

# PHEN Communiqué: June 2010

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Dear PHEN Member,

PHEN sends this *PHEN Communiqué* to members on a monthly basis, providing announcements and information on health ethics resources and events. If you do not wish to receive this monthly email bulletin, please reply to this email and write "unsubscribe" in the subject heading.

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## **PHEN Announcements**

### New Look for PHEN's Website

PHEN is pleased to have launched the organization's new website design and invites you to take a look at <http://www.phen.ab.ca> and share your impressions with us. Guided by an independent assessment of the existing website and ongoing feedback from PHEN members and focus groups, PHEN redesigned and restructured the site with a view to making the content and navigation more user-friendly. Thank you to the Wild Rose Foundation for funding this project. Stay tuned for more updates and improvements to the site over the coming months!

### Seeking Your Input on Health Ethics Week Theme

PHEN is currently exploring potential themes for this year's Health Ethics Week, taking place March 7 - 13, 2011, and would really value your input. Please take a look at the suggested themes listed at <http://www.phen.ab.ca/ethicsweek> and let us know if any spark your curiosity, particularly relate to the work that you do or the life that you live, or seem especially relevant and timely. And, of course, please suggest additional themes or variations on those listed!

### Alberta Health Act

In January 2010, the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health recommended that Alberta establish a single piece of legislation – the Alberta Health Act – to set the overall direction for the province's publicly-funded health system. The Government of Alberta is engaging in a public consultation process, asking about core components of the proposed Alberta Health Act, and what that Act should do for the publicly-funded health system. PHEN has compiled some resources about the Act and the public consultation process; to view these resources please visit <http://www.phen.ab.ca/legislation/aha.asp>

### Shared Office Space on 124 Street, Edmonton

PHEN is looking for an individual or organization with which to share the Edmonton office. It would be the ideal space for a consultant, writer, student or small organization that is looking for some quiet workspace. For more information, please contact Amy at [middleton@phen.ab.ca](mailto:middleton@phen.ab.ca) or 780.447.1180

## **Other Announcements and Events**

### Report of UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee (IBC) on Social Responsibility and Health

The Report of the IBC on Social Responsibility and Health has recently been published as part of the series devoted to reflecting on specific principles of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. The report describes the social determinants of health and constraints on health access, elaborates on the ethical and legal dimensions of the principle of social responsibility and health, and presents possible strategies and courses of action to translate the principle of social responsibility and health into specific policies. The report can be viewed online at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001878/187899E.pdf>

### Directory of Individuals Interested in Medical Humanities

The University of Alberta Arts & Humanities in Health & Medicine Program is compiling a directory of faculty members, students and researchers at the University of Alberta as well as Edmonton & area Alberta Health Services staff with interests in arts, humanities and social sciences in health and medicine. To complete the short survey, please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F7QT5ZJ> For more info, please visit <http://cesr.med.ualberta.ca/Home/Education/Programs/ArtsHumanities/directory.cfm> or email [cindy.liu@ualberta.ca](mailto:cindy.liu@ualberta.ca) or [pbrett-maclean@med.ualberta.ca](mailto:pbrett-maclean@med.ualberta.ca)

### International Conference on Ethics and Professionalism

Bangi, Malaysia: December 1 - 2, 2010

The International Conference on Ethics and Professionalism, organized by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and UNESCO, is a broad platform to discuss the disciplinary and interdisciplinary practices related to ethics and professionalism that arise in the context of real world applications. It will highlight what constitutes ethics and professionalism in the context of sustainable science, technology and society. For more info, please visit <http://pkukmweb.ukm.my/icep2010/>

## **Health Ethics in the News**

PHEN posts links to current news articles related to health ethics at <http://www.phen.ab.ca> - a few of the most recent articles are outlined below. Some of these sites require registration with the external website, but registration is free and only needs to be completed once.

### Bioethicists Examine Ethical Oversight in Quality Initiatives

<http://gazette.jhu.edu/2010/06/21/bioethicists-examine-ethical-oversight-in-quality-initiatives/>

### A Prenatal Treatment Raises Questions of Medical Ethics

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1996453,00.html?xid=rss-mostpopular>

### Doctors on the Cutting Edge of Reality

[http://www.boston.com/ae/tv/articles/2010/06/13/boston\\_med\\_bears\\_witness\\_to\\_life\\_and\\_death\\_medical\\_dramas/](http://www.boston.com/ae/tv/articles/2010/06/13/boston_med_bears_witness_to_life_and_death_medical_dramas/)

Merely Human? That's So Yesterday

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/13/business/13sing.html>

Should People Be Paid to Stay Healthy?

<http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/06/14/should-people-be-paid-to-stay-healthy/>

When Patients Meet Online, Are There Side Effects?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/30/business/30stream.html?src=busln>

Q&A with Amy Gutmann of Presidential Commission for Study of Bioethical Issues

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/08/AR2010060805317.html>

The Doctor's Inbox

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jun/07/health/la-he-doctor-emails-20100607>

What Happens When Medical, Religious Ethics Clash?

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2010-06-08-ethics08\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2010-06-08-ethics08_ST_N.htm)

*The PHEN Communiqué is a publication distributed to members. PHEN members are encouraged to forward the Communiqué to their colleagues. If you have a health ethics event or announcement to publicize, please email it to [middleton@phen.ab.ca](mailto:middleton@phen.ab.ca) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of PHEN Communiqué.*