

Annual Report 2024 - 2025

John Dossetor HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**



**Alberta Health
Services**



**University
Hospital
Foundation**

**John Dossetor
Health Ethics
Centre**



Whether a health professional is a doctor, a nurse, a social worker, or other provider, we have an ethical responsibility to practice with a caring regard for the experiences of others—our patients and colleagues. At the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, we recognize that fundamental to ethics is a concern for whom or what is other to ourselves. We embrace activities that promote ethical understanding and lead to critical reflection on matters of moral concern in the practice and delivery of health care.

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Director's Message

Members of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre support the advancement of interdisciplinary dialogue, community, and scholarship in health ethics. This annual report celebrates the offerings and contributions of the members of the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre for the 2024 / 2025 academic year.

Highlights for this year include the *Death Matters: A Public Dialogue Film Series* lead by Dr. Sarah Anderson which was created in partnership between the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and the Arts & Humanities in Health & Medicine (AHHM) program. This public film series attracted more than 150 attendees to reflect on the challenges and opportunities for meaningful death and dying through the evocative power of film. In comparison, our November 2024 health ethics symposium on *Disability Ethics: Within and Beyond a Canadian Context* lead by Dr. Heidi Janz included over 200 interested parties from across and beyond Alberta. Comparably, our health ethics seminar series, which ran from September 2024 to June 2025, covered a variety of challenging topics in health ethics and health law drawing audiences generally of 50 to 150 participants per seminar. While we include these numbers to highlight engagement, we recognize that even those events we offer with small attendances may be highly significant for attendees as well as the topics they highlight. In this way, we aspire for quality in our offerings. From an education perspective, members of the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre continue to offer small and large group teaching sessions to health professional students spanning the health sciences college. This encompassed not only classroom-based learning in medicine, nursing, and other health sciences programs; it also included experiential learning around challenging cases in clinical environments and student electives in clinical ethics. Finally, many of our members continue to be involved in health ethics related scholarship.

We hope you enjoy reviewing our annual report. As always, we welcome your thoughts, questions, and comments should you desire to share them.



Michael van Manen, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Chair in Health Ethics and Director, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

Vision, Mission, Values

Our Vision

To build dialogue, reflection, and understanding surrounding contemporary issues of health ethics within and beyond the University of Alberta.

Our Mission

To promote ethical engagement, mutual respect, and critical reflection on matters of moral concern in health care. We aim for excellence in four interdependent domains of activity: interdisciplinary scholarship, clinical ethics, health policy consultation, and professional and public health ethics education. Compassion and social justice are cross-cutting themes in all that we do.

Our Values

We embrace the interdisciplinary values of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, the Faculty of Nursing, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and those engaged in health ethics scholarship within and beyond the College of Health Sciences.



History

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre has a rich history rooted in interdisciplinary collaboration in ethics education, research, and clinical service.

The Centre was founded in 1985 by the pioneering physician and bioethicist John Beamish Dossetor. As a member of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Dossetor led an informal Innominate Committee composed of individuals from nursing (Janet Storch, Donna Smith), medicine (David Schiff), chaplaincy (Doug Cossor, Cullene Bryant), law (Ellen Picard, Margaret Shone), and philosophy (Glenn Griener). This group met regularly to discuss challenging clinical cases that exposed the ethics of decision-making. Over time, these meetings spurred planning for a health ethics centre. The Joint Faculties Bioethics Project was launched with the encouragement and support from the Presidents of the University of Alberta, the University Hospitals, the Deans of the health faculties, and the Medical Research Council of Canada in June 1986.

Over the subsequent years, the Joint Faculties Bioethics Project supported interdisciplinary ethics scholarship in education, research, and clinical service. For example, from the cooperation of John Dossetor in medicine, Glenn Griener in philosophy, and Tom Dailey in theology, a clinical ethics curriculum was developed in concert with clinical experts in various medical specialties. A collaborative conference with the Hastings Center bioethics

research institute in 1989 was another highlight from these early years.

In 1990, bioethics was given official status with the creation of the Division of Bioethics. The Division and the Joint Faculties Bioethics Project comprised the *Bioethics Centre*. In January 1998, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to health ethics, the Centre was renamed *The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre*. The change to “health ethics” from “bioethics” indicated a broader focus on ethics across health domains than the more specialized, technical focus of bioethics.

Vangie Bergum, Faculty of Nursing, is a key figure in the history of the Dossetor Centre. Her research situated ethics within human relationships. She explored the experience of mothering, which led to two books: *Woman to Mother. A Transformation* (1989), and *A Child on Her Mind. The Experience of Becoming a Mother* (1997). Her exploration of relational ethics supported an interdisciplinary research project resulting in the 2005 book *Relational Ethics. The Full Meaning of Respect* (coauthored with Dossetor).

