

PHEN Communiqué: January 2009

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.

PHEN Resources and Events

2009 Conference: Building Trust at End-of-Life

PHEN is pleased to announce a partnership with Covenant Health to present the conference *Building Trust at End-of-Life* on May 28, 2009, at the Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton. The theme of the conference reflects the knowledge that critical health care circumstances often give rise to tensions in terms of treatment and care decisions. Patients, loved ones, and health care staff may vary in terms of their hopes, dreams, goals, values, faith, and conceptions of a good life... or a good death. The conference will seek to illuminate these varied perspectives – where beliefs diverge and where they are shared – in order to provide the opportunity to build an ever-stronger foundation of trust between and among health care providers, patients and families at the end of life. For registration details, please stay tuned to the PHEN or Covenant Health website in the coming days!

Survey of Clinical Ethics Committees

As part of a visioning initiative designed to solicit input on what clinical and organizational ethics services could look like in a restructured, post-RHA-amalgamation health system, PHEN is currently facilitating a survey of clinical ethics committees/teams/interest groups in the province. If you are a member of a clinical ethics committee/team/interest group and have not yet received the survey, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/9435yz>. The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2009.

Health Ethics Week 2009

Organizations that are hosting Health Ethics Week events are kindly asked to submit the details of their events to webber@phen.ab.ca for posting on the PHEN website. PHEN will also be issuing a press release and providing information to the media to highlight Health Ethics Week and the activities taking place throughout the province. For more info on Health Ethics Week, events taking place throughout the province, and the theme *Nurturing Respect and Caring in Times of Transition*, please visit <http://www.phen.ab.ca/ethicsweek/> or contact PHEN.

Health Ethics Week Bookings Available With Julie Devaney

PHEN is pleased to announce that Julie Devaney, Performance Artist, will be available to perform and facilitate workshops during Health Ethics Week in March 2009. Her play, *My Leaky Body*, explores clinical interactions in the Canadian health care system from her perspective as a patient. Julie's work is based on years of experience as a patient in the health care system and on her thesis, "*Clinical Encounters: The Politics of My Leaky Body*", written as part of a Master's Degree in Critical Disabilities Studies from York University. Her performances offer thought-provoking insights into the health care system, and are punctuated by irony, reflective commentary, poetry and humour. PHEN can also work with groups to arrange for a post-performance debrief/discussion with an ethicist. To make a booking, please contact Carmen Webber at webber@phen.ab.ca.

2009 & 2010 PHEN Memberships

PHEN members are invited to renew their memberships for 2009 & 2010. Please be reminded that there is no longer a fee for PHEN membership. For more info on the benefits of being a PHEN member and to renew your membership, please visit <http://www.phen.ab.ca/membership/> or contact PHEN.

Ethics Committee Contact Information

PHEN is in the process of updating contact information for all ethics committees in Alberta. Ethics Committee members are asked to visit <http://phen.ab.ca/ecommittees/> to ensure the contact information for their committee is up-to-date. Kindly forward any updates to Lori-Ann Dunphy at dunphy@phen.ab.ca

For Goodness Sake: A Comedy Revue on Why it's Good to be Good!

Are transparency, accountability and ethics (or the lack of them in modern society!) on your organization's mind these days? PHEN is pleased to announce that through a special licensing arrangement, the DVD *For Goodness Sake* is now available for purchase for \$14.99. This DVD takes on the subject of goodness and turns it into a sketch comedy. In a series of light-hearted vignettes, it explores goodness from every angle: what it is, why it's so important, and how you can bring it into your life. Guaranteed to offer some hope amid the recession blues (well, at least for a little while). To order online, visit <http://phen.ab.ca/publications/>

PHEN Programming Advisory Council

In response to its call for members to fill existing vacancies on the PHEN Programming Advisory Council, PHEN is thrilled to have the new members listed below join the team. The Council is an advisory body to PHEN management, providing advice and ideas on ways of implementing the strategic direction established by the PHEN Board, and helping to ensure that PHEN programming and services remain relevant, accessible and timely. We welcome the newest additions and look forward to working with such a talented team in the months and years ahead! New members include:

- Deborah Leonard, Registered Psychiatric Nurse & Therapist, Edmonton
- Jean Graham, Chair, SEARCH Canada and former David Thompson Health Region Chair
- Richard Fraser, External Counsel, Covenant Health
- Gary Goldsand, Clinical Ethicist, Royal Alexandra Hospital

Dr. Sheila Malm

Members of the PHEN staff and board express our condolences to family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Sheila Malm and her husband Gerrit Maureau who passed away suddenly in a plane crash in December 2008. Dr. Malm was a Member of the PHEN Board of Directors from 1996 - 1999 and an Associate Professor at the University of Calgary's Department of Family Medicine and Office of Medical Bioethics. She was instrumental in developing the low risk obstetrics clinic at the University of Calgary, and was a key part of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, where she served as its president and a member of council.

