



**Next Meeting: Wed. January 20** Northridge Hospital, 18300 Roscoe Blvd, Northridge, CA.

[http://www.northridgehospital.org/Patients And Visitors/Maps And Directions/index.htm](http://www.northridgehospital.org/Patients_And_Visitors/Maps_And_Directions/index.htm) Main building, Basement level, classrooms 3 and 4

Parking available off of Roscoe or Etiwanda Blvds. Validations provided.  
5:30 PM Dinner 6:30 PM Meeting begins  
9:00 PM Meeting ends **Dinner Free**

**Agenda**

- 1- "On the Dilemma of the incompetent but unholdable patient" Robert Weinstock, MD, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, UCLA, past chair of the Ethics Committee of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, Chair of the California Psychiatric Association's Judicial Action Committee and co-author of *Forensic Ethics and The Expert Witness*.
- 2- Update on the January 30, 2010 POLST conference.
- 3- Update on Teleconferencing
- 4- Cases from the field

**Upcoming Conferences**

--1/ 30 SCBCC Conference: Sat. 8am-5pm  
"The Role of POLST in LA"  
UCLA NPI Louis Jolyon West Aud. C8-183 740 Westwood Plaza, LA 90095  
**To Register: [juszym@yahoo.com](mailto:juszym@yahoo.com)**  
with Susan Tolle, M.D. Director Center for Ethics in Health Care, Oregon Health and Science U.  
and Judy Citko, J.D. Exec Dir. Coalition for Compassionate Care of California  
Also featuring David Blake, Ron Miller, Neil Wenger, Miriam Piven Cotler, Stuart Finder, Lisa Humphries, Kenneth Rosenfeld, Bill Koenig, Frank Pratt, Tarik Mahdi, and others  
**CE credit, \$25 includes lunch**

--Cedars Sinai noon lecture series :  
Harvey Morse Aud. (So. Tower, Plaza level)  
<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>  
Visit their website at <http://www.asbh.org/>

**A Wider View**

*National News:* US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) has recommends clinicians screen children aged 6 years and older for obesity. The statement released earlier this month suggests clinicians also offer, or refer children found to be obese, for behavioral interventions to promote weight loss to a normal weight. It's "B recommendation" means that there is either high certainty that the benefit is moderate, or moderate certainty that the benefit is substantial. Although intensive treatment programs can be expensive, it is hoped that making this recommendation will lead to insurance companies offering more coverage for such programs  
<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf10/childobes/chobesrs.htm>

*International News* recovery and privacy  
In addition to treating the injured, relief workers in Haiti are trying to identify the dead. Some suggest they gather DNA samples from hair, but the WHO recommends noting clothing and gathering jewelry and telephone SIM cards. The WHO also suggests numbering bodies and lining them in trenches for burial so they could be located  
later <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/16/world/americas/16medical.html>

**Readings in the Field**

**How Doctors Think**, by Dr. Jerome Groupman discusses how physician's personal experience and process of thinking can influence the validity of their diagnosis and treatment. Groupman explores both the patient's and physician's role in the process of making good medical decisions.

*Glossary*

**Deontological Ethics** from the Greek *deon*, or duty, in view of the foundational nature of our duty or obligation. Sometimes called *nonconsequentialist* since these principles are



obligatory, irrespective of the consequences that might follow from our actions.

The idea that the morality of an action is based on the morality of the action itself and moral duty.

**Consequentialism Ethics:**

The idea that the morality of an action is based solely on the consequences of the action.

<http://www.iep.utm.edu/ethics/#SH2b>

*Heroes from*

*History*

Senator Edward Kennedy played a significant role in the origin and growth of the field of bioethics. In 1973, he presided over the hearings of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee that examined many of the issues prominent today. Due to the recent publication of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and an expose of research with human fetuses, human experimentation became a popular topic for debate. The Senator wrote a bill that described the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, signed as Public Law 93-348 in 1974 by President Nixon. The commission had a profound impact on research and debate regarding human experimentation and a wide range of other bioethical issues.

Senator Kennedy opened the hearings in '73 with the prophetic queries:

"Under what conditions should genetic manipulations of our population be allowed or neurological and pharmacological modification of behavior permitted? What constitutes death? Who should have access to life-saving equipment in short supply? Should society expose some to harm for the benefit of others?"

<http://www.thehastingscenter.org/Bioethicsforum/Post.aspx?id=3824>

**\*\*\*\*\*Hot Topics\*\*\*\*\***

When a pharmaceutical company drafts a scientific article and an academic physician is given authorship, this is *medical ghostwriting*. Honorary authors receive \$1,000 to \$2,000 per

article. An article in the journal *Bioethics* argues that it is a form of plagiarism, and proposes anti-ghostwriting measures including prohibitions and penalties. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa has asked 10 medical schools about medical ghostwriting. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122204938/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>  
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/extract/303/2/125-b>

***Weigh in with the Editor...***

Editor-in -chief: Kendra Fleagle Gorklitsky, MD (213) 201-2780

Writers: Kaylene Barrera, Braden Barnett, Andrew Hollister, Brandon Chinn, Shira Frankel

**The Buzzzzzz**

**(recent conversations on the web regarding Bioethics concerns)**

*New Jersey Law overlooks many in pain:*

Within about nine months, patients will be able to get a prescription from their doctors to buy up to two ounces a month of marijuana at one of six dispensaries throughout New Jersey. That state will only authorize use for people who suffer from diseases such as multiple sclerosis, cancer, glaucoma, epilepsy, Crohn's disease, AIDS, muscular dystrophy and Lou Gehrig's disease, but not for chronic pain.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Wellness/nj-medical-marijuana-law-ignores-chronic-pain-sufferers/story?id=9574509>

*Woman of 59 offered IVF*

"It's high time we joined other countries is Europe and established a national bioethics committee that could consider hugely important issues like this at a national level, rather than leaving them to the whims of local committees connected to the clinics themselves. It is important that the wishes of the general public are reflected and there is a clear opposition to fertility treatment in post-menopausal women," commented Josephine Quintaville of the pro-life group Comment On Reproductive Ethics. Allan Pacey a fertility expert at the University of Sheffield and recent secretary of the British Fertility Society countered with, "I would not be in favour of Government legislating on an upper age because the problem with setting limits is that you then have a boundary that you can then never cross. The merits of each case ought to be considered on an individual basis.



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/7012127/Woman-of-59-offered-IVF.html>

### **SCBCC Steering Committee**

Paul Schneider, MD [Paul.Schneider@med.va.gov](mailto:Paul.Schneider@med.va.gov)

Jim Hornstein, MD [jimfamdoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimfamdoc@sbcglobal.net)

Neil Wenger, MD [NWenger@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:NWenger@mednet.ucla.edu)

Bola Akinwole, MD [batraumamama@hotmail.com](mailto:batraumamama@hotmail.com)

K. Gorlitsky, MD [kfgorlitsky@clinicaromero.com](mailto:kfgorlitsky@clinicaromero.com)

Margie E. Spies, RN [margie.e.spies@kp.org](mailto:margie.e.spies@kp.org)

Stuart Finder [Stuart.Finder@cshs.org](mailto:Stuart.Finder@cshs.org)

Kenneth Landis, MD [kwlsccrdoc@aol.com](mailto:kwlsccrdoc@aol.com)

**Webmaster:** Nicholas Kockler [nkockler@lmu.edu](mailto:nkockler@lmu.edu)

**POLST**update: [http://www.finalchoices.org/cccc/hcf\\_polst\\_grant.htm](http://www.finalchoices.org/cccc/hcf_polst_grant.htm)