



# Engaging Ethics at UHN



## The 2023 Philippa Harris Lecture

On October 18, 2023 the Department of Clinical and Organizational Ethics was delighted to host the 42nd Annual Philippa Harris Lecture on Bioethical Issues in Cancer Care. This annual lecture series, generously supported by Bill and Pat Harris in memory of their cherished daughter, Philippa, allows us to reflect on important ethical issues arising in cancer care and research. This year our speaker was Dr. Deji Ayonrinde, from Queen’s University and Providence Care (pictured at right).

Dr. Ayonrinde called attention to the systemic challenges associated with access to cancer care for those experiencing severe mental illness. His talk deepened our understanding and recognition of the interplay of lifestyle and illness characteristics and resultant effects on this population, illuminated ethical, systemic, and stigma-related barriers to equitable cancer care, and, perhaps most notably, issued a call to action to address these barriers in healthcare systems and clinical practice. This topic could not be more timely as our global community’s physical and mental health is challenged significantly as tragic world events are unfolding that include much pain and suffering. We hope that the discussion Dr. Ayonrinde has initiated will spark further collaboration and collective action aimed at addressing the devastating effects of systemic and syndemic barriers to health and well-being within our healthcare system and beyond.

## UHN Fellowship in Bioethics

Education is a core component of the work of UHN’s Department of Clinical and Organizational Ethics. Our ethicists hold faculty appointments at U of T and provide education in academic as well as clinical settings. We are strongly committed to the educational and professional development of prospective health care ethicists. For the past few years, our team has partnered with other ethics programs to support fellowship education. Now we are excited to share that we are developing a UHN Bioethics Fellowship! Through donor support, we have been able to embark on curriculum and competency development that aims to provide a unique, comprehensive, and inclusive opportunity for prospective fellows. Aided by our robust UHN Education resources and partnerships with content experts, our aim is to increase the diversity of our field, and to better equip future bioethicists with the tools they need to address the current and emerging ethical challenges that we face across the continuum of care.

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### Of interest!

- Updated resource for staff facing bigoted comments or refusals of care based on skin colour
- Transplant Ethics Rounds — The Motives of Living Donors with Dr. Robert Guerin, Case Western Reserve University/ University Hospitals



## Sr. Director's Welcome

In this our inaugural issue of the UHN Clinical and Organizational Ethics newsletter, our goal is to introduce you to some of the activities of our team members and to provide you with contact information for the bioethicists associated with your programs. As you'll notice, our department is dedicated to supporting ethical reflection and deci-

sion-making in clinical care, research, and education in our complex learning health system. We welcome opportunities to learn with, about, and from our healthcare colleagues, so please get in touch should you have a case, education event, or policy initiative that can benefit from collaboration with us.

### UHN Dept. of Clinical & Org. Ethics

Bioethicists help patients, families and health-care professionals deal with difficult ethical issues in patient care. Bioethicists have special training in ethics, moral philosophy, and conflict resolution, providing confidential consultation and mediation. Bioethicists can assist with clinical, organizational, and research ethics conflicts, and provide ethics education. Our goal is to assist individuals and groups in solving complex ethical problems so they can make the right decision at the right time for the right reasons.

*"The first step in the evolution of ethics is a sense of solidarity with other human beings."* Albert Schweitzer

### Local Impact Award

In 2019 the UHN Quality Improvement Review Committee was established to ensure that the many QI projects receive a thorough assessment from an **ethical** perspective. Each submission is reviewed with attention to patient/community, staff, safety and reputational risk and particular attention is given to clinical impact, privacy, conflict of interest, and data security.

The QIRC team is lean with two .5 FTE paid staff, supported by an admin professional, a chair, and vice-chair, the Sr. Director of Ethics, the Med. Director of Quality and Safety, and a diverse ad hoc group of knowledgeable quality improvement enthusiasts.

We are thrilled to report that this small but mighty group was recognized at this year's Quality and Safety summit with a Local Impact Award. Winning team members are Catriona Steele, Paul Oh, Ann Heesters, Donna Hutchins, Betty Chau, and Sarah Brown. Congratulations all!

### Selected Publications

**Bell, JAH, Salis, M., Tong E., Nikolaichuk, E., BARNED, C., Bianchi A., Buchman, D.Z., Rodrigues, K., Shanker R.R., Heesters, A.M.** "Clinical ethics consultations: A scoping review of reported outcomes." *BMC Medical Ethics*, (September 27, 2022).

