Welcome to our first of quarterly news letter. Our goal in sending this to you so you can know us better. The MU Center for Health Ethics (CHE) didn’t exist in 2001, however much has changed since then. In May 2008, we relocated from Clark Hall to the 7th floor of the new Clinical Support and Education. This move will enable greater efficiency and impact for ethics consultation services as well as training, education and more direct interaction with the hospital staff, faculty and students.

CHE has been able to grow and contribute both substantively academically and clinically to meeting the mission of the University of Missouri and its health care system. This is thanks in large part to the guiding influence provided by our mentor, Edmund Pellegrino, M.D. Thanks must also go to University of Missouri Health Care; the School of Medicine; faculty and chairs of the Department of Health Management and Informatics (HMI); and to my Center colleagues-Sarah Breier, PhD, RN; Bill Bondeson, Ph.D.; and Clay Anderson, M.D.

In the past year CHE has experienced the arrival of many new and energetic faces: Don Reynolds, JD, Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Medicine, Office for Responsible Research, major contributor to the research ethics component of the Institute of Clinical and Translational Science, taken the lead on both our teleethics and pandemic consortium initiatives; Lea Brandt, OTD, OTR/L, Assistant Professor in the School of Health Professions and Director of the Occupational Therapy Assistants Program; Senior Scholars: Win Phillips, Ph.D., MA and Cheryl Rathert, Ph.D.; Center Administrator - Allison Farris; Office Support - Travis Dixon; Research Specialist - Ana Maria Fernandez, GRAs: Adam De-saulnier, Seema Tekwani, Nicole Huddleston, and Shivank Madan.

CHE continues to facilitate the Clinical Ethics Committee and coordinate the ethics consult service, both of which are supported by University of Missouri Health Care. We have over 40 physicians, nurses, other members of clinical teams, and students, as well as members from the community with an appropriate mix to allow us to meet our service, policy, and educational mission. Our goal is to add more trained clinical ethicists and further expand the venues by which we serve others. I believe our continued growth has been spawned in a group of individuals who share a vision of excellence in scholarship and service in health ethics. We will continue to pursue our mission to improve the health of the public by developing patient centered programs related to ethics and professionalism in education, research, clinical service, and organizational performance. We look forward to working with you in this quest.

DAF
Few have contributed to the study and discipline of bioethics more than Edmund Pellegrino, M.D., MACP. Dr. Pellegrino is adjunct professor of medicine and ethics in the MU Center for Health Ethics (CHE) and has played a key role in influencing the growth and development of CHE since its inception in 2002. Dr. Pellegrino is also the immediate past chair of the President’s Council on Bioethics and Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Medical Ethics at Georgetown University. He has made a career and devoted much of his life to studying and promoting human dignity and the central role of profession in medicine. In his amazing and long career, Dr. Pellegrino has become recognized as an international icon of bioethics, superb educator, prolific author, and consummate physician.

Dr. Pellegrino is the author of more than 575 items in medical fields, philosophy, and medical ethics. He has authored or co-authored 20 books and is an editor on many review boards. He is also the founding editor of the Journal of Medicine and Philosophy.

In 2004 Dr. Pellegrino was named Chairman of The President’s Council for Bioethics under the Bush Administration. In September 2009 he will be stepping down and Jonathan Moreno will succeed him. Dr. Pellegrino has held numerous academic appointments and leadership roles. He served as Director of the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University; Director of both the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and the Center for the Advanced Study of Ethics at Georgetown; President of Catholic University in Washington, DC; President and Chairman of the Yale-New Haven Medical Center; Chancellor and Vice President of Health Affairs at the University of Tennessee; and was the founding Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Kentucky.

Ed Pellegrino has been a great friend and supporter of the University of Missouri for many years. Dr. David Fleming, Director of CHE, studied under Dr. Pellegrino at Georgetown University from 1999-2001.

Dr. Pellegrino has been a plenary speaker at every MU Health Ethics Conferences since they began in 2004. He also is the inspiration for and often gives the annual Pellegrino Lecture on the eve of the annual conference. When here, he frequents the medical school to give internal medicine grand rounds and other offerings. Dr. Pellegrino has cast a deep shadow in medicine and bioethics over the years. His gift to the University of Missouri has been no less magnificent.

All of Dr. Pellegrino’s lectures at the University of Missouri’s Internal Medicine Grand Rounds and the CHE annual conference are available at the CHE Office in DVD format and can be borrowed for viewing. Some of the topic areas include: “The Organization and the Patient: Ethical issues in Organized Care”, “Does Medicine Need a New Ethic?”, and “Profession and the Healing Relationship.”

For a brief profile of Dr. Pellegrino please visit: http://explore.georgetown.edu/people/pellegre/
Mr. Don Reynolds earns appointment as Research Assistant Professor of Medicine.

Lea Brandt joins Faculty and Ethics Consult Team

Dr. Lea Brandt is the newest faculty member to join the Center for Health Ethics Faculty and consult team. Dr. Brandt joins the team having also being named the Director of the Occupational Therapy Assistant program offered at the University of Missouri.

Dr. Brandt is a Nebraska native born in Lincoln and earned her bachelor's as well as her doctorate in Occupational therapy at Creighton University. Dr. Brandt is currently earning her MA in Healthcare Ethics from Loyola University, Chicago via an online program. Her expected graduation date is May 2009.

In addition to serving as director of the Occupational Therapy assistant program, Lea is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the MU Center for Health Ethics and a member of the Clinical Ethics Committee within the University of Missouri Healthcare System.

Lea has also made a significant impact at other organizations. She has been an active member for Boone Hospital Centers Institutional Review Board, Ethics Forum, and Palliative Care Committee.

