



New Consortium Year

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Sept 24, 08
 VA Hospital, Westwood, Wadsworth Bldg (500)
 Room 6400 (6h floor) 11301 Wilshire Blvd., LA
 90073 RSVP 310 268-3016 or
 email paul.schneider@va.gov
 Agenda: capacity determination, memories of V.
 Michel, case presentations, SCBCC website
 demonstration

Future Meetings

Thurs Nov 13, Wed. Jan. 21
 Thurs March 12, Wed May 20

Brief Minutes: May 21, 08 Meeting

- Dr. David Goldstein, MD, Co-Director of the Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics and Chief, Geriatric, Hospital and General Internal Medicine at USC School of Medicine, described the HEAL curriculum at USC – Humanities, Ethics, Economics, Art and the Law.
- Dr. Pam Schaff, Associate Dean for the Curriculum at USC, spoke in detail about the program.
- The definition of the word “paternalism” in the last newsletter sparked discussion, raising the point that some degree of paternalism in medicine can be helpful on occasion.
- Nicholas Kockler introduced the group’s new website: www.socalbioethics.org, now up and running.
- Members decided to continue the 5 meeting per year format and discussed how to boost attendance.
- Jim Hornstein gave a POLST update, and the group discussed how it may be implemented in the future.
- Dr. Kendra Gorklitsky presented a consultation case prompting discussion regarding the physician’s and psychiatrist’s role in determining capacity.

REMEMBRANCE

Vicki Michel, MA, JD, former coordinator of the SCBCC died September 4th. Michel was Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School and contributed widely in the field of bioethics including issues of brain death, suicide and disabilities, ethnic and racial differences in bioethics decision making, organ donation and treatment after catastrophic illness. She contributed to an important handbook on hospital ethics committees. Michel organized comprehensive seminars for SCBCC including *The Difficult Patient* and helped standardize consultations by hospital bioethics committees. A memorial service will be held in October and will be posted on the SCBCC website.

Upcoming Conferences

- Friday, October 17** noon-2pm
 California Hospital Keck Hall
 1440 So. Grande Ave.
 Topic: *Surrogate Decision Makers: Who When and How to Determine*
 Miriam Cotler, PhD., Director
 Vrolyck Bioethics Institute Northridge HMC
 Lunch provided, RSVP 213 201-2780
- 3rd Wed** Cedars-Sinai Ethics Noon Conference
 Harvey Morse Aud. (So. Tower, Plaza level)
 10/15 Felicia G. Cohn, Ph.D.
 11/19 Neal Halfon, M.D., M.P.H.
 12/17 David Blake, Ph.D., J.D.
<http://www.csmc.edu/13954.html>
- UCLA Healthcare Ethics Center noon lectures
 Wed. Ronald Reagan Aud. Rm B -130 (lunch)
 Call Ethics Center 310 794-6219 for calendar

Resources

- SCBCC website <http://www.socalbioethics.org>
- The American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) is preparing for their annual meeting in Cleveland, October 23-26, 2008.
 Visit their website at <http://www.asbh.org/>

A Wider View

- Presidential Candidate’s Healthcare Platforms compared:
<http://www.webmd.com/election2008/default.htm>
<http://www.health08.org/sidebyside.cfm>
- POLST update: Governor signs AB 3000
http://www.finalchoices.org/ccccchcf_polst_grant%20update.htm
- The Prevention First Act HR.19, S.21 – increase family planning programs
- CA becomes the first state to condemn use of torture by adopting SJR 19
<http://www.afsc.org/losangeles/ht/d/ContentDetail/s/i/38640>
- The American Psychological Association bans its members from participating in torture
<http://psychoanalystsopposewar.org/blog/2008/09/18/new-york-times-on-referendum-victory/>



Books in the Field of Bioethics

- **A Merciful End: the Euthanasia Movement in Modern America*, Ian Dowbiggin
- **Euthanasia: The Moral Issues*, Robert M. Baird and Stuart E. Rosenbaum
- **Doctors from Hell: the Horrific Account of Nazi Experiments on Humans*, Vivien Spitz
- **Making Babies: Is There a Right to Have Children?* Mary Warnock
- **Raising the Dead: Organ Transplants, Ethics and Society*, Ronald Munson
- **God and the Embryo: Religious Voices on Stem Cells and Cloning*, Brent Waters and Ronald Cole-Turner
- **Who Owns Life?* David Magnus, Arthur L. Caplan, Glenn McGee
- **Genetic Destinies*, Peter Little
- **Science, Money, and Politics: Political Triumph and Ethical Erosion*, Daniel S. Greenberg
- **Homeopathy: How it Really Works*, Jay W. Shelton
- **How Brains Think: Evolving Intelligence, Then and Now*, William H. Calvin
- * *The Dark Side: the Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals*, Jane Mayer

Read a review from the New York Times here:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/books/review/Brinkley-t.html?_r=2&em=&oref=slogin&pagewanted=print&oref=slogin#secondParagraph

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POLST Reminder

The California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF) will be granting up to \$40,000 to five communities to promote the implementation of POLST. Application deadline: **Tues, Sept 30**
http://www.finalchoices.org/ccccchcf_polst_grant.htm

Hot Topics

US researchers call off controversial autism study

The study, which was based on the theory that mercury in vaccines led to autism, treated autistic children with chelation therapy. However, chelation therapy is not without side effects.

A study using rats showed that chelation therapy produced lasting brain problems. Researchers determined that since there is no evidence of its efficacy in improving autism, it would be unethical to continue, especially in light of this recent rat study.

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=106&sid=1436491>

Local Heroes: Megan Berthold

Megan Berthold is the Director of Research and a Therapist for the Program for Torture Victims (PTV) in Los Angeles. PTV provides free services to people seeking asylum in the U.S., many of them survivors of state-sponsored torture. Prior to earning her doctorate in social welfare from UCLA, Berthold worked in refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border. Her experiences there provided her with the perspective and compassion to offer therapy to the many refugees seeking asylum here in Los Angeles. Read the story of Megan's journey and her resilient clients at PTV at

<http://harvardmagazine.com/2008/09/partnering-with-survivor.html>

Weigh in with the Editor...

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