Boisvert, E., and **BARNED, C.** "The Psychological Study of Race, Diversity, and Culture: Foundational Contributions of James M. Jones to Modern Theories of Racism," *American Psychologist*. Vol. 78, No. 4, 376–388, (202).

**Heesters, A. M.,** Chen, D., Parsa, R. Hope, A., Hannon, B., Mak, E., Eng, L., Liu, F.-F., Fallah-Rad, N., & Raman, S. "Evaluating Physician and Artificial Intelligence Chatbot Responses to Cancer Questions from an Online Social Media Forum." (Forthcoming) *JAMA Oncology*, (in press).

Chiang, C, Climans S., Edelstein K., **Bell JAH.** "Decision-making around end-of-life care in brain cancer patients: A scoping review." *Ethics, Medicine and Public Health*, 23, 2022.

de Bie, A. L., Abdool, S., Butler, J., Campbell, A., **Hassanein, M.,** Hillman, S., Makkar, J., **Maurice, R.,** Robertson, J., Szego, M. J., & Langlois, D. "Ethics Debriefs and Moral Distress: What are we Doing?" *The American journal of Bioethics: AJOB*, 23(4), 74–77. (2023).

Greene, S., Vaccaro, M., Bernier, A., Griffith, G., Ion, A., **Maurice, R.,** Gabel, C., & Blake, M. "Digging in': Stigma and surveillance in the lives of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers who consume cannabis." *Critical Public Health*. (2023).

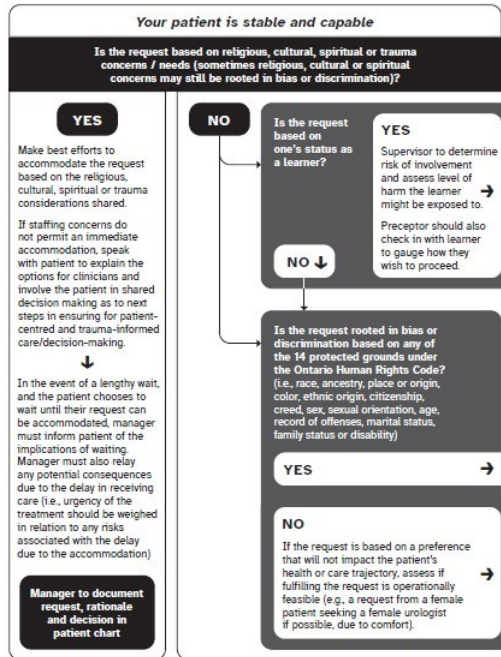
**Gross, J.** "Benefits: Addressing the Legal, Ethical, and Practical Challenges, Donor Rules—Dead and Living." 23(2). *American Journal of Bioethics* 61, (2023).

Grundy, Q., Hart, D., Perkins-Meingast, B., **Heesters A.,** and Miller, F. "Outsourcing practice-based education: The role of industry representatives and implications for clinical expertise." *Healthcare Management Forum*. 2023 Sep;36(5):351-356.

Haslam-Larmer L., Grigorovich A., Quirt H., Engel K., Stewart S., **Rodrigues K.,** Kontos P., Astell A., McMurray J., Levy A., Bingham K.S., Flint A.J., Maxwell C., Iaboni A. "Prevalence, causes, and consequences of moral distress in healthcare providers caring for people living with dementia in long-term care during a pandemic." *Dementia* (London). 2023 Jan;22(1):5-27.

**Heesters, A.** Review of James Dunson, III, *Sedation, Suicide, and the Limits of Ethics*, (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2018). *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 19 (4):442-445 (2022).

**Heesters, A. M.** *How Legal Theory Can Save the Life of Healthcare Ethics*. October 2022. Springer: International Library of Ethics. (ILB, volume 101)



*Section of the Caregiver Preferences Algorithm*

## Addressing Patient Bias in Care

### Caregiver Preferences Revision

Healthcare providers face many challenging situations in their day-to-day practice. Unfortunately, these can include jarring interactions such as bigoted comments from patients or refusals of care based on one's accent or skin colour. While patient autonomy is prioritized at UHN, and the needs of our patients are our priority, there are limits to when, and to what extent, patient preferences should prevail over staff wellbeing. UHN's [Caregiver Preference Guidelines](#) were published in 2007 to provide members of TeamUHN with guidance on if, when, and how to accommodate requests for specific healthcare providers.

