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Director's Report - CHPE Welcomes New Faculty: Mark Robinson, Ph.D.

by Amy Haddad, PhD

The Center for Health Policy and Ethics is pleased to welcome a new full-time Assistant Professor, Dr. Mark Robinson, who works at the interface of medical anthropology, bioethics, and science and technology studies. Dr. Robinson was well known to faculty and students at the Center for Health Policy and Ethics before he accepted a faculty position because he taught several courses in the Master of Science in Health Care Ethics as a part-time instructor. We were well aware of his work as a dedicated and experienced teacher in the graduate, online environment. Dr. Robinson received his BA in Linguistics from Northwestern University, two MA degrees from the University of Chicago in Social Sciences and Religious Studies/Ethics, and an MA and PhD in Anthropology from Princeton.

Dr. Robinson has extensive teaching experience in graduate and undergraduate education at various institutions such as North Carolina State University, Princeton, and DePaul University in Chicago where he taught public health ethics, science and technology studies, research methods and bioethics courses. Additionally, Dr. Robinson has presented his work at high-profile, international conferences at Kings College London, Cambridge, and at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin. He was awarded the Early Career Scholar Award to participate in the International Neuroethics Conference in Montreal and the John Kenneth Galbraith Award by the Harvard University’s Institute on Social Inequality. He has also received grants from the Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Robinson has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Science, Technology and Society Program at the University of California at Berkley and a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University.

This issue of Focus includes an article by Dr. Robinson, “Looking Underneath Emergent Innovations in Medicine,” that offers a more comprehensive explanation about the focus of his dissertation research and future scholarly undertakings. Dr. Robinson’s ability to work in multiple disciplines such as neuroscience and translational medicine, bioethics and anthropology made him an ideal candidate for a faculty position at CHPE. We are excited about the gifts he brings to our collective thinking and scholarship at CHPE and the mentoring and knowledge he will provide to health professional and graduate students at Creighton.
Looking Underneath Emergent Innovations in Medicine
Mark Robinson, PhD

How are we to make sense of innovation in science, technology and medicine? As the impact of emerging innovations unfolds, there is a need to analyze the ways in which these innovations both implicate and shape societies as well as specific groups in particular, such as patients. Increasingly, analyses of biomedical innovation require nimble and multidisciplinary approaches—ones that suture insights from history, the social sciences, and philosophy as well as other disciplines such as science and technologies studies.

My current project traces the ethical and social implications attached to the global rise and expansion of translational medicine and research (TM&R). In short, TM&R seeks to reorganize biomedical research infrastructures in order to accelerate the translation of scientific research into new technologies and medicines. From Australia to the U.K., TM&R has become a premier intervention in the attempt to radically transform global health.

However, the implications of the translational shift are numerous and unfolding: How does TM&R impact health prioritizations? Does TM&R enshrine particular conceptions of disease and health? How might TM&R’s prioritizations shape the design of new medicines? In my research, I investigated various actors, institutions, and discourses involved in TM&R between 2008 and 2011 to get at the values and practices that inform TM&R in the U.S. My fieldwork included observation in a neuroscience laboratory, as well as interviews with biotechnology investors, scientists, clinicians, and patients. As a result of my research and through analyses of clinical translation literature, I learned that the emergence and consolidation of clinical translation is deeply connected to a crisis of innovation in the biopharmaceutical industry.

As TM&R implicated issues of political economy, emergent notions regarding the nature of innovation, as well as cultural beliefs regarding the interplay between technoscience and health, analyses of TM&R required a catalogue of approaches. As a scholar working at the intersection of medical anthropology, science and technology studies and bioethics, I drew from a range of disciplinary lenses and analytics in order to map TM&R in all of its complexity.

Ultimately, I suggest that the emergence of translational medicine is intimately connected problems of risk on the part of pharmaceutical companies and investors in the life sciences. I also learned that as the outputs of TM&R are designed and folded into care, translational paradigms compel a foreclosure of patient-centered knowledge pathways. The epistemological consequences of “translational thinking” and its impacts upon therapeutic innovation is a secondary area of research where I hope to further map the impacts of TM&R upon local contexts of health.

