The MU Center for Health Ethics has not been exempt from the busy season of fall – planning for our Annual Health Ethics Conference, Clinical Ethics Committee meetings, further development of our health ethics certificate and an active consult team have been just some of the activities around the Center for Health Ethics. As I reflect on our progress in just the past few months, I am astounded at what has been accomplished by our faculty, staff, and partners. Dr. Lea Brandt and Dr. Sarah Breier have been indispensable as I continue my transition to the Chair of Internal Medicine, helping to keep the energy flowing with the Center for Health Ethics and providing valuable leadership within the department.

The MU Center for Health Ethics Director, Dr. David Fleming

The next few months will bring with them even more activity as we plan for the annual Perez Mesa Lecture, slated for April 9th, 2010, continue our advertising efforts for our new ethics certificate, prepare for our annual report and provide many educational opportunities for both health care providers and students here at the University. I look forward to seeing many of you at these various events and hope that you have a wonderful holiday season!
Dr. Lea Brandt in the Faculty Spotlight

Lea Brandt earned her Post-Professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy with an emphasis in Healthcare Ethics and Administration from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Her doctoral training was conducted at the University of Nijmegen, Medical Ethics Department in the Netherlands and at the VHA National Center for Ethics located in New York City. She earned her Master of Arts in Bioethics and Health Policy from Loyola University Chicago, and has begun work on her PhD dissertation through St. Radboud University-Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

Dr. Lea Cheyney Brandt accepted a full-time position as a Program Director and Clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Health Professions in August 2008. Dr. Brandt has also been a principle faculty member of the MU Center for Health Ethics since 2007, and was recently appointed to an Associate Director position at the Center in September 2009. In her role through the Center she sits on several ethics-related boards including the Missouri Network of Community Health Ethics Leaders, Data Safety Monitoring committee, clinical ethics committee, and organizational ethics committee. In addition, she works as a clinical ethics consultant for University of Missouri Health Systems.

In addition to her other roles at the University of Missouri, Dr. Brandt was recently appointed as the Coordinator of the Missouri Health Professions Consortium Community College Collaborative. In this role she is able to pair her passion for ethics with her clinical experience in the health professions by developing health education programming designed to meet the needs of rural Missouri communities which have historically experienced reduced access to health related services.

On the national front, Dr. Brandt was appointed to the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Ethics Commission as the Member at Large in 2005. She completed her first term in 2008 and has been reappointed through 2011. The Ethics Commission (EC) is one of the bodies of the Representative Assembly (RA) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). The EC develops the Ethics Standards for the profession and also reviews and investigates ethics complaints filed against AOTA members. Dr. Brandt is currently working on revisions to the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics with a proposed publication date of Spring 2010. In addition to these other duties, one of her primary roles on the EC is ethics education.

Lea enjoys both indoor and outdoor cycling, water skiing, wine tasting and traveling with her husband, Ted.

Jason Crigler scheduled for Perez Mesa lectureship in medical humanities

Please join us for the annual Carlos Perez Mesa, MD lectureship in medical humanities April 29, 2010 at the Reynolds Alumni Center. Jason Crigler, world renowned guitarist and composer, will share on his inspirational personal recovery from a brain hemorrhage he suffered during a performance. His story portrays hope, the importance of family, faith and healing. Mark your calendars for an inspirational evening with Mr. Crigler! For more information please check ethics.missouri.edu

Recent Items in the News:

- ‘Concierge Care’

- Man ‘Trapped in Coma’ Was Awake the Whole Time

- New mammogram guidelines cause concern

- University drops required fitness class for obese

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The health ethics certificate offered by the Center for Health Ethics in conjunction with the Department of Health Management and Informatics is now open for enrollment. Courses will cover a variety of ethics related topics, such as health ethics theory, organizational ethics and informatics ethics. The 12 credit hour certificate is geared towards the working professional with an online class format. The certificate program will help the learner develop an understanding of the ethical issues related to health and healthcare and will foster skill in analyzing and resolving ethical problems and conflicts in the healthcare environment.

For more information, contact:

Adrienne Vogt
Student Recruitment Coordinator
573.884.0698
vogtab@health.missouri.edu
Recent Publications and Presentations


Story for October 4th: “A Discovery Point for Many Physicians: Patients Often Don’t Understand." Dr. David A. Fleming is a physician who knows that far too many patients leave appointments without a clear idea of what the doctor just said. He tells about efforts to help bridge this gap. Here’s the link to Dr. Fleming’s story, http://www.healthliteracy.com/hlm_article.asp?PageID=9159


Fleming named as Chair-Elect for the ACP Board of Governors

The Governors' Subcommittee on Nominations is pleased to announce that David A. Fleming, MD, MA, FACP has been elected the Chair-elect for the Board of Governors for the American College of Physicians. He will officially take office in April 2010. Dr. Fleming will become Chair at the close of the Annual Business Meeting in April 2011 and serve in that capacity for one year.

Breier Inducted into National Nursing Honor Society

Dr. Sarah Breier was recently inducted as a community leader to Sigma Theta Tau. More than 360,000 nurse scholars have been inducted into Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society. With 125,000 active members, it is the second largest nursing organization in the world. Sigma Theta Tau's vision is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world’s people. The society's mission is to support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.

Additionally, Breier was recently named an All American in the sport of triathlon and was also appointed to the USA Triathlon Ethics Committee. Considering her expertise in both ethics and triathlon, Breier enthusiastically accepted the invitation by USA Triathlon to review and revise their existing code of ethics as well as formulate an addendum on digital citizenship which is becoming a huge ethical concern in today’s use of digital media and communication.
Fitness Class Controversy at Lincoln University

Lincoln University, a historically black university located near Philadelphia, endorsed the requirement for obese students to complete a fitness course prior to graduation. The recommendation was that any student who has a BMI over 30 would be required to complete the three-hour “Fitness for Life” course in an attempt to battle the obesity epidemic, especially within the African-American population.

The recommendation received much push-back from students, the media and legal experts nationwide—that the requirement unfairly targeted students who are overweight.

Lincoln University has since removed the recommendation and will instead suggest this curriculum during their incoming freshmen wellness class to overweight students.

Although proponents of the program at LU were well-intentioned—to improve the health status of their student population, their means by which doing so were slightly off kilter. For example, some seniors who were sent the recommendation only had one semester of opportunity to take the required course prior to their scheduled graduation date.

Improved education and access to appropriate resources for weight loss are important tools for personal empowerment in making healthy choices. These obstacles must be overcome in innovative and timely fashions to improve the health status of the U.S. population as a whole.

Source:
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34291890/ns/health-fitness/

Upcoming Events

January 4th—Missouri Telehealth Ethics Series: Artificial Hydration and Nutrition
February 22nd—Missouri Telehealth Ethics Series: Organizational Ethics
March 15th—Missouri Telehealth Ethics Series: Palliative Care
April 28th—Ethics Grand Rounds
April 29th—Perez-Mesa Lecturship in Medical Humanities
October 6-8, 2010—6th Annual Health Ethics Conference

Standing meetings:
Clinical Ethics Committee—2nd Thursday of every month
Works in Progress Ethics Series—1st Thursday of every month CE730