Paul Byrne, from the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, has supported the Centre throughout his career at the University of Alberta in clinical ethics; education of students in medicine, nursing, and other health science disciplines; and research projects on such topics as ethical decision making in perinatal medicine.

Wendy Austin, from the Faculty of Nursing, explored core elements of relational ethics and their application in healthcare environments. Her research programs' aims included identifying and exploring relational ethics issues in mental health, developing a relational ethics perspective on research ethics, exploring ways to prepare healthcare practitioners and researchers for ethical practice, and advancing the theoretical basis of relational ethics. Other key individuals from nursing include Janet Kerr, Donna Smith, and Jeanne Van der Zalm.

Dick Sobsey, Educational Psychology, worked to improve healthcare, educational opportunities, and social conditions for people with disabilities and their families. He studied the changes in families that occur as a result of having a child with a significant disability, focusing on positive changes. And he explored ethical and human rights issues, particularly as they are related to people with disabilities.

Gary Goldsand, Brendan Leier, and other clinical ethicists have supported the development of

ethics education, public engagement, and other centre activities. Through the years, the Dossetor Centre has been linked to clinical ethics service delivery as members develop scholarship in ethics to clinical practice.

The Dossetor Centre would not have survived without the commitment and work of administrative leads such as Carol Nahorniak, who has managed the Centre over the years.

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre came under the aegis of the Coordinating Council of Health Sciences (renamed Health Sciences Council in 2001) until it moved under the Faculty of Medicine in 2010. Throughout its history, the Centre has benefited from interdisciplinary collaboration, including but not limited to, Nursing, Medicine, Rehabilitation Medicine, Law, Philosophy, and Spiritual Care through its history. The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre is the only interdisciplinary, academic ethics centre in Alberta, and one of the first in Canada.

Directors of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre (JDHEC)

John Dossetor	1986 - 1998	Director, Joint-Faculties Bioethics Project (1986), Division of Biomedical Ethics (1990), and Bioethics Centre (1995), First Chair in Bioethics, University of Alberta (1996 - 1998)
Vangie Bergum	1997 - 2002	Co-Director, JDHEC (1997 - 1999), Director, JDHEC (1999 - 2002)
Paul Byrne	1997 - 2016	Co-Director, JDHEC (1997 - 1999), Interim Director, JDHEC (2002 - 2006, 2010 - 2016)
Dick Sobsey	2006 - 2010	Director, JDHEC
Gary Goldsand	2016 - 2019	Director, JDHEC
Michael van Manen	2020 -	Director, JDHEC

Members

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre benefits from an interdisciplinary core faculty that steers and supports the Centre's mandate. These individuals contribute their energy, time, and expertise to promoting activities within and beyond the University of Alberta that lead to ethical engagement, mutual respect, and critical reflection on matters of moral concern in health care. While each has their domains of expertise in health ethics, it is their combined efforts that support the Centre.



Michael van Manen, MD, PhD, FRCPC(Peds, NICU, CIP)

Director, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta
Chair in Health Ethics

Michael is the Director of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. He also has a clinical practice as a physician in neonatal-perinatal medicine with the Stollery Children's Hospital. His research is primarily concerned with relational ethics, situated within the tradition of phenomenology. Michael is considered an international expert in qualitative health research. His research projects relate to ethical decision-making, the experiential life of the fetus/newborn, the use of medical technologies in clinical encounters, and patient-family experiences of hospital care. Michael is the chair of the Canadian Paediatric Society Bioethics Committee.



Carol Nahorniak, BSc

Administrator, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta

Carol is the Administrator for the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, managing the Dossetor Centre's operations, business, and overall community outreach marketing. She is responsible for the Centre's financial, administrative, and human resource management. Carol is Assistant Editor for the newsletter, *Health Ethics Today*, responsible for the Centre's website management, coordination of the annual Health Ethics Seminar series, and planning and organizing symposia and workshops.



Sarah Anderson, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, Assistant Professor,
Division of Critical Care Medicine, University of Alberta

Sarah is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Critical Care Medicine and Adjunct Assistant Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre at the University of Alberta. She completed an NIH-funded postdoctoral research fellowship and a Master of Science in Health Services Research at the University of Pittsburgh and a Bioethics Fellowship at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics. Her research focuses on ethical decision-making in critical illness and enhancing patient and family-centered care across the critical care journey. She also serves as the Ethics Co-Chair for the Canadian Critical Care Society.



Tracey Bailey, BA, LLB, KC

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Tracey Bailey has over 30 years' experience in providing legal, legislative, policy, and ethics advice on a wide range of issues in health law. Tracey is a recognized expert in Life Sciences & Health in The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory. She has worked in both public and private practice settings, including as Corporate Counsel for Alberta Health, and General Counsel Health Law for Alberta Justice and Solicitor General. She also served in an academic position for close to a decade as Executive Director of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta where she conducted a wide range of legal and law reform projects, working locally, provincially, nationally and internationally on a broad range of issues in health law; edited a peer-reviewed publication; taught extensively in the health professional faculties and the law faculty; published on a wide range of topics; conducted media interviews; organized national health law conferences; and provided outreach education for the public and others. In addition to her current work with the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, she is Associate Counsel with Miller Thomson LLP where she advises health system and health professional clients.



