

PHEN Communiqué: April 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 Funding Update

PHEN continues discussions with Alberta Health Services regarding the organization's role within the province's restructured health system and relationship to AHS. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement during this time. More information will be provided as the discussions unfold. Many members have asked how they can express their support for PHEN to those reviewing our funding arrangement. If you would like further information about how you may do so, please contact us at info@phen.ab.ca or 780.447.1180.

PHEN Annual General Meeting

PHEN's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel in Edmonton on Friday May 29, 2009 from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm. 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

Report: When Healthcare Providers Experience Moral Distress

In 2008, PHEN and the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA) hosted two joint conferences to create a dialogue around moral distress experienced by health care providers. During the September 2008 conference in Edmonton, attendees participated in 'The World Café', a unique conversational process that draws on participants' wisdom and diversity

to see new ways to make a difference in their work and lives. To view a summary of these discussions, please visit http://www.phen.ab.ca/conferences/World_Cafe_Report_Conf_08.pdf

Conference: Building Trust at End-of-Life

This conference on May 28, 2009, presented by Covenant Health and supported by PHEN, will seek to illuminate varied perspectives of a good life or a good death 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

For Goodness Sake DVD Distribution Postponed

In the February 2009 *Communiqué*, PHEN announced that it would be distributing a copy of the DVD *For Goodness Sake* to all PHEN members. Given the current uncertainty about PHEN's operational funding, this has been placed on hold pending further clarity regarding PHEN's operations. We apologize for the inconvenience. If you have any questions about this, please contact Amy at middleton@phen.ab.ca

New PHEN Library Resources

The following resources are recent additions to the PHEN library. All Albertans and PHEN members may borrow these or any other library resources. For more info, please visit <http://www.phen.ab.ca/library%5Fbooks/> or contact PHEN's Edmonton Office.

Bioethics at the Movies

The book *Bioethics at the Movies* by Sandra Shapshay (Ed.) explores the ways in which popular films engage basic bioethics concepts and concerns. Twenty-one philosophically grounded essays use cinematic tools such as character and plot development, scene setting, and narrative framing to demonstrate a range of principles and topics in contemporary medical ethics.

Handbook for Health Care Ethics Committees

Due to considerable demands on their time, health care ethics committee

members may sometimes find it challenging to acquire additional education and skills requisite for fashioning their committee into a more effective resource for their institution. In light of this challenge, the authors have written this book to guide committee members through particular ethical issues as well as committee responsibilities.

The Changing Moral Focus of Newborn Screening

The Changing Moral Focus of Newborn Screening is a white paper of the U.S. President's Council on Bioethics. It explores the changing principles, practice and future of newborn screening, as well as the question of whether newborn screening should be mandatory or elective, or both. The full text of the publication can also be downloaded from http://www.bioethics.gov/reports/newborn_screening/newborn_screening.pdf.

Other Resources and Events

2009 Clinical Ethics Summer Institute (CESI)

Hamilton, ON: July 13- 16, 2009

CESI is an annual forum designed to provide a hands-on, interactive learning environment where you will strengthen your ethics capacity, develop strategies to build your ethics program and become equipped to help your organization meet the Accreditation Canada ethics standards. The theme for CESI 2009 is *Ethics from Boardroom to Bedside*. For more info, please visit <http://www.clinicalethics.ca>

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.

Couple's distress at baby ruling

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7956450.stm

Calgary Bioethicist probes hot issues of the day

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Health/Valerie+Berenyi+Bioethicist+probes+issues/1417970/story.html>

Ethics tricky in transplant matter

<http://www.thestar.com/News/GTA/article/616028>

Let's reopen organ donation debate

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Health/reopen+organ+donation+debate/1481221/story.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.