



Fall 2015

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Director's Report - CHPE Faculty and Staff Contribute to Online Graduate Ethics Education Literature

by Amy Haddad, PhD

When CHPE launched the fully online [Master of Science in Health Care Ethics](#) (MSHCE) program in 2009, there was little published work on best practices in online, graduate courses or programs in bioethics. The same still holds true today, although there is a considerable body of scholarly work in online higher education in general. The faculty and staff at CHPE decided to collaborate on a series of scholarly publications on various aspects of the MSHCE program. The jointly written articles are based on a foundation of six years of experience with the MSHCE program and a comprehensive review of the literature that focuses on graduate level, online education, albeit in corollary fields of study because of the lack of literature in health care ethics.



Amy M. Haddad, PhD

The first article of the series has been accepted for publication in the [International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education](#) in Volume 28, 2016. The article is titled: "Teaching and Learning Health Justice: Best Practices and Recommendations for Innovation" with lead author Dr. Christy Rentmeester and coauthors Drs. Helen Chapple, Beth Furlong, Amy Haddad, and John Stone. The theme of health justice is woven throughout the MSHCE program, so it seemed appropriate to start the series of articles with an examination of this complex concept. The article proposes four major contributions from the health justice literature as content areas for inclusion in bioethics programs interested in addressing broader health issues outside of acute care settings. The article also notes gaps in the literature about best practice standards for teaching health justice and offers strategies from specific courses in the MSHCE program and preliminary findings about the effectiveness of such efforts.

The second article is in its final review among lead author Dr. John Stone and coauthors Drs. Helen Chapple, Amy Haddad, Christy Rentmeester, and Assistant Director of the MSHCE program, Sarah Lux, ABD. The second article focuses on discussion in the online environment. The second article provides a comprehensive review of the available literature on best practices for online discussions in general and opines about what is particularly important in discussions about bioethics. The article then describes methods that CHPE faculty and staff have developed to draw upon curricular content that engages students in practical issues and cultivates analytical skills. We also address best practices in constructive feedback and assessment strategies to discern the impact of discussions across the program and its impact on overall learning.

Plans for future articles in the series include such topics as designing a pre-practicum workgroup, program assessment, and strategies for teaching reading and writing skills at the graduate level.

Dr. Christy Rentmeester Departs CHPE to Assume Director Position at the AMA

by Amy Haddad, Ph.D.

Dr. Christy Rentmeester, Associate Professor at the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, left her faculty position at Creighton on October 16, 2015 to start in a new job at the American Medical Association in Chicago as Editor of the *AMA Journal of Ethics*. Dr. Rentmeester began her academic career at CHPE as a Resident Faculty member in 2005. She later accepted a full time faculty position at CHPE and advanced to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure in 2012. Her teaching responsibilities largely focused on the required ethics content in the first year of the School of Medicine curriculum as well as innovative and challenging electives in the humanities and ethics. She also was instrumental in the development of the Master of Science in Health Care Ethics programs at CHPE in which she developed and taught a variety of required and elective courses including MHE 606 Theories of Justice and MHE 622 Public Health Ethics. Dr. Rentmeester's research interests focused on intersections of ethics and social policy in the context of healthcare. Her publications while at Creighton ranged across a variety of issues such as environmental ethics, racial and ethnic disparities, mental health, and clinician-patient encounters and often involved collaboration with colleagues from different disciplines. While at Creighton, Dr. Rentmeester served on ethics consultation services of several institutions and on the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB). She held an appointment by the Nebraska State Board of Health.

In her new role as the Editor of the *AMA Journal of Ethics*, she will be working with medical students and residents and a staff of four assistant and associate editors. The current structure of the *AMA Journal of Ethics* is built around medical students' and residents' submissions in a competition to be Theme Issue Editors (TIEs). The editorial team reviews these submissions and selects the 12 people who will be invited to travel to Chicago for an orientation to what their duties and deadlines will be to help build their theme issue. The editorial team at the AMA works with the TIEs to do the day-to-day work of publishing each issue on the first of each month throughout the year.

All of the faculty and staff wish Dr. Rentmeester well on this next part of her career in health care ethics.

Towards a Broader Agenda of Catholic Bioethics

by Jos V.M. Welie

"Catholic bioethics" - most people who hear this term, including those who are Catholic and even those who are Catholic health care providers, immediately think about prohibitions on abortion, sterilization, certain reproductive technologies, sex changes, assisted suicide, and euthanasia. And these are indeed part and parcel of Catholic bioethics. But the field is much broader and much richer. Rather than with prohibitions, Catholic bioethics is primarily concerned with providing positive guidance to patients, family members, and their health care providers. Or it should be.