Heidi Janz, PhD

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Associate Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry,
University of Alberta

Heidi specializes in Disability Ethics. She is also active in disability rights advocacy at a national level. In her “other life,” she is a writer/playwright and filmmaker. Her creative work focusses on making the experiences of people with disabilities accessible to audiences made up of both people with disabilities and people who are temporarily able-bodied.



Doris Kieser, PhD

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Associate Professor & Dean, St. Joseph’s College, University of Alberta

Doris is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Theology at St. Joseph’s College, the Catholic College at the University of Alberta. Doris teaches ethics and theology in the areas of bioethics, sexuality, death & dying, the body, and women & spirituality. She is also a counselling therapist who maintains a small practice in Edmonton, working with adolescent girls, adult women and men, and couples. Her research and writing include elements of both theology and psychology, moral and ethical decision-making, and human flourishing. All of her work reflects a particular commitment to social justice and the wellbeing of females.



Brendan Leier, PhD

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Brendan earned his doctorate from the Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta, in 2002. He served for decades as the Clinical Ethicist at the University of Alberta and Stollery Children’s Hospitals and Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute. He is an Adjunct Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. Brendan is presently doing research on the topics of pediatric best interest, psychedelics, moral distress, end-of-life decision-making, transplant ethics, ethics of medical technology, compassion in the practice of medicine, risk and decision-making.



Gillian Lemermeyer, RN, MN, PhD

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta

Gillian Lemermeyer, PhD, RN is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta. Gillian's research explores the embodied ethics of healthcare practices, investigating questions situated in the relational encounters between nurses and other healthcare professionals with the people in their care. Her nursing background is in neonatal intensive care, family bereavement, and professional regulation.

Her research program is focused on themes of relational ethics, the nurse's touch, and the ethics of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Methodological approaches include phenomenology and other qualitative methods. Current projects include the technoethics of electronic health record systems and AI scribes in the emergency department.



Cheryl Mack, MD

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta

Cheryl is an anesthesiologist and pediatric palliative care specialist. Cheryl is the past chair of clinical ethics for the Stollery Children's Hospital, Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, WCM Health Science Centre, and Kaye Edmonton Clinic. She has over 20 years of experience in clinical ethics, professional ethics, and organizational ethics. Her interests include supporting families facing complex medical journeys and the associated challenges with decision making that often accompany these experiences.

Advance care planning and the support of surrogate decision makers is an area of special focus. Academically, some of her current areas of research include drug policy ethics, MAiD legislation and implementation, moral distress and healthcare worker wellbeing, and the ethics of advocacy.

Adjunct Members

Adjunct members of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre comprise a network of practitioners, researchers, and other individuals undertaking and supporting health ethics scholarship. These members make themselves consistently available to support Dossetor activities.



Khaldoon Algerian, MD, MHSc, FCAP, FRCPC

Clinical Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology,
University of Alberta

Khaldoon is a clinical professor of pathology at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and adjunct professor at the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. Khaldoon is a certified pathologist by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and Ontario. As well, he is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada and the College of American Pathologists. Dr. Algerian is currently a pathologist at the division of

Anatomical Pathology, University of Alberta Hospital, Alberta Health Services, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He specializes in autopsy and it has paved the pathway to his Master of Ethics at the Joint centre of Bioethics, University of Toronto. Khaldoon speaks for the dead (as one of the underprivileged "human" categories) and they speak for the living!



Florence Ashley, BCL/JD, LLM (Bioeth), SJD

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta

Florence is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law and Adjunct Member of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. As a transdisciplinary transfeminine scholar, Florence researches a diverse range of topics relating to transgender communities, with a particular emphasis on law and clinical ethics. Earlier in their career, Florence served as the first openly transfeminine law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada. Their widely published writings have been cited by the Supreme Court of Canada, in

international standards of care, and in United Nations reports. They are the author of *Banning Transgender Conversion Practices: A Legal and Policy Analysis* (UBC Press, 2022). Florence uses they/them pronouns.



Peter Brindley, MD, FRCPC, FRCP (Edin), FRCP (Lond)

Professor, Division of Critical Care Medicine, University of Alberta

Peter is first and foremost a critical care physician. He is a Professor of Critical Care Medicine, Adjunct Professor of Anesthesiology, and Adjunct Professor, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. His interests and publications centre on various aspects of resuscitation, including the importance of crisis management and human factors, the use of simulation, and practical insights that improve teamwork during acute care. Peter is a founding member of the Canadian Resuscitation Institute and its vice-chair. He is Western Canada's representative for the Royal College of Edinburgh, and North American Ambassador for Continuous Medical Education. He was first visiting scholar for the Intensive Care Society of the UK. He is secretary of the Canadian Critical Care Society. Peter is also co-producer of the successful *Critical Care Commute Podcast*. Since launching in 2022, he has co-produced a total of 80 episodes, which have grown into a recognized platform across the critical care community.