Other Resources and Events

Canadian Bioethics Society Conference Abstract Deadline Extended

The 2009 Canadian Bioethics Society conference planning committee has extended the deadline for abstracts to February 9, 2009. The committee invites proposals for papers, workshops or posters that raise ethical issues around evidence-based knowledge, clinical care, health law, health policy and health related research. Discussions of justice in relation to global, local or clinical health contexts are particularly encouraged. For more info, please visit <http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/bioethicsconference/>

Addressing Ethical Issues in Pandemic Influenza Planning: Discussion Papers

The World Health Organization recently published the document *Addressing Ethical Issues in Pandemic Influenza Planning: Discussion Papers*, consisting of four discussion papers: 1) Equitable Access to Therapeutic and Prophylactic Measures; 2) Isolation, Quarantine, Border Control and Social-Distancing Measures; 3) The Role and Obligations of Health-Care Workers During an Outbreak of Pandemic Influenza; and 4) Pandemic Influenza Planning and Response: Transnational Issues For Governments. To view the report, please visit http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/WHO_HSE_EPR_GIP_2008_2/en/index.html

Friends of University Hospitals' Poetry Contest

The Friends of University Hospitals is seeking entries for its Poetry Contest. Poems in any style on the theme of the hospital experience, health, hope, illness and wellness are welcome. For more info and to submit an entry, please contact Shirley Serviss at shirleyserviss@cha.ab.ca

Call for Abstracts: Bioethics in Asia: Bringing Ethics into Practice

The Organizers of the Tenth Asian Bioethics Conference, to be held in Tehran, Iran, April 26- 29, 2009, invite you to submit abstracts with research findings, discussion papers, and other contributions dealing with topics in bioethics and related disciplines. The language of the conference will be English. For more info, please visit <http://abc10iran.tums.ac.ir/>

Call for Abstracts: The American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH)

The organizers of the 11th Annual Meeting of the ASBH, to be held in Washington, DC, October 15- 18, 2009, invite you to submit proposals in any area of bioethics and humanities. The submission deadline is March 2, 2009. For more info, please visit <http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/callguidelines.html>

Ethos Blog and Podcast

The Ethos Blog and Podcast, a project of the University of Alberta Hospital Ethics Service and John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, is alive and well. To view the latest postings and podcasts, visit <http://www.ethos.ualberta.ca/>.

Meeting the Basic Survival Needs of the World's Least Healthy Populations: Toward a Framework Convention on Global Health

Edmonton: February 10, 2009, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Room 217/219, Telus Centre, University of Alberta

In this presentation, Lawrence Gostin, John Hopkins & Georgetown Universities, explores why rich countries should care about the world's least healthy people, and argues for the adoption of a Framework Convention on Global Health. For more info, please visit <http://www.law.ualberta.ca/centres/hli/events.html> or contact the Health Law Institute at hli@law.ualberta.ca or 780 492-8343.

Is it Time to Ration Acute Care Hospital Beds?

Edmonton: February 13, 2009, 12:00 - 12:45 pm

Room 2-07, Heritage Medical Research Centre, University of Alberta

Presenter: Brendan Leier, Clinical Ethicist, University of Alberta and Stollery Childrens Hospitals, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. For more info, please contact the Dossetor Centre at dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca or 780.492.6676.

Consent, Capacity and Ethics in Health Care Decision-Making

Edmonton: March 5- 6, 2009

This workshop, presented by the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work, will be a practical examination of the ethics, law and challenges of consent and capacity in all aspects of the helping professions. Through interactive case based learning, the dilemmas and challenges that emerge in this area will be thoroughly explored and a model for establishing consent and assessing capacity will be presented. For more info, please visit http://www.fsw.ucalgary.ca/files/fsw/2009_Ethics_in_Health_Care_Edmonton.pdf

Walking the Talk: Ethics & Everyday Practice

Wolfville, Nova Scotia: March 25 & 26, 2009

The Nova Scotia Health Ethics Network's annual conference, *Walking the Talk: Ethics & Everyday Practice*, will encourage reflection on ethics in practice from both individual and organizational perspectives. The conference talks and break-out sessions will tackle key everyday ethics issues in health care, providing an opportunity to increase participants' knowledge and skills for addressing these issues. For more info, please visit <http://www.nshen.ca>

Integrating Ethical Reflection into Practice

Vancouver: March 30 - April 2, 2009

Providence Health Care Ethics Services and the Tapestry Foundation for Health Care are offering their first annual Health Ethics Seminar, entitled *Integrating Ethical Reflection into Practice*. This intensive four day course offered by leaders in bioethics, law and medicine has been designed to help clinicians as well as leaders identify and resolve ethical issues arising in the clinical and organizational contexts of health care. For more info, please visit <http://www.providencehealthcare.org/documents/Integrating-Ethical-Reflection.pdf>

Moral Courage: Living Your Values with Integrity

Vancouver: April 3, 2009

This conference, offered by Providence Health Care Ethics Services, will provide an opportunity to network with others interested in ethical reflection, enjoy informed speakers presenting on important topics, and join in discussions on pivotal issues.

It will be directed towards people working in clinical, administrative, pastoral or service settings. For more info, please

visit <http://www.providencehealthcare.org/documents/Moral-Courage.pdf>

No Longer a Child, Not Yet an Adult: Ethical Issues in Adolescent Healthcare

Seattle, Washington: July 24- 25, 2009

The Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics presents this conference, featuring distinguished guest speakers in the fields of pediatric bioethics, medicine and law who will discuss ethical and controversial issues involved in adolescent health care. For more info, please

visit http://bioethics.seattlechildrens.org/events/pediatric_bioethics_conference/pediatric_bioethics_conference.asp

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.

Welfare agencies can stop life-saving care

<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/story.html?id=1103254>

US health providers' 'conscience' rule to take effect

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-conscience19-2008dec19,0,6352558.story>

US Democrats debate methods to end stem cell ban

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/03/washington/03stem.html?_r=1&hp

Ethics must keep pace with brain imaging

<http://www.thestar.com/living/article/569744>

Bioethicists save organ donation by tweaking the definition of death

<http://blog.wired.com/wiredscience/2009/01/braindeath.html>

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 publicise, please email it to middleton@phen.ab.ca for inclusion in an upcoming issue of PHEN Communiqué.