The [International Association of Catholic Bioethicists](#) (IACB) is one international organization that has tried to shift the dominant focus on a limited number of prohibitions to address other big ethical questions in contemporary health care that have not received the attention and scholarship, by secular and faith-based bioethics, that they deserve. Of particular concern to the IACB are vulnerable patient populations. For example, in 2009, the IACB devoted its bi-annual colloquium to the care of persons with progressive cognitive disabilities; in 2011 to palliative sedation; in 2013 to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families; and in 2015 to mental health and wellness.

The IACB is unusual among bioethics associations around the world in that it is supported by a religious order - the [Order of Malta](#) (or as it is known in full, The Sovereign Military

Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta). The order was founded in the 11th century to provide care to pilgrims to the Holy Land. Pope Paschal II formally approved the Order in 1113 and granted it broad autonomy. To this day, the Knights of Malta, as they are also known, are a religious order functioning under the aegis of the Catholic Church. But the order is also recognized as a sovereignty, though with very little territory. The main social ministry of the Order of Malta remains the provision of health care and it does so with the help of tens of thousands of lay members. A specific focus of the Order is underserved populations. Its dual status as both a religious order and a sovereignty recognized under international law enables it to go where other aid organizations may not have access. In 2004, several national associations of the Order of Malta agreed to expand the Order's health care mission by establishing the IACB.

In addition to facilitating networking among Catholic bioethicists, the principal activity of the IACB is its bi-annual colloquium, which has been held in Toronto, Melbourne, London, Cologne, Philadelphia, Rome, and Montreal. Each colloquium brings together approximately 75 individuals representing different academic disciplines, health care professions, patient groups, and different faith traditions. In sharp contrast with most other bioethics conferences, the agenda of each colloquium consists of a single topic which is studied, analyzed, and discussed for the duration of these five-day meetings. Each colloquium has generated a detailed consensus statement that is intended not only to summarize the colloquium's major findings but also to provide guidance to practicing health professionals and stimulate additional reflection and scholarship by bioethicists.

There is much more to Catholic health care and hence to Catholic bioethics than half a dozen prohibitions, as important as these may be. The IACB consensus statements are a good place to start for anyone eager to delve into the richness of Catholic bioethics.



Jos Welie, PhD, and Linda Scheirton, PhD, spoke at the 2015 International Association of Catholic Bioethicists in Montreal.

A New Interdisciplinary and International Elective Course about the End-of-Life

by Jos V.M. Welie

CHPE's [Master of Science in Health Care Ethics](#) already offers students interested in the topic of end-of-life care several elective courses they can take. Yet another course is now available: *The World in Dialogue: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Care for the Dying and the Dead* (IDS 590). This course differs from CHPE's other graduate courses in two important ways. First, the course is explicitly international in its design. The course will bring a contingent of approximately 15 students from Creighton University together with a contingent from Sankt Augustin University, located just outside of Bonn, Germany. Moreover, the class will be broken up in small, international and multidisciplinary groups of approximately 4 students with each group working together for the duration of the course on a specific end-of-life topic.

Secondly, it will be a hybrid course. In addition to the usual online components, the students and faculty will convene at the campus of Sankt Augustin University for two intensive weeks of lectures, discussions, research, and site visits in the area as well as across the border in The Netherlands and possibly Belgium. Among the locations slated for a visit are the Palliative Care Department of the University Hospital in Bonn, area hospices in Bonn and Cologne, the memorial and museum in Hadamar (the principal place of Nazi euthanasia implementation), the Museum for Sepulchral Culture in Kassel, the university transplantation centers in Bonn and in Liège (Belgium), the reliquary art collections in the basilicas of Aachen (Germany) and Maastricht (The Netherlands), and -- just outside the latter city -- the replica of the Roman catacombs and the American WWII cemetery.

The course, which will be taught in English, will be offered for the first time in the summer of 2016, with the on-site component taking place from July 12 to August 6.

The 3-credit course was designed by Dr. Alexander Roedlach from the Department of Cultural and Social Studies in Creighton's College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Jos Welie, faculty member at CHPE. Dr. Roedlach is a native of Austria and worked for a brief period at Sankt Augustin University; he is also a member of the Order of Divine Word Missionaries, which sponsors Sankt Augustin University. Dr. Welie is a native of The Netherlands who grew up a mere 75 miles to the west of Bonn near the Dutch city of Maastricht. Faculty members from Sankt Augustin University will also participate in the various educational activities.