Rose M. Carter, LLB, KC

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Rose brings more than 30 years' experience in the health law field. She assists companies, medical practitioners, as well as scientific professionals, navigate the regulatory requirements of private and public practice, including assisting physicians wishing to expand their practices in to the field of Non-Hospital Surgical Facilities and Telemedicine. Rose has appeared before all levels of courts in Alberta, as well as before various administrative law tribunals. To complement her law practice, Rose devotes substantial time as an active and valuable member of the legal and medical community. She also serves the medical communities across Canada as an executive member of the Medical Council of Canada, Chair of its Appeals Committee, and as Vice Chair of its Finance Committee. She is also a council member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.



Sadie Deschenes, RN, PhD

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta

Sadie is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Nursing and Adjunct Assistant Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta. Her research interests include ethics, moral distress, intervention development, healthcare professional retention, and improving Indigenous Peoples' health in the critical care setting. Sadie has clinical experience as a registered nurse in pediatric critical care and outpatient neurology.



Kathryn Dong, MD, MSc, FRCP, DRCSPC

Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Alberta

Kathryn is an addiction medicine physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. She co-developed and was the medical lead for the Addiction Recovery and Community Health (ARCH) Team, an addiction medicine consult service that was first implemented at the RAH in 2014. Prior to this, she worked as an emergency physician at the RAH and Stollery Children's hospital. Kathryn is currently the Alberta Health Services Chair in

Emergency Medicine Research and the Social Accountability Lead for the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta. Her research and advocacy work focuses on improving acute care medical services for people who use substances.



Katherine Duthie, PhD, HEC-C

Clinical Ethicist, Northern Zone, Alberta Health Services

Assistant Clinical Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Katherine is a Clinical Ethicist providing frontline clinical ethics consultation at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, as well as provincial level-support on various projects and initiatives. She also provides consultant health ethics services to various organizations across Canada with a special focus on ethics analyses for health technology assessment. Katherine was the

advising ethicist on the British Columbia Health Technology Assessment Committee, and provides ethics support for the Cancer Committee for the Health Research Ethics Boards of Alberta.



Charl Els, MBChB, FCPsych, MMedPsych, DipABAM, ACBOM, FIAIME
Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Alberta
Clinical Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Alberta

Charl is a fellowship-trained Psychiatrist, Addiction Specialist, and Occupational Physician. He serves as a Clinical Professor at both the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Medicine. He has authored numerous publications, including several clinical practice guideline sets and four Cochrane systematic reviews. Charl serves on the Advisory Board of Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH), the

2019 recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice. Most recently, he was a recipient of the QE II Platinum Jubilee Award for his contribution to mental health. He is employed as Assistant Registrar (Continuing Competence) at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.



Gary Frank, BA, BEd, RN
Palliative Care Nurse Consultant, Royal Alexandra Hospital and
University of Alberta Hospital
Clinical Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Gary has been a palliative care nurse consultant and resource nurse at the University of Alberta Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital for the past twenty years. Prior to that, Gary worked as a hospice manager, community palliative care consultant, bedside nurse, psychiatric nurse, and Special Education teacher over the first twenty years of his career. He has served

on the Clinical Ethics Committees of both the University of Alberta Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Gary retired from his full-time nursing position in July 2023. He still works casual as a palliative care nurse consultant at the University of Alberta Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital.



Daniel Garros, MD, FRCPC
Clinical Professor, Division of Pediatric Critical Care, Department of
Pediatrics, University of Alberta

Daniel has been a staff pediatric intensivist for more than 20 years at the Stollery Children's hospital; he is responsible for the PICU data base and co-leads the Quality & Safety council. His research interests are moral distress, end-of-life care, supporting health care professionals, and palliative care. He has volunteered around South America helping to support pediatric cardiac surgery programs. His background includes

Bioethics at Georgetown University and Critical Incident Stress Management and Quality and Safety in Health Care training at University of Calgary.



Gary Goldsand, BA, MA

Clinical Ethicist, Regina and Integrated Rural Health Saskatchewan Health Authority

Gary is a Clinical Ethicist in Regina and Integrated Rural Health Saskatchewan Health Authority, and an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. He was the previous director of the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. Areas of interest include ethics education and clinical ethics. He currently practices health ethics in Regina, for the Saskatchewan Health Authority,

and teaches clinical ethics and communications to residents in Internal Medicine, in a 2-week intensive course, offered five times annually.