Other Faculty News

Elizabeth Furlong, PhD, JD, RN, Associate Professor Emerita, Center for Health Policy and Ethics, has been appointed to the HLC Institutional Actions Council (IAC) as a public member. With her background in higher education, health professions, ethics/public policy and law, Beth will be an exceptional addition to the council.
ADEC Adopts a New Representation of the Body of Knowledge of Thanatology
By Helen Chapple, PhD

This year marked the Association for Death Education and Counseling’s (ADEC) 38th annual conference. Attendees gathered April 14-17 in Minneapolis for the conference and to celebrate ADEC’s 40th anniversary. Keynote speakers were Simon Shimshon Rubin, Cynda Rushton, and Louis Gamino. Dr. Rubin offered a contemporary perspective on the two-track model of bereavement. Dr. Rushton spoke about suffering and moral courage and was extremely well received. Dr. Gamino offered a retrospective of the organization’s 40 years, highlighting the changes in the organization and the field of thanatology.

The ADEC Board met prior to the conference. As Chair of the Body of Knowledge Committee, Helen Chapple presented the Committee’s new articulation of the Body of Knowledge of Thanatology to the Board using an outline format rather than the existing matrix. ADEC uses the Body of Knowledge to support a credentialing program, its “Handbook of Thanatology” (2013) and for content planning in its webinars and conferences. The benefits of an outline are flexibility and an opportunity to define learning objectives. To accomplish the work of re-presenting the Body of Knowledge, Dr. Chapple convened a 2-day in-person meeting in Washington DC in October 2015 for the Committee’s seven members. The group vetted the results of its deliberations among leaders in the field over the next several months prior to the Board meeting. By voting to abandon the matrix in favor of outline form, the Board has made the major concepts in the field of thanatology more accessible to learners.

As it crosses the threshold of 40 years in existence, the ADEC Board and its membership are currently engaged in conversations regarding expansion in two very deliberate ways: 1) reaching out and supporting international members more actively than ever before and 2) considering the possibility of bringing non-death loss into its purview. On the latter point, some are concerned that the organization’s important work around dying, death, and bereavement might be compromised or diluted. Others argue that significant loss touches questions of identity, worldview, and belonging in the survivor(s), whether it comes from death or some other tragic loss. ADEC’s willingness to include non-death loss expands the organization’s usefulness.


Save the Date

26th WOMEN AND HEALTH LECTURE
Featuring author Geraldine Brooks

Wednesday, September 14, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Joslyn Art Museum
2200 Dodge Street

Online registration is required. Registration opens August 1.
Most people when they hear the term “health care ethics” associate the discipline with the kinds of daunting ethical challenges that physicians occasionally face, such as euthanasia, organ transplantation, or in vitro fertilization. They are surprised to learn that Center faculty also teach ethics courses, undertake research, publish, and consult in many areas other than medical ethics. For example, Center director Dr. Amy Haddad is co-author of one of the leading textbooks in pharmacy ethics; faculty associate Dr. Gail Jensen chairs the Ethics Committee of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association, while faculty associate Dr. Linda Scheirton serves on the ethics committee of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Creighton is also the only university to have an endowed chair specifically dedicated to the field of dental ethics, the Dr. Philip Maschka Chair for Ethics in Dentistry, currently held by Dr. David Williams, Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the CU School of Dentistry.

The field of dental ethics is slowly but steadily maturing and expanding. Later this year, the International Dental Ethics and Law Society (IDEALS), which was co-founded by CHPE faculty member Dr. Jos Welie in 2000, will hold its 11th International Dental Ethics and Law Congress in Chicago (August 4-6). The congress will be co-sponsored by the American Dental Association which this year celebrates the 150th Anniversary of its Code of Dental Ethics. A third co-sponsor is the American College of Dentists, which is also engaged in a major fundraising campaign to undertake a comprehensive national study on ethics in dentistry.

Another example of an international dental organization that is increasing its engagement in dental ethics is the FDI-World Dental Federation. An association of national dental associations, the FDI was founded in 1900, but its first important ethics document, the International Principles of Ethics for the Dental Profession, was only adopted in 1997 in Seoul, Korea. In the subsequent two decades, a number of policies on very specific topics in dental ethics were adopted. An example is the document entitled Guidelines for Dentists Against Torture. This document was prepared by a working group within IDEALS led by then IDEALS President Dr. Richard Speers and then IDEALS Secretary Dr. Jos Welie. The FDI General Assembly adopted this policy statement at its 2007 meeting in Dubai, UAE. In the same year, the FDI also published the first edition of its Dental Ethics Manual, authored by Dr. John Williams with editorial assistance from nine international experts (including Creighton’s Dr. Jos Welie). And FDI President Michèle Aerden was a keynote speaker at the 7th International Dental Ethics and Law Congress in Toronto in 2007.

