

PHEN Communiqué: March 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

PHEN Operations

As most readers will be aware, Alberta Health and Wellness recently indicated that it will no longer be providing financial support to PHEN as of April 1, 2009, citing financial constraints and a greater focus on governance over implementation. Alberta Health Services has agreed to provide interim funding to the Network until the end of June 2009 to continue existing operations and provide time for determination of appropriate structures in the province to meet ethics needs. A special thank you to the many members and colleagues who have made expressions of support and offers of assistance over the past several weeks, and to Alberta Health Services for its support and encouragement over this time. Further updates will be provided as discussions continue! In the meantime, please feel free to contact the PHEN Office at any time with your concerns or questions.

Conference: Building Trust at End-of-Life

Registration is open for the upcoming conference *Building Trust at End-of-Life* on May 28, 2009 in Edmonton. The conference, presented by Covenant Health and supported by PHEN, will seek to illuminate varied perspectives of a good life or a good death – 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 visit https://secure.buksa.com/ei/getdemo.ei?id=70&s=_4LC0MSFM8 For more info about the event, please visit http://www.phen.ab.ca/conferences/CovenantHealth_End_of_Life_program.pdf

PHEN Annual General Meeting

PHEN's Annual General Meeting will be held in Edmonton on Friday May 29, 2009. Members will elect a representative to the PHEN Board to fill a vacant position. For nomination forms or information about the election, please contact Lori-Ann Dunphy at dunphy@phen.ab.ca More details about the time and location of the meeting will be distributed to members in the coming weeks.

PHEN Staff Changes

We are sad to report that Carmen Webber, Interim Programming Coordinator, will be completing her one-year maternity leave replacement contract in April. Carmen has been a wonderful and most able addition to the team and will be dearly missed, although we suspect she won't be going very far! Our special thanks to Carmen for all her support during a particularly challenging year. The silver lining to this cloud is that Amy Middleton has managed to pull herself away from the adorable 12-month old Sadie and is back in the saddle at PHEN Headquarters to whip us all into shape (ever so gently). Our best wishes to Carmen and a warm welcome back Amy!

Other Resources and Events

Prenatal Screening: Whose Choice is it Really?

Edmonton: Thursday April 2, 2009, 12 - 1 pm

Room 4511, Children's Centre, Royal Alexandra Hospital (Also available via TeleHealth by contacting your local provider)

Presented by Victoria Seavilleklein, Provincial Health Ethics Network. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to sharon.luyendyk@capitalhealth.ca or 780.735.4195

Moral Issues When the Diagnosis Is Not Clear: Dealing with Uncertainty in the Clinic

Calgary: Thursday April 9, 2009, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Room G382, Health Sciences Centre, University of Calgary, 3330 Hospital Drive NW

Telehealth Locations: Alberta Children's Hospital - Room C2-143; Peter Lougheed Centre - Room 4023; Sunridge - Retail Room

Dr. Chloë Atkins, Associate Professor, Faculty of Communication & Culture, University of Calgary, will discuss the moral and ethical dimensions of medical uncertainty and medical error. For more info, please contact Kiran Pohar Manhas at kpmanhas@ucalgary.ca

Ethics and Culture 4

Edmonton: Thursday April 16, 2009, 12 - 1 pm

Room 4511, Children's Centre, Royal Alexandra Hospital (Also available via TeleHealth by contacting your local provider)

Presented by Gary Goldsand, Ethicist, Royal Alexandra Hospital. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to sharon.luyendyk@capitalhealth.ca or 780.735.4195

DVD Resource: Ethics for the Journey

The Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan recently launched a 4- DVD set entitled *Ethics for the Journey*, intended for those who work or volunteer in an institutional or parish setting. In these four sessions, Fr. Mark Miller explores the history, identity and response of the Christian community to the ill, discussing the unique aspects of palliative care and the very personal exchange of gifts at the end of life. For more info and to order this resource, please contact the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan at 306.655.5330 or cath.health@sasktel.net

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.

QC couple sues hospital for keeping sick baby alive

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090313/montreal_lawsuit_090313/20090313?hub=TopStories

Mother of octuplets spawns legislation limiting embryo implants

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/03/05/octomom.html>

Terminally ill Quebec man seeks right to assisted suicide

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2009/03/06/assited-suicide.html>

The moral imperative to relieve suffering: Embryonic stem cell research

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/susan_brooks_thistlethwaite/2009/03/the_moral_imperative_to_reliev.html

Obama overturns Bush policy on stem cells

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090308/stemcells_policy_090309/20090309?hub=TopStories

When doctors and nurses can't do the right thing

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/06/health/05chen.html?_r=2

Edmonton physician opposes mandatory referrals for abortion

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/edmonton/story/2009/02/22/edm-abortion-referrals.html>

U of T researchers shed light on morality's origins

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090227/disguest_090227/20090227?hub=Health

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.