Maria Begoña Errasti Ibarrodo, PhD

Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, Universidad de Navarra, Spain

Begoña is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Nursing, Universidad de Navarra. Her research is focused on the nurse-patient relationship at the end-of-life; the education of nursing students and generalist nurses for providing person-centered care to people living with advanced or terminal illnesses; and phenomena that are central to health care employing a phenomenological method. Her teaching practice is in pathophysiology, the nurse-patient relationship, and qualitative research.



Elaine Hyshka, BA, MA, PhD

Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Health Systems Innovation, School of Public Health

Elaine is appointed as an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Health Systems Innovation at the University of Alberta's School of Public Health. Her research spans both health services and systems and population health pillars, and focuses on advancing a public health approach to substance use. Her program leverages her interdisciplinary background and diverse methodological experience to generate new

knowledge that advances health systems innovation and improves health outcomes in partnership with people with lived experience of substance use, poverty, and homelessness; healthcare providers; health authorities; civil society organizations; and governments at all levels.



Irehobhude Iyioha, LLB, LLM, BL, PhD

Associate Professor, Peter A. Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia

Irehobhude is an Associate Professor and the inaugural holder of the *UBC Professorship in Race and Access to Justice* at the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia; an Associate at the Department of Philosophy at Harvard University; and a Full Professor (adj.) at the Dossetor Centre. She has taught at the Faculties of Law at Western University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Alberta,

and currently teaches and supervises students at York University's Osgoode Hall Law School in the Executive Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program. She previously served as an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Victoria, and as an Associate Adj. Professor at the Dossetor Centre from 2017 to 2022. She currently teaches and supervises students at York University's Osgoode Hall Law School in the Executive Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program.



Ari Joffe, MD, FRCPC

Clinical Professor, Division of Pediatric Critical Care, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta

Ari is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. He is an attending physician in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine. He has interests in animal ethics [e.g., is it morally permissible to perform harmful animal research? (no)], and the definition of death [e.g., is brain death the state of death of the human organism? (no), and is the donation after circulatory death donor dead when organ removal starts? (no)]. His other research interests

are in long-term outcomes in children having complex interventions in the pediatric intensive care unit, focusing on potentially modifiable acute care variables that may lead to improved decision making and outcomes. He has published broadly on these topics and others.



Stewart MacLennan, RN, NP, PhD

Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta

Stewart is an Associate Teaching Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta and Nurse Practitioner in Alberta Health Services Correctional Healthcare. In addition, Stewart is an Adjunct Associate Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. He is presently interested in understanding and improving subjective experiences of pain amongst people who are incarcerated, applying relational ethics to complex correctional healthcare practice situations, and developing effective therapeutic relationships in distrustful milieus.



Graham Mah, MD, FRCPC

Clinical Lecturer, Division of Critical Care Medicine, University of Alberta

Graham is a specialist in General Internal Medicine and Adult Critical Care practicing in Edmonton. Graham is also a Clinical Lecturer with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. He is currently completing a MSt in Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford. Graham's personal interest in ethics is broad but he has a special professional interest in the areas of healthcare resource allocation and the ethical issues surrounding end of life care.



Austin Mardon, PhD, CM, FRSC

Associate Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry,
University of Alberta

Austin's work in ethics focuses on mental illness, faith, homeless, medication, and income support. He has provided leadership as a member of the board of directors of both the Edmonton and Alberta chapters of the Schizophrenia Society, and for a number of years he was coordinator of the Alberta Mental Health Self-Help Network. He currently serves as a patient advisor to the Glenrose Hospital. Austin has received numerous awards including, the Flag of Hope Award (2001), the Order of Canada (2007), the Bill Jefferies Family Award of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada (2007), the C.M. Hincks Award from the national division of the Canadian Mental Health Association (2007), and the Medal of Honour of the Alberta Medical Association (2010). In 2014, Austin was granted Specially Elected Fellow, Royal Society of Canada. Recently, Austin received NASA's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Medal (2024) and 9 honorary degrees.



Catherine Mardon, DCSS, JD

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry,
University of Alberta

Catherine is a retired attorney whose former practice included representing the homeless, the disabled, and those with mental illnesses. She is an author of 36 books which have been translated into over a dozen languages. She has over 30 years' experience in board governance. She currently serves as a patient advisor to the Glenrose Hospital and on their Medical Ethics Board. Her advocacy on behalf of those with mental illnesses and disabilities was recognized by, the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction's True Grit Award in 2016, the Sovereign's Medal in 2018, and was invested as a Dame Commander of the Order of St. Sylvester in 2017, a Papal Knighthood.



Eric Mathison, PhD, HEC-C

Clinical Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Eric is a clinical ethicist. He also does ethics consulting for hospital systems, non-governmental organizations, private companies, and governments. Eric's research interests include patient-centred care, assisted dying, the ethics of emerging technologies, and clinical practice.



