti, M.D.

"The Art of Well-being in Practice: Empowering Leaders through Museums, Narrative, and Creative Engagement" presented as the Keynote Address at Art

Heals: Empowering Practitioners to Lead at Rutgers University and Zimmerli Museum. Presented with Lisa Abia-Smith and Rosemarie Oakman.

Christine Mullooney, M.D.

"POLST: What is it? Who needs one? How does it work?" presented virtually at Oregon Office of Rural Health's 2026 Oregon Forum on Rural Population Health, May 15, 2026.

Eriko Onishi, M.D.

"Longitudinal Compassionate Communication Curriculum for Family Medicine & Internal Medicine Residents" poster presentation at VitalTalk Faculty Summit, Seattle, WA. May 4, 2026.

"A Roadmap for Values Exploration: Five Key Steps to Elicit Meaningful Value Connecting to Treatment Recommendations" presented at 17th Annual Conference of Japan Primary Care Association, Kyoto, Japan, May 31, 2026.

"Assessing learning perspectives on value exploration" e-poster presentation at the 17th Annual Conference of Japan Primary Care Association, Kyoto, Japan, May 31, 2026.

Katie Stowers, D.O. & Briana Ketterer, M.D.

"Communicating Through Uncertainty: the best-case and worst-case scenario" presented at OHSU Department of Pediatrics Faculty Academic Advancement, Leadership, and Inclusion Lecture Series, May 28, 2026.



Upcoming Events

September 2026

TalkOregon *Navigating Serious Illness Conversations* Workshop

Virtual via Webex

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Sign up to be notified when registration opens.](#)

October 2026

Oregon Bioethics & Humanities Colloquium (OBHC) Kick Off Event

Vardit Ravitsky, Ph.D.

President and CEO of the Hastings Center

Monday, October 5, 2026

More details to come.

2026 OHSU Health Literacy Symposium

Friday, October 23, 2026

OHSU Auditorium

More details to come.

November 2026

Oregon Bioethics & Humanities Colloquium (OBHC)

Sammuel Reis-Dennis, Ph.D.

Rice University

Friday, November 13, 2026

Virtual via Webex

More details to come.

December 2026

Talk Oregon Navigating Serious Illness Conversations Workshop

Virtual via Webex

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Sign up to be notified when registration opens.](#)

Oregon Bioethics & Humanities Colloquium (OBHC)

Keisha Ray, Ph.D.

University of Texas

Friday, December 11, 2026

Virtual via Webex

More details to come.

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