The more than 60 Creighton students and alumni who have already expressed interest represent all but two of CU's colleges and schools and a broad variety of degree programs, including anatomy, education, health care ethics, EMT, English, medical anthropology, medicine, nursing, OT, pharmacy, public health, and a few more. The European contingent of students will nicely complement this disciplinary diversity since most Sankt Augustin students study theology, philosophy, cultural studies, and religion, though students from nearby universities in still other disciplines may enroll as well.

For more information, please contact either Dr. Jos Welie (jwelie@creighton.edu / (402) 280-2034) or Dr. Alexander Roedlach (roedlach@creighton.edu / (402) 280-2567)



Sankt Augustin University



American WWII cemetery



Aachen reliquary art collections in the basilicas

Medical Students Explore Bioethics in Roundtable Series

by John R. Stone, MD, PhD

In the summer of 2015, Creighton University second year medical students Christina Murray and Leo Yamaguchi approached Dr. Amy Haddad, Director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics (CHPE), with the idea of forming a student group to discuss bioethical issues. The students, Dr. Haddad, and Dr. John Stone met to discuss options. As Leo wrote in an early email, the idea was that "lunchtime meetings would be a good opportunity to engage in intellectual conversation with our colleagues concerning issues that will be relevant to us as future physicians. We envision pre-reading journal reviews or watching documentaries that will enable us to compare and evaluate opinions and spur discussions on these issues." (Leo Yamaguchi, 7/9/2015)



Yamaguchi, Murray, Haddad, and Stone collaboratively chose initial topics. CHPE faculty will suggest sources (texts, documentaries, etc.) and facilitate discussions during bring-your-own lunches. To facilitate the process, a "course" in BlueLine-the university online educational interface-was established. Schedule, topics, and materials are posted in the site for easy access.



Topics and facilitators this fall are:

- Neuroscience and Ethics: Whose choices? (Dr. John Stone)
- Moral Psychological Elements of Clinician-Patient Encounters (Dr. Christy Rentmeester)
- Ethical Issues and Legal Risks with Donation after Cardiac Death (Drs. Amy Haddad & John Stone)
- The Prevention of Suffering at All Cost: A Task for Physicians? (Dr. Jos Welie)

Such collective learning efforts are important ways to advance bioethical knowledge. CHPE applauds the students' initiative and enthusiastically pledges continued support. For further information, interested readers should contact the medical student leaders or CHPE faculty.

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LB1036 - *Nebraska Revised Anatomical Gift Act*

Brief Overview - Legal Risks and Ethical Issues and Regarding Organ Donation and Donation after Cardiac Death ("DCD")

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Health equity exists when health disparities are eliminated. That is, when “health differences that adversely affect socially disadvantaged groups” that “are systematic, [and] plausibly avoidable” no longer exist. (Braveman et al., 2011, p. S150) To promote health equity, Omaha community members and Creighton University academic partners are collaborating to develop funded grants, provide community education, and increase faculty research capability through the Center for Promoting Health and Health Equality (CPHHE, <http://www.creighton.edu/health/cphhe/>).

Drs. Amy Haddad and Elizabeth Furlong of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics (CHPE) serve as academic partners. (In June 2015 Dr. Furlong was awarded emeritus status.) Drs. Sade Kosoko-Lasaki and John Stone (the author here) are Co-Founders and Co-Directors of CPHHE. Errik Ejike, MPH, and Juan Montoya, MBA, are Program Supervisor and Senior Specialist, respectively. CPHHE is primarily funded through Creighton’s Health Sciences and State of Nebraska LB692 Funds that were part of the state’s settlement with the tobacco industry. Notable CPHHE efforts are:



Bus ads promote physical activity

- **CPHHE-REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, www.creighton.edu/reach)** is a 2014, \$1.493 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that funds promotion of physical activity among Omaha-area African Americans. The three-year aim is to mitigate disparities in overweight/obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other conditions. Partners are Omaha Housing Authority, Nebraska Center for Healthy Families, Douglas County Health Department, Charles Drew Health Center, and Creighton University School of Medicine. Multiple media efforts are underway (see bus pictures). CPHHE will build on this “Basic” REACH grant to submit a proposal for the next level of REACH funding.
- **CPHHE Community Health Advocates:** Eight community members recently earned a certificate as Community Health Advocates. The multi-session training program included introductions to disease conditions like hypertension and cardiovascular disease; issues like chronic disease management, self-efficacy, privacy and confidentiality; and public safety. Advocates will work with African American and Latino/Hispanic community members and Omaha Housing Authority residents, among others, to provide health information and guidance to assistance or healthcare sources. CHI Alegent-Creighton Health and Omaha Housing Authority provided first-year funding that CPHHE will continue. Advocates represent several constituencies.
- **Health Disparities Research Training Program* (HDRTP):** CPHHE coordinates and guides faculty training in health disparities research. Faculty scholars’ two-year program involves education, mentoring, grant writing, and manuscript development. HDRTP scholars in this fifth group are Drs. Jacqueline N. Font-Guzmán (School of Law) and Becky Davis (School of Nursing). HDRTP is a collaborative and multi-institutional program that is coordinated by the University of Alabama at Birmingham Minority Health & Health Disparities Research Center. *<http://www.creighton.edu/health/cphhe/traininganddevelopmentcore/faculty/>