Jamie Robertson, PhD, HEC-C

Clinical Ethicist, Northern Zone, Alberta Health Services

Clinical Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Jamie is Clinical Ethicist serving the University of Alberta Hospital, the Stollery Children's Hospital, and Alberta Hospital Edmonton. She has a doctorate in philosophy from York University and completed a Fellowship in Clinical and Organizational Ethics through the Centre for Clinical Ethics. She has provided healthcare ethics support in a range of environments in both Ontario and Alberta including academic health sciences centres, community hospitals, long-term care, community care, and specialized mental health facilities. Her role involves supporting careful consideration of ethical issues that emerge in clinical and organizational decision-making.



Andrew Ross, PhD

Clinical Ethicist, Alberta Health Services

Clinical Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Andrew D. Ross, PhD is the Clinical Ethicist serving the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton Zone Suburban and Rural Acute Care, Community Mental Health & Addictions, and Emergency Medical Services. Andrew joined the Alberta Health Services Clinical Ethics Service in 2017, having previously worked at the Covenant Health Ethics Centre and at the University of Melbourne Office for Research Ethics and Integrity. He completed his doctoral studies in philosophy at Queen's University under the supervision of Prof. Udo Schüklenk, where he wrote his dissertation on exploitation of developing-country participants in for-profit clinical drug trials. In addition to Clinical Ethics, he has a longstanding interest in Research Ethics. A native Calgarian who now calls Edmonton home, Andrew has also lived in Red Deer, Kingston, Montréal and Melbourne (Australia).



Victoria Seavilleklein, BA, MA, PhD, HEC-C

Clinical Ethicist, Central Zone, Alberta Health Services

Clinical Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Victoria is a Clinical Ethicist with Alberta Health Services, with the primary responsibility of serving the Central Zone. Her role includes ethics consultation, education, policy review, and support for organizational initiatives. Victoria holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy, specializing in Bioethics, from Dalhousie University, an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Calgary, and a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Victoria. She is a Clinical Lecturer with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre at the University of Alberta and a regular guest lecturer at Red Deer College. Victoria is currently the elected Membership Officer on the Canadian Bioethics Society Executive.



Samuel Stewart, MD, FRCPC, PgD

Clinical Lecturer, Division of Critical Care Medicine, University of Alberta

Samuel is a pediatric cardiac intensivist at the Stollery. Sam completed medical school and pediatric residency in Ontario prior to moving to Alberta for his ICU fellowships. He has received postgraduate training at the University of Oxford's Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics.



Patsy Steinhauer, PhD, MEd, BEd

Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta

Patsy is a member of Saddle Lake Cree Nation, the community where she was raised and educated. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Policy Studies and cross-appointed to the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (ATEP). She is also a professor in the Indigenous Peoples Education Specialization. Her research interests include First Nations Treaty education and policy, language contexts and intelligences, Indigenous pedagogy, and theory and curricular approaches.

Dr. Steinhauer has over 15 years of combined experience as a classroom teacher and school principal. Her 9 years of service in educational administrative and leadership roles were in Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Enoch Cree Nation, NorQuest College, Alberta Education and ATEP.



Kunimasa Suzuki, PhD

Manager, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Core Facility,
Alberta Diabetes Institute, University of Alberta

Kunimasa (Kuni), Manager Molecular Biology and Biochemistry core facility, Alberta Diabetes Institute, has extensive experience working on basic and medical sciences research. Kuni's main areas of expertise are protein chemistry, molecular biology, endocrinology and immunology. Currently, Kuni is also a research associate in two research laboratories in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, carrying out diabetes and contact

dermatitis research. Based on his expertise and experience, Kuni acts as a bridge between health ethics researchers and life science researchers to provide insights of the constantly emerging novel medical therapies and treatments.



Derrek Truscott, PhD, RPsych

Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta

Derek Truscott is a Professor, Director of Counselling Training in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta, and a Registered Psychologist. He is the author of three books, *Ethics for the Practice of Psychology in Canada*, *Ethics and Law for Teachers*, and *Becoming an Effective Psychotherapist*, as well as many book chapters, articles, and conference presentations on the topic of being a good—that is, ethical and effective—psychologist. He has practiced, researched, taught, lectured,

and written about professional psychology for over thirty-five years.



Monique Visser, BScN, CCAC, MBE

Clinical Ethicist, Alberta Health Services

Clinical Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta

Monique Visser is a Clinical Ethicist with Alberta Health Services supporting Public Health, Home Care, Hospice, Continuing Care Facility Living, Continuing Care Supportive Living, and Corrections within the Edmonton Zone. She practiced as a registered nurse in several communities across

Canada and in Saudi Arabia. She worked primarily in high acuity acute care settings and completed a graduate certificate in critical care (CCAC). Monique's academic background also includes a Master of Bioethics (MBE) from Harvard Medical School and further ethics training with the Alberta Health Services two-year clinical ethics fellowship. She is also on the Executive Board of the Canadian Bioethics Society/ Societe Canadienne de bioethique. Her research areas of interest include exploring moral distress and the role of ethics education as part of preventative ethics.