After a hiatus of some eight years, in 2015 the FDI renewed its focus on dental ethics and established a new Working Group on Dental Ethics. The membership included Dr. Jos Welie as well as former CHPE Senior Visiting Fellow Wolter Brands, DDS, JD, PhD. The Working Group met in February of 2015 in Amstelveen, The Netherlands, to produce a policy statement on The Role of the FDI in Dental Ethics. Subsequent to its adoption by the FDI General Assembly in Bangkok in September of 2015, a new Working Group was convened in Amstelveen in February of 2016 to update the aforementioned International Principles of Ethics for the Dental Profession. After a two-day high-intensity working conference, a more comprehensive and more detailed update of the International Principles was submitted to the FDI Council, which accepted the update in late April. The next project for the FDI Working Group on Dental Ethics will be the development of a second and expanded edition of the Dental Ethics Manual.
Attending from left to right: Dr. Suzette Porter, Australia; Dr. Sudeshni Naidoo, South Africa; Mrs. Sarah Caïlet, FDI World Dental Federation, Switzerland; Dr. Ward van Dijk, Committee Chairman, The Netherlands; Dr. Jos Welie, USA; Dr. Wolter Brands, The Netherlands

Related Links:

ACD - American College of Dentists: [www.acd.org](http://www.acd.org)


FDI 2007: *International Principles of Ethics for the Dental Profession*

FDI 2007: Dental Ethics Manual

FDI 2015: *The Role of the FDI in Dental Ethics*

IDEALS - International Dental Ethics and Law Society: [www.ideals.ac](http://www.ideals.ac)
Violence involves guns and much more. Speakers also considered domestic violence and “microaggressions” related to gender, race/ethnicity, and sexual orientation, among others. Children can suffer PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and higher incidence of chronic disease as adults. Adverse effects of violence may flow through generations. Causes of violence are multiple and interactive—ecological. Some seminar features follow.

- **Doris Lassiter, BS**, Interim CPHHE Chair and Chair-Elect, President and CEO, Doris Lassiter Consulting LLC, Nebraska Center for Healthy Families Project, reviewed the mission and values of CPHHE and related reasons for addressing violence.
- **Sade Kosoko-Lasaki, MD, MBA, MPH**, Director, HS MACA and Co-Executive Director, CPHHE, Chaired seminar planning and was the overall seminar moderator.
- **Mr. Willie Barney**, Founder and President of Omaha’s The Empowerment Network (http://empoweromaha.com/), discussed the Network’s multi-pronged approach to violence. Strategies include researching local and national data; promoting collaboration, jobs, and policies; and implementing effective models.
- **Rebecca Murray, PhD**, for herself and **Dawn Irlbeck, PhD**, Creighton University faculty, addressed crime and violence data. Dr. Murray stressed needs for definitional clarity and challenges accessing information. Spatial epidemiology of crime employs hotspot or cluster mapping. The “ecological fallacy” is the false assumption that spatial location shows something about the people.
- Two panels addressed violence prevention and solutions. The list of participants and their organizations show the complexity. **Panel 1 (Prevention)**: Moderator **Stephen Jackson, MPH**, Douglas County Health Department and CPHHE Partnership Member; Speakers: **Jane Prine, LADC**, Impact One Community Connections; **Scott Gray**, Omaha Police Precinct Captain and CPHHE Partnership Member; **Donna Polk, PhD, LMHP**, Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition, Inc.; **Michael Maroney**, Omaha Economic Development Corporation. **Panel 2 (Solutions)**: Moderator **Roselyn Cerutis, PhD**, Creighton University; **Deborah Frisson, Ed.D.**, Nebraska Department of Education; **Alberto Gonzales**, Omaha Police South Gang Specialist; **Adi Pour, PhD**, Douglas County Health Department; **Errik Ejike, MPH**, CPHHE Program Supervisor; **Teela Mickles**, Compassion in Action, Inc.
- **John R. Stone, MD, PhD**, Creighton University Center for Health Policy and Ethics; Co-Executive Director, CPHHE (the author here), introduced an ethical framework (justice, respect, care, solidarity), noted intersections with decision processes, and facilitated a related discussion.
- **Magda Peck, ScD, MP3 Health Group**, Keynote Speaker, discussed “Power and Possibilities: Public Health Approaches to Violence Prevention.” Founding Dean of the School of Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dr. Peck stressed Public Health’s focus on creating conditions for all to be healthy and thrive across generations. Violence approaches must address trauma that includes ACEs (adverse
childhood experiences), child PTSD, addiction, and others. Milwaukee efforts include data-driven strategies and cross-systems collaborations. Needed changes are in (1) data, information, research, (2) strategies, services, programs, and (3) political will. Dr. Peck told a story about an elderly friend, who in response to hearing about problems, asked: “Honey, what are you going to do about it?”