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25th Women and Health Lecture Features Author Sheri Fink

by Kate Tworek, MSED

Ten years after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and caused massive flooding in New Orleans, author Sheri Fink captivated hundreds at the Joslyn Art Museum as she described the chaos and hardship experienced by patients and staff at a New Orleans hospital in the aftermath of the storm. Fink spoke at the 25th Women and Health lecture on September 30th, an annual event coordinated by the Center for Health Policy and Ethics (CHPE) at Creighton University.

Sheri Fink, MD, PhD, is the author of *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*, a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction, the Ridenhour Book Prize, the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize, and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. She won the Pulitzer Prize for her *New York Times* article *The Deadly Choices at Memorial* in 2010.

Before the lecture, Fink met with Patrons of the Women and Health lecture series at a reception in Joslyn's Atrium. Fink spoke for nearly an hour to a crowd of more than 600, using a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate her narrative. After the lecture, she answered questions from the audience and remained available to sign copies of her book.

Also at this year's Women and Health lecture, CHPE partnered with the American Red Cross, an organization that provided disaster relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina, by asking attendees to donate 9-volt batteries for smoke alarms. This was in support of their [Home Fire Preparedness Campaign](#), an initiative that aims to reduce deaths and injuries caused by home fires by 25% in five years. Representatives from the American Red Cross were present to share information and collect batteries before the lecture.

This event would not have been possible without support from [Humanities Nebraska](http://humanitiesnebraska.org/) (<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/>), Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, CHI Health, Creighton University School of Medicine Women in Medicine and Science, Creighton University's College of Nursing and Committee on the Status of Women, The Bookworm, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha Public Library, and Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, and the generous support from our individual Patrons and Donors.



Third Year at the Nebraska State Fair!

by Helen S. Chapple

2015 marked the third time that "[It's All About the Conversation](#)" traveled to Grand Island to bring an exhibit to the [Nebraska State Fair](#)'s Heartland Events Center. The occasion was Older Nebraskan's Day, midweek in the Fair's run. "It's All About the Conversation" is a statewide coalition sponsored by the Center for Health Policy and Ethics at Creighton, and we promote conversations about advance care planning and end-of-life care. We requested and received a corner location, a spot that works better for traffic flow and our featured foam board state map mounted on an easel. We joined 23 other exhibitors including AARP, Aseracare Hospice, Agency on Aging, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. We offered brochures, prizes (CHPE keychains, jar openers from Methodist and other items) and candy to the hundreds of passersby. After visitors located their town on the map and marked it with a pin, we explained our purpose: Nebraskans need to embrace advance care planning as a practice. The responses were similar to those we have received at these events in the past. Some people said, "we've done all that." Others said, "oh, we need to take one of these for our daughter." Some others said, "That's a really good idea," took the brochure eagerly, and made me think that they had never seen such a thing before.

In this year of 2015, Provider's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) was introduced into the legislative session, but did not make it out of committee. For now it has come and gone, but it may well return. Individual investment in advance care planning is poised to grow as providers now can be reimbursed for having the conversation. This venue at the Fair is a critical opportunity for reaching older residents who travel from across the state in busloads to reach this central location. Again this year, the foot traffic was heavy, and visitors reported that Tony Orlando, the featured performer, put on a great show in the arena behind the exhibits. The Fair itself drew record crowds.

2015 American Society for Bioethics & Humanities Conference

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics & Humanities (ASBH) was held in October in Houston, TX. At this year's meeting, Amy Haddad, PhD, RN, Director of CHPE, was installed as the new President.



Amy Haddad



John Stone (Professor at CHPE) and Amy Haddad

CHPE hosted a networking luncheon held in conjunction with the ASBH Annual Meeting. All Health Care Ethics students and alumni were invited. The luncheon is a great opportunity for current students and alumni of the Health Care Ethics program to meet other classmates, alumni, and faculty. It is also a way for potential students to learn more about the program directly from those who are affiliated with CHPE.



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