Eric Wasylenko, MD, MSc, CCFP(PC), MHSc (bioethics)

Clinical Associate Professor, Division of Palliative Medicine, Department of Oncology, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Eric is a clinical ethicist and a retired palliative care physician. He has an extensive portfolio of past leadership and advisory roles, policy and program creation and speaking resume. He continues to be involved in advocacy, education and advisory roles regarding end of life care, ethics, and physician resource planning. Eric co-created Alberta's novel Goals of Care Designation mechanism. He co-led the development of a community-

owned non-profit, free-standing rural hospice in Southern Alberta. Eric served on the teams that developed the current Canadian Medical Association's Code of Ethics and Professionalism and the current Alberta Pharmacist's Code of Ethics.

Clinical Service

Ethics are fundamental to the clinical delivery of health care. At times, we recognize ethics when health care professionals or their patient-families are faced with difficult choices in the course of treatment. Other times, it is situations of uncertainty that necessitate the services of clinical ethics.

Clinical ethics services help patients, families, and health care providers address such questions as: What is the right thing to do? How should a decision be made? Does a reasonable compromise? In addressing these questions, clinical ethics services aim for compassion, accountability, respect, excellence, and safety.

Since its inception, the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre has supported the delivery of clinical ethics to the University of Alberta Hospital, and, over the years, specifically at the Mazankowski Heart Institute, Stollery Children's Hospital, Walter McKenzie Health Sciences Centre, and Edmonton Clinic. That said, Clinical Ethics at the University of Alberta Hospital is a distinct entity to the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre under the umbrella of Alberta Health Services.

Members of the John Dossetor Ethics Centre who also serve as clinical ethicists or members of clinical ethics committees may use themes identified from clinical ethics to serve the Centre's mandates of education, engagement, and scholarship.

compassion
accountability
respect
excellence
safety

Education

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre supports ethics education within and beyond the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

Classroom-based Ethics Teaching

Undergraduate Health Ethics Seminar Teaching The Dossetor Centre offers instructional academic sessions on medical ethics teaching. These sessions are directly related to ethics content requirements for accreditation in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Members of the Dossetor Centre also support ethics education in Nursing and other disciplines at the University of Alberta and St. Joseph's College.

Postgraduate Health Ethics Seminar Teaching The Dossetor Centre offers instructional academic half-days sessions for residency and subspecialty residency programs. These sessions are focused to the needs of the residents. This also includes an annual 2-week health ethics course to internal medicine residents.

Graduate Courses in Health Ethics In collaboration with the Faculty of Nursing, the Dossetor Centre offers two semester courses in health ethics on a biannual basis: Healthcare Ethics (INT D 570) is an interdisciplinary course exploring selected topics in bioethics. It includes examination of ethical theories and principles within the context of clinical practice (nursing, medicine, rehabilitation medicine, dentistry, pharmacy) and learning experiences to improve moral reasoning and ethical decision making. Research Ethics (INT D 670) examines the ethical issues which arise in research involving human subjects. Research methods studied may include clinical trials, surveys, secondary analysis of stored data, and the observation of public behavior. Problems encountered in studying particular populations, such as children or persons with dementia, will also be studied. Faculty of the Dossetor Centre also support the delivery of other graduate courses in health ethics such as Contemporary Issues in Healthcare Ethics and Law (NURS 422).

Clinical Ethics Teaching

Undergraduate Health Ethics Electives The Dossetor Centre Health Ethics Electives are the only undergraduate health ethics elective offered in Canada. The options range from: a reading course accompanied by discussions of the ethics issues in the literature (e.g., issues in reproductive ethics, geriatrics, neonatal problems, or human experimentation); direct experience of a specific practical problem in health care ethics by first-hand exposure; or, a combination of these. Students normally focus their conclusions by writing a position paper in the last week of the elective.

Postgraduate Health Ethics Electives The Dossetor Centre offers ethics electives to residents and subspecialty residents. Interested graduate students may also partake in health ethics electives.

Dossetor-Associated Graduate Students



Shelley Grauman, MN, RN, NP
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing,
University of Alberta

Shelley Grauman graduated from the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta in spring of 2025. Shelley's capstone project is titled What's a Baby Nurse to Say? The Relational Ethics of Nurse Dialogue in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Specifically, Shelley explored the experience of everyday conversational encounters in the NICU through the literature, parent memoir, and her own experiences. She reflected on these findings alongside the elements of the relational ethics approach of Bergum and Dossetor.