HS MACA and CPHHE will collaborate to translate seminar discussions into effective outcomes.

**Relevant websites:**
- Dr. Gary Slutkin’s Epidemiological violence strategy: [https://www.ted.com/talks/gary_slutkin_let_s_treat_violence_like_a_contagious_disease?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/gary_slutkin_let_s_treat_violence_like_a_contagious_disease?language=en)

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**CHPE Faculty Present at State Hospice and Palliative Care Conference**

*by Amy Haddad, Ph.D. and Helen Chapple, Ph.D., RN*

Dr. Amy Haddad and Dr. Helen Chapple were invited to present separate concurrent sessions at the Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association (NHPCA) 2016 Conference on March 23, 2016 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dr. Chapple’s presentation was titled, “Advance Care Planning in Long Term Care, Nebraska Style.” In it, she described the study that she and Jenna Woster have been working on regarding do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders in long-term care (LTC) facilities. The Patient Self Determination Act (PSDA) requires that facilities speak to patients or residents in this case about advance directives on the day of admission. They found that many LTC facilities in Nebraska are using DNR forms for this purpose. They speculate that this is happening because there is confusion on many levels about the differences between advance directives and DNR orders, and also because accountability for meeting this regulation with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is measured by inappropriate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Facilities in Nebraska can make up their own procedures for this, since there is no statewide template for DNR. So this means that many of them opt for using DNR forms (which are facility-centered and may help prevent inappropriate CPR) rather than advance directives (which are more centered on the resident) to meet the PSDA requirement.

Dr. Haddad’s presentation was titled, “Residual Problems, Lingering Questions: The Nuance of Ethics in Hospice.” She presented brief case examples from actual hospice practice to examine the ethical issues that occur prior to admission to hospice and while receiving hospice care. Dr. Haddad addressed the following key ethical questions that families, patients, and members of the hospice team often confront such as: Who is dying? Is the feeding tube keeping her alive? Is it the drugs or the disease that is causing decline? Who should know? Who should decide? Is this a hospital or a home? How should families behave? Both presentations were well attended and engendered a great deal of participation and discussion on the part of attendees.
Endowed Scholarship for Master of Science in Health Care Ethics Students
by Sarah Lux, PhD

In 2014, the Dr. Richard and Joan O’Brien Master of Science in Healthcare Ethics Endowed Scholarship was established to be used annually for scholarships to qualified students who are of high academic standing and who are unconditionally admitted to the Master of Science in Healthcare Ethics graduate degree program at Creighton University.

Through a generous gift from Dr. Richard and Joan O’Brien, an endowed scholarship fund allows the graduate program to recognize an exemplary student with a fall semester scholarship award.

MSHCE Alum Bobby Saunkeah (2014 O’Brien Scholarship recipient) described how his interest in health policy broadened as he progressed through the program, “my interest in the ethical dimensions of health policy has grown from a narrow focus on tribal research ethics, to a wider interest in distributive justice and health care allocation issues at the organizational level, to the even broader perspective of public health ethics, where ethical principles collide and every decision is fraught with moral dilemma.”

Christian Montana (2015 O’Brien Scholarship recipient) is a current MSHCE student and describes his professional and personal experiences inform his perspective on health policy, “valuing and respecting different backgrounds, beliefs, cultures, and traditions, is essential to understand and accept what is fair and just for people, especially for those who are part of a vulnerable population.”

Each summer, students are invited to apply for the scholarship for the upcoming fall semester by writing a brief essay, describing their special interest in the ethical dimensions of health policy.

