



Next Meeting: Wed. Sept 22

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Bldg 500 11301
Wilshire Blvd 90073 Room 6401

5:30 dinner (free), 6:00 program begins

1- Demonstration of Imed informed consent software at VA.

2- POLST project update – Monika Juszli, others

3- Multiculturalism in bioethics consultation – discussion.

4- Roles and responsibilities in bioethics consultation, a continuing, episodic series – Stuart Finder.

Parking: free, enter east lot, emergency dept side

RSVP (310) 268-3016

<http://www.losangeles.va.gov/visitors/directions.asp>

*******Hot Topics*******

Couples can choose their baby's sex with 'Sex Selection' endorsed by members of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

<http://www.spuc.org.uk/documents/papers/sexselectionetc.pdf>

An association between **interuterine exposure to cigarette smoke and later psychiatric morbidity** has been suggested by a recent Finnish study

<http://cme.medscape.com/viewarticle/726374?src=cmemp&uac=86018DR>

For a conservative view on stem cell research:

<http://www.spuc.org.uk/about/no-less-human/ethicalstemcells.pdf>

Presidential Commission for the Study of

Bioethics The Commission hosted its second meeting on synthetic biology Sept 13-14 in Philadelphia. From their website: "The Commission works with the goal of identifying and promoting policies and practices that ensure scientific research, health care delivery, and technological innovation are conducted in an ethically responsible manner." Topics included **risks and benefits of synthetic biology**, as well its applications and federal oversight. <http://www.bioethics.gov/>

Glossary

Synthetic Biology: the design and fabrication components and systems that do not already exist in the natural world. It also includes the re-design and fabrication of exiting biological systems.

<http://syntheticbiology.org/FAQ.html>

RESOURCES

ASBH <http://www.asbh.org/>

SCBCC website <http://www.socalbioethics.org>

POLSTupdate:http://www.finalchoices.org/ccccchf_polst_grant.htm

www.KindEthics.com on state of elder care, etc.

Weigh in with the Editor...

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Roots

Joseph Francis Fletcher, Father of Modern Bioethics was beaten by mobs in the South and labeled a Communist by Senator Joseph McCarty. Lectures by Fletcher at Harvard in 1949 led to his book on ethical issues in medicine, **Morals and Medicine (1954)**. The biological spin on social ethics was the first non-Catholic treatment of medical ethics, considered the pioneering work of a new field - biomedical ethics. His position was that **humans should control and improve their natural condition by reasoned choice rather than by leaving things to chance**. Natural biological processes (i.e., methods of fertilization) are not inherently better than artificial (man-made) processes. The development and use of technology is a supremely human enterprise. However, the **implications of new technologies should be considered prior to and during their development, not simply afterwards**.

Some major points include:

~ 'If the end does not justify the means, what does?'

The answer is, obviously, Nothing!'

~"Ethics critically examines **values and how they are to be acted out; but whether they are acted out or not**, loyalty to them depends on character or personal quality, and so it follows that the **quality of medicine depends on the character of its clinicians**"

~"We need to educate people to the idea that the **quality of life is more important than mere length of life**. Our cultural tradition holds that life has absolute value, but that is really not good enough anymore. **Sometimes, no life is better.**"

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/28748487/Joseph-Fletcher%E2%80%99s-Situation-Ethics>

An important theorist and controversial social biologist during this period was **Garrett James Hardin** (1915–2003), sometimes called the "**father of human ecology**" for his efforts to popularize a biological understanding of human beings and its ethical nuances. He advocated controlling **population** growth and limiting **immigration** into **the United States**, because of the ecological implications. "The Tragedy of the Commons" (1968) and "Lifeboat Ethics" (1972), are his best known essays describing a problem and its response. www.bookrags.com/.../hardin-garrett-este-0001_0002_0/ -

The Buzzzzzz

"Need an Organ? Find Your Donor Via Facebook" By Summer Johnson, PhD (July 29, 2010). "Many people have not been able to find any organ using the conventional ways and are turning to Facebook to find suitable donors."