We look forward to Lea's contributions in 2009.

Don Reynolds Receives Faculty Appointment

Center for Health Ethics faculty member, Don Reynolds J.D. has been appointed Research Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine/Division of Gastroenterology in the School of Medicine. In addition to his new appointment, his primary responsibility is Director of the CHE Office for Responsible Research where he is developing education and training programs, policies and quality initiatives relating to research ethics and integrity.

For more than 20 years prior to joining the Center for Health Ethics, he was a member and principle of the Center for Practical Bioethics (Kansas City) where he established a program in research ethics. He is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles and policy guidance documents on a range of health, healthcare and research ethics topics. Don received his law degree from MU in 1969.

Nicole Huddleston joins MU Center for Health Ethics as GRA

Nicole Huddleston joined the Center for Health Ethics staff in January of 2009 as a graduate research assistant (GRA). Nicole is an MHA (masters of health administration) candidate in the Health Management and Informatics department with an anticipated graduation date in 2010.

Along with Mr. Don Reynolds and other Center staff, Nicole will be primarily assisting with the upcoming Division of Health and Senior Services project that is to begin in early 2009.

Nicole joins an already growing staff within the Center for Health Ethics that includes Adam Desaulniers, another MHA candidate who has been a GRA with the Center for the past year as well as Seema Tekwani and Shivank Madan.
In 2009 the MU Center for Health Ethics will embark on an Influenza Pandemic project with the State of Missouri’s Department of Health and Senior Services. With numerous goals in mind, the specifics of the project are to develop a state-wide consortium collaborating between Missouri’s major ethics centers, hold a summit to draft a document of universal nature that will serve as a reference for the entire state during times of such a pandemic, and to reach out to each individual county throughout the state to assess the need and availability of detrimental supplies. Mr. Don Reynolds will be the lead representation for the Center while staff members will be assisting in the development of the project. The MU Center for Health Ethics will also be the host website for the Consortium. In accordance with the contract www.ethics.missouri.edu will establish a world wide web portal for the Influenza project that will hold the functioning, the members, the final document, as well as multiple resources to aid the public in education and awareness. Not to take all of the spotlight, the Center will team up with the St. Louis University Center for Bioethics, The Kansas City Center for Practical Bioethics, as well as representatives from each county in the state of Missouri in order to complete the project.

2008 Annual Report: The Center continues to grow throughout a stagnant 2008

The year 2008 was lack luster at best when it comes to progress and improvement. However, the MU Center for Health Ethics grew and prospered in 2008. In 2008 we saw a significant increase in the ethics clinical consults provided by our ethics consult team rising from 42 in 2007 to 51 in 2008. The faculty and staff grew in numbers as well with the arrival of Dr. Lea Brandt (consult team member), Allison Farris (center administrator) Ana-Maria Fernandez (research specialist), and Travis Dixon (center support staff). The addition of such key individuals in coordination with the strong foundation of the Center faculty and staff will foster further growth and enrich the progress in 2009.

Dr. Sarah Breier receives invitation for full submittal to Greenwall Foundation

The Center for Health Ethics Associate Director, Sarah Breier PhD, has been invited to submit a full proposal to the Greenwall Foundation for a 2009 grant. Dr. Breier is one of only a few invited for a second round of submittals for the grant. The Greenwall Foundation is a New York based independent foundation that awards grants in only two areas; the arts and bioethics. The Foundation graciously donates approximately 3 million dollars annually to further enhance the knowledge of those providers who are at the bed side. Dr. Breier will be focusing on the issue of Severe Anorexia Nervosa in female patients. The qualitative research project will last three years and will entail numerous aspects of clinical and research based projects to assess the effects of anorexia nervosa.

Dr. Breier has published many articles on the subject and has spoken on the topic as well. Visit the publications link of our website www.ethics.missouri.edu to read Dr. Breier’s work. We wish her the best of luck on the upcoming submittal.
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Our New Location on the Northwest corner of UMHC

Our Mission:
To improve the health of the public through the development of patient-centered programs related to ethics and professionalism in education, research, clinical service, and organizational performance.

Goals:
I. Promote patient-centered health care by providing leadership for clinical ethics.

II. Establish and promote initiatives in health ethics and professionalism.

III. Develop innovative programs to enhance relationships between patients and health care professionals.

IV. Promote ethical behavior of organizations by encouraging principles of organizational ethics.

V. Collaborate with faculty and other key individuals in developing research.

The modern challenges of healthcare require an increasing awareness of the ethical and moral issues that encompass not only the welfare of the patients but also the functioning of health care organizations, and the role of research in society. Health care ethics has also evolved as a crucial component in academic medicine given the related challenges of medical education, training and research. The MU Center for Health Ethics seeks to address these difficult issues through dialogue across multiple related disciplines, as well as in the broader academic and public community.

Until Next Quarter: Disgruntled husband wants his kidney back

In all of the perils of marriage who would ever suppose that the rejuvenation of life that was given to you would ever be recalled? That was indeed the case though in New York according to the BioEdge recent news release. Dr. Richard Batista, a surgeon at Nassau University Medical Center, has requested that his wife (or soon to be ex-wife) give back the kidney he donated many years ago to save her life or, she can buck a measly 1.5 million dollars for restitution.

The marriage apparently began to decline within the first 18 months. Batista claims that his wife was having an affair that has led to his request.

On an ethics level, there is really no debate. Robert Veatch, a world renowned author and medical ethicist at Georgetown University, claims that “It’s her kidney now and...taking the kidney out would mean she would have to go on dialysis or it would kill her” (from BioEdge) logically ruling out the fact that Dr. Batista has any possibility amongst the bioethics community of pleading a successful case.