Dr. Amy Haddad, Director of the MSHCE program, stated, “We are very grateful to Dick and Joan O’Brien for their generosity to the MSHCE program. Dr. O’Brien co-taught the first course offered in the MSHCE program in 2009, MHE 601 Health Policy, so this scholarship is particularly appropriate with its focus on health policy.”
Recent Graduates – Health Care Ethics Graduate Program

Sarah Lux, PhD

The Center for Health Policy & Ethics is proud to announce its graduates in the Master of Science in Health Care Ethics program:

- **December 2015 Graduates:** Richard L. Allman (Villanova, PA); William A. Francis (Faucett, MO); Kenneth T. Kirton (Freeman, SD); Maria M. Kneusel (Broomfield, CO); and Jennifer R. Rendon (Canyon Lake, TX)

- **May 2016 Graduates:** Ralph E. Molyneux (Crestview, FL) and Carol Szczepaniak (Omaha, NE)

We would also like to recognize those who completed their Graduate Certificate in Health Care Ethics during the 2015-16 academic year:

- Robert J. Barnes (Duluth, MN); Jennifer E. Cox (Franklin, TN); David J. Cushing (Omaha, NE); and Kari Kufhal (Wausau, WI)

- Jennifer K. Burke (Malvern, PA); Karen Davin (Houston, TX); Kristin A Furfari (Denver, CO); Candace L. Kendall (Carenage, Trinidad/Tobago); Elizabeth M. Louie (Parkland, FL); Leonard J. Weireter (Norfolk, VA); and Christine J. Wilson (Los Angeles, CA)

Congratulations to everyone on your accomplishments!

**MSHCE Student Receives Award**

The Center is pleased to announce that Laura Shinkunas was selected from an outstanding field of candidates to receive the Outstanding Online Student Award for 2016. Ms. Shinkunas is a candidate for an August 2016 graduation.

Her leadership and commitment to the Jesuit ideals of men and women for and with others as demonstrated through her commitment to prison population, as well as her strong work ethic and level of intellectual inquiry were recognized by this award.

The award was presented at the Graduate School Hooding Ceremony on Friday, May 13, 2016 on the Creighton campus.
Alumni News
by Sarah Lux, PhD

We asked graduates of our Health Care Ethics Master’s and Certificate programs to keep us posted on their new ventures. Here are the most recent updates from our alumni.

Positions, Promotions, and Committees

- **Leslie Kuhnel** (May 2013 Graduate) is a member of the Creighton University Institutional Review Board.
- **Kenelm McCormick** (May 2011 Graduate) serves on the Medina Hospital Ethics Committee.
- **Mary Homan** (May 2013 Graduate) is the Gubernatorial Appointment to the Oklahoma Health Research Committee with the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science & Technology. She also chairs the Maternal & Child Health Section of the Oklahoma Public Health Association as well as the Central Oklahoma Bioethics & Palliative Care Consortium.
- **Tim Roettger** (May 2014 Graduate) serves as a board member on the executive council for 340B Health, an organization of more than 1,200 public and private nonprofit hospitals and health systems throughout the U.S. that participate in the Public Health Service 340B drug pricing program.
- **Richard Allman** (December 2015 Graduate) serves as Medical Staff President, Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia and as Associate Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program, Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia.

Presentations and Speaking Engagements

- **Leslie Kuhnel** (May 2013 Graduate) co-presented at the 2015 Iowa Nurses Association Annual Meeting. The topic was “2015 Nursing Code of Ethics – Ethics in Practice.” She also was a group facilitator at the 2015 ASBH annual meeting for the Clinical Ethics Consultation Affinity Group.
- **Maria Kneusel** (December 2015 Graduate) presented at a local faith community center to discuss ethical implications of proposed assisted suicide legislation.
- **Mary Homan** (May 2013 Graduate):
  - Homan, M. E. (2015, November 5). An ethical perspective of end of life resources & issues. Lecture presented at the Oklahoma Hospital Association Convention and Trade Show, Oklahoma City, OK.
  - Homan, M. E. (2015, August 10). Health care proxies, living wills and DNR orders: One of these things is not like the other. Lecture, Mercy Hospital, Ada, Oklahoma.


Publications

- **Mary Homan** (May 2013 Graduate):

- **Kenelm McCormick** (May 2011 Graduate):

Teaching and Curriculum Development

- **Leslie Kuhnel** (May 2013 Graduate) co-hosts *Bioethics Beyond the Bedside*, an audio podcast series. She also teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in ethics for Creighton University, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Nebraska Methodist College, and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

- **Mary Homan** (May 2013 Graduate) created several educational videos on health care ethics:

Faculty Appointments

- **Deb Espinal** (December 2013) was appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor for the Physician Assistant Program at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

- **Mary Homan** (May 2013 Graduate) was appointed adjunct instructor in Department of Health Management and Policy at University of North Texas Health Sciences Center School of Public Health.