<http://blog.bioethics.net/2010/07/need-an-organ-find-your-donor-via-facebook/>

Upcoming Conferences

--Circle of Caring

A Renewal Program for Healthcare Professionals
October 8 -10 UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conf Center
310 794-6219 www.uclahealth.org/ethics

--UCLA Ethics Center noon lectures

Aud C8-18312-1pm (lunch 11:15)
Calendar : 310 794-6219

--Cedars-Sinai monthly noon lecture series:

light lunch available beginning at 11:30 am,
session 12:00-1:00 pm.

Harvey Morse Aud. (So. Tower, Plaza level)

Oct 20: Mark J. Bliton, Ph.D.

Assoc Prof of Medical Ethics, OBGyn, Philosophy
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Ethical Challenges in Genetic Understanding of Disease

Nov 17: Paul Steven Miller, J.D.

Henry M. Jackson Professor of Law
U of Washington School of Law
Director, U of Washington Disability Studies

Ethical Issues re Genetic Screening for Disability

<http://www.csmc.edu/13954.html>

LMU Protecting People, Promoting Research

Oct 18, 7 PM. Ahmanson Aud (UNH 1000),
University Hall. Panelists: J. Carfora, Ph.D., V P for
Compliance and Research, LMU; R. Doyle, MA,
Graduate Director, The Bioethics Institute; M. Piven
Cotler, Ph.D., Visiting Prof, Bioethics Institute.

--Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race

Sept. 19 - Nov. 24

From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany campaigned to "cleanse" German society of "biological threats" to the nation's "health." With physicians, medically trained geneticists, psychiatrists, and anthropologists, the **Nazis developed health policies that began with the mass sterilization of the "genetically diseased."** Exhibit includes reflections on the attraction of biological utopias promoting the possibility of human perfection from early twentieth-century international eugenics movements to present-day dreams of eliminating inherited disabilities through genetic manipulation. Exhibition on the first- and third-floor atrium of the William H. Hannon Library at LMU. Open to public 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-Fri 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat and Sun.

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>>>A Wider View<<<

National

Cancer Panel warns "...of the more than 80,000 synthetic chemicals used in this country, only a few hundred have been tested for safety. Federal law requires chemicals to be proved safe before they can be sold" if to be used in pesticides, medications or food. "Otherwise, chemicals are presumed safe until a danger is proved by the government." The panel raised concerns about young children and pregnant women; "many children are born with significant

exposure." <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-chemicals-20100628,0,5190087.story>

Current child nutrition programs including the school lunch program will expire Sep 30 if Congress doesn't act [contact=foodsecurity.org@mcsv163.net] On Behalf Of The Community Food Security Coalition [contact@foodsecurity.org]

In response to the FDA's decision to uphold the ruling of **rejecting blood donations from gay men**, William Saletan asks whether the same (discriminatory?) principle should then be applied to certain racial groups, citing figures from the CDC showing that the prevalence rate of HIV is at least 8 to 9 times higher in blacks than whites – and reflects on the "crudity of treating individuals according to group membership..."

<http://www.slate.com/id/2257655/>

International

The Swiss government is drafting two **proposals to limit assisted suicide**, concerned about organizations such as Dignitas, which has helped more than 1,000 individuals end their lives in the past 12 years. A member of the Switzerland's national committee on medical ethics stated "we really hope to raise awareness among the countries who send us the most patients – Germany and Great Britain...it's a call to these countries not just to export the problem" <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/europe/10461894.stm>

A German high court ruled in favor of a gynecologist who tested for genetic defects in the embryos and chose to implant only those that were healthy. Those that did not pass the analysis were left to die off. The **court's decision allows for embryos created during IVF to be subject to screening for genetic defects before implantation.**

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/jul/06/german-court-allows-gene-diagnose-of-ivf-embryos/>

***** IN PRINT*****

Where Mercy Fails Darfur's struggle to survive (Herlinger & Jeffrey), Seabury Books, 09



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