Welcome to the monthly Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter provided by the Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Program in Bioethics and Humanities: Our Mission
We are committed to helping healthcare professionals explore and understand the increasingly complex ethical questions that have been brought on by advances in medical technology and the health care system. We achieve this through education, research, and service within the Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa Health Care, University of Iowa, and the wider Iowa community.

More Details About The Program

Program Highlight
Meet One of Our Ethics Consultants
Rebecca J. Benson, MD, PhD

Dr. Benson is the Director of the Ethics Consult Service at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, where she is also a clinical assistant professor in the Stead Family Department of Pediatrics. She received her MD and PhD in Immunology from the University of Iowa, and stayed on to complete her residency in Pediatrics. She served as a Chief Resident before joining the Division of General and Adolescent Medicine and becoming the Medical Director for the Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Program. She completed a Pediatric Bioethics Certificate Program at the Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Dr. Benson currently works as a pediatric hospitalist as well as in pediatric pain and palliative care.

Dr. Benson is on the Ethics Subcommittee of the Hospital Advisory Committee and on the steering committee for Schwartz Center Rounds for Compassionate Healthcare. She was involved in the

Upcoming Events
For a listing of upcoming events related to bioethics and humanities, please click here.

Quotation of the Month
If autonomy were the only value to be taken into account in medical decision making, the idea of informed consent would be a good deal less controversial than it is.


UIHC Ethics Consult Service
This service is a resource for patients, family members, or health professionals at UIHC who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient’s care. Consults can be ordered by UIHC clinicians through EPIC. Consults can also be requested by calling (319) 356-1616 and asking for the ethics consultant on call. For more information, please click here.
implementation of the hospital’s Ethics Consultation Service and became the Director of the service in July of 2014, as well as serving as one of its consultants. She is involved in ethics education at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Dr. Benson is a fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics and is a member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Publication Highlight

Interactive Multimedia Consent for Biobanking: A Randomized Trial

Christian Simon, PhD, David Klein, PhD, & Helen Schartz, PhD, JD

Purpose: The potential of interactive multimedia to improve biobank informed consent has yet to be investigated. The aim of this study was to test the separate effectiveness of interactivity and multimedia at improving participant understanding and confidence in understanding of informed consent compared with a standard, face-to-face (F2F) biobank consent process. Methods: A 2 (face-to-face versus multimedia) × 2 (standard versus enhanced interactivity) experimental design was used with 200 patients randomly assigned to receive informed consent. All patients received the same information provided in the biobank's nine-page consent document. Results: Interactivity (F(1,196) = 7.56, P = 0.007, partial η² = 0.037) and media (F(1,196) = 4.27, P = 0.04, partial η² = 0.021) independently improved participants' understanding of the biobank consent. Interactivity (F(1,196) = 6.793, P = 0.01, partial η² = 0.033), but not media (F(1,196) = 0.455, not significant), resulted in increased participant confidence in their understanding of the biobank's consent materials. Patients took more time to complete the multimedia condition (mean = 18.2 min) than the face-to-face condition (mean = 12.6 min). Conclusion: This study demonstrated that interactivity and multimedia each can be effective at promoting an individual's understanding and confidence in their understanding of a biobank consent, albeit with additional time investment. Researchers should not assume that multimedia is inherently interactive, but rather should separate the two constructs when studying electronic consent.

Resource Highlight

Bioethics for Clinicians Series

The Bioethics for Clinicians Series is intended to elucidate key concepts in bioethics and to help clinicians integrate bioethical knowledge into daily practice. The articles are written by scholars in medicine, ethics and law and are published on a monthly basis in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.
Bioethics in the Literature


A Call For Papers

The Rutgers Journal of Bioethics

DEADLINE: August 30, 2015

The Rutgers Journal of Bioethics is now accepting papers for their Fall issue. Some example topics are medical treatment, biological warfare, research ethics, medical sociology, social justice, history of medicine/science, medical case analysis, eugenics, gene therapy, human cloning, medical malpractice, and healthcare policy. Please click [here](#) if you would like to browse through past issues.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR SUBMISSION:

Cover Sheet: Article title, author name(s), institutional affiliation, date of submission, abstract and contact information (e-mail, phone number and mailing address).

Submissions: Papers should be submitted as Microsoft Word Documents (.doc/.docx), in double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font. The following types of papers will be accepted: opinion editorials (1-3 pages in length), long and short book reviews (1-10 pages, include bibliographic information on book) and research papers (6-15 pages in length of content, not including citations).

Citations: Please use the style guidelines outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA).
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ATTN: ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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