In 2022, TWH Bioethicist Dr. Claudia Barned launched a quality improvement project to update the guidelines in a manner that centres the needs of those directly affected by the harms associated with biased requests. Given the frequency of these types of requests, and accompanying assaults at UHN, it was time for a version that attends directly to staff safety concerns, the differences in clinical contexts, the various ways that discrimination manifests, and to the unique lived experiences and realities of our diverse healthcare team.

Dr. Barned's project employed a comprehensive multimethod approach to evidence generation, including: 1) semi-structured interviews with healthcare providers from diverse professions and clinical sites across UHN, 2) a scoping review of the academic literature on the topic, and 3) a cross-policy analysis of patient bias policies from other health systems.

The updated resource and algorithm, designed to support staff in responding to patient bias and preferences for specific providers, will be available early in the year! If you'd like to learn more right away, please don't hesitate to be in touch with us.

## Publications Continued

Iaboni A, Quirt H, Engell K, Kirkham J, Stewart S, Grigorovich A, Kontos P, McMurray J, Levy A, Bingham K, **Rodriguez K**, Astell A, Flint AJ, Maxwell C. "Barriers and facilitators to person-centred infection prevention and control: results of a survey about the Dementia Isolation Toolkit." *BMC Geriatrics*. 2022 Jan 25;22(1):74.

**Maurice, R.** We Bawl So We are Heard: The stories we must tell about obstetric racism. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, 31 (1), 1-5. (2023).

Nazarov, A., Forchuk, C. A., Houle, S. A., Hansen, K. T., Plouffe, R. A., Liu, J. J. W., Dempster, K., Le, T., Kocha, I., Hosseiny, F., **Heesters, A.**, and Richardson, J. D. "Exposure to Moral Stressors and Associated Outcomes in Healthcare Workers: Prevalence, Correlates, and Impact on Job Attrition." *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*. (In press).

Onyura, B., Main, E., Wong, A., **Barned, C.**, Vo, T., Torabi, N., & Hamza, D. "The 'What' and 'Why' of (un)Ethical Practice in Evaluation: A Systematic Meta-Narrative Review & Ethical Awareness Framework." *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*. (In press).

Rochette, M., Valiquette, M., **Barned, C.**, Racine, E. "Drug legalization, democracy, and public health: Canadian stakeholders' opinions and values with respect to the legalization of cannabis." *Public Health Ethics*, 16(2), (2023).

Rochette, M., Valiquette, M., **Barned, C.**, Racine, E. "Addiction and Volitional Abilities: Stakeholders' Understandings and their Ethical and Practical Implications." *Neuroethics*, 16(3), (2023).

Schwartz, L. & **Maurice, R.** Gender, Health, and Public Policy. In W.A. Rogers, J.L., Scully, S.M., Carter, V.A. Entwistle & C. Mills (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Feminist Bioethics* (pp.574-587). Routledge. (2022).

Tenenbaum, E.M. and **Gross, J.A.**, "Splitting Deceased Donor Livers to Double the Transplant Benefits: Addressing the Legal, Ethical, and Practical Challenges," *Health Matrix*, 33, 255 (2023).

## 2024 Linda Wright Lecture in Transplant Ethics

On February 7th, Robert M. Guerin, PhD, delivered the 2024 Linda Wright Lecture on Transplant Ethics, co-sponsored by UHN Clinical and Organizational Ethics and the Ajmera Transplant Centre. A philosopher and psychoanalyst by training, Dr. Guerin is Clinical Assistant Professor of Bioethics at Case Western Reserve University and Director of the Clinical Ethics Fellowship at University Hospitals (in the Cleveland, Ohio, area). His talk, titled "Psychoanalysis and Altruistic Living Kidney Donation: Toward a Psychodynamic Understanding of Donor Motivation," explored possible motivations for non-directed living donation and their ethical acceptability.

## Ethics & AI



### Ethics and AI in Health Care Work Journal Club

The Ethics and AI in Health Care Work Journal Club is hosted by [The Institute for Education Research \(TIER\)](#) at the University Health Network and facilitated by TIER Education Scientist II and Senior Bioethicist and Director of Bioethics Research, Dr. Jennifer Bell. The primary purpose of the journal club is to bring together learners, healthcare providers, scholars, AI developers, or anyone with an interest in ethics and AI, to discuss timely academic articles that highlight ethical aspects of AI in the context of healthcare practice, research, or education. Pre-reading will be provided in advance of each session. A guest author from the article selected will be invited to provide a short overview of the reading and will lead a discussion prompted by a few guiding questions. All sessions will be moderated.

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