Janine Chesworth, MA, PhD(c)
Graduate Studies, Department of Educational Psychology,
University of Alberta

Janine Chesworth is a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). Her early education classroom experience has included both co-teaching and consulting in addition to clinical education at the University of Alberta. She also has special interests in Developmental Trauma and motor speech disorders including Childhood Apraxia of Speech, Oral Myofunctional disorders and Developmental Dysarthria. Since 2013, Janine has provided early-learning SLP to Indigenous communities both on and off reserve. It is within these settings that Janine was inspired to pursue the work of researching relational ethics within professional SLP practice. She is currently a doctoral student in Special Education in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta. Through the human science lens of phenomenology, her proposed study seeks to better understand the lived experiences of Indigenous children and their families receiving SLP care.



Michelle Gagnon, RN, MN

Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing, University of British Columbia

Michelle Gagnon is a Registered Nurse who graduated from the Bilingual Nursing Program at the University of Alberta in 2012. With a background in emergency and adult intensive care, she has worked with patients of varying acuities, often including those who are critically ill, unstable, and have complex medical needs. It was during this time that she witnessed the moral complexities involved in this bedside care and was encouraged to learn more on the topic of moral distress and relational ethics through graduate school. Her research seeks to understand the moral distress experiences of pediatric intensive care unit nurses related to the death and dying of child patients.

Engagement

For the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, engagement expresses supporting community spaces for discussion and reflection on past, contemporary, and anticipated health ethics issues. The Centre hosts such activities to include practicing and in-training physicians, nurses, social workers, and other frontline healthcare professionals, patients and their families, scholars, students, as well as interested public members.

Health Ethics Seminars These events focus on emerging issues in healthcare. The speakers are usually affiliated with various healthcare disciplines, programs, and institutions, and have special expertise, practice, and/or academic knowledge about specific ethical issues. A number of our seminars explore themes related to health ethics and/or intersections with health law.

September 19, 2024	A Gestalt Theory of Psychedelic Experience	Brendan Leier
October 3, 2024	Tiptoeing Around Pandemic Ethics in 2024: Is it too Soon?	Gary Goldsand
October 31, 2024	The Cemetary Fence and Obstacles to Health Care Faced by the Dead	Khaldoon Algerian
November 14, 2024	Alberta's Health Professions Act and Sexual Impropriety Allegations	Rose Carter
November 28, 2024	Ethical Considerations for Understanding Disability in Medicine	Hussain Alhussainy
December 12, 2024	Rendering Visible: Mapping the Systemic Implications of "Birth Alerts" for Indigenous Women and Children	Tibetha Kemble
January 16, 2025	Short-Acting Opioids for People with Opioid Use Disorder in Acute Care Settings	Katherine Duthie & Kathryn Dong
February 13, 2025	Freedom of Expression and Regulatory Reach in Health Care: An Ethics View	Eric Wasylenko
February 27, 2025	"The Palliative Mystique" Reflections on: "What is Good Palliative Care?"	Gary Frank
March 13, 2025	Informed Consent: Past, Present & Future	Sam Stewart
April 10, 2025	From Division to Dialogue: Pluralism as a Path Forward	Tehseen Ladha
April 24, 2025	Relational Ethics, Relativism, and Healthcare Decision-Making	D. Stewart MacLennan

May 8, 2025	Government Support Programs for Disabled People: Charity vs. Rights-based Approaches	Heidi Janz
May 22, 2025	2025 - An AI Odyssey: Ethical Dimensions of AI-Mediated Communications in Medicine	Sarah Andersen
June 5, 2025	Ethical Debates at the Frontier of Organ Donation: Normothermic Regional Perfusion	Jamie Robertson & Andrew Ross
June 19, 2025	Special Seminar: Intersections of Health Ethics and Health Law in Matters of Conscientious Objection	Speakers: Eric Adams, Cheryl Mack & Brendan Leier Host: Michael van Manen

Health Ethics Symposium The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre offers an annual symposium on a contemporary issue in health care practice. For the 2024/2025 year, the symposium theme was *Disability Ethics: Within and Beyond A Canadian Context*. Speakers included Joel Michael Reynolds, Chloë G. K. Atkins, C. Dalrymple-Fraser, Isabel Grant, Nancy Hansen, Heidi Janz, Carrielynn Lund, Marghalara Rashid, Sebastian Straube, Gregor Wolbring, and Michael van Manen.



HEALTH ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

Disability Ethics: *Within and Beyond a Canadian Context*



Thursday, 21 November 2024
Time: 1:00 - 4:30 PM MST
Virtual presentations via Zoom application
Pre-Registration Required
FREE! Everyone WELCOME!


[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Death Matters: A Public Dialogue Film Series was created in partnership between the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and the Arts & Humanities in Health & Medicine (AHHM) program, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta to foster thoughtful dialogue between members of the public, health professionals, researchers, and ethicists exploring the challenges and opportunities for meaningful death and dying through the evocative power of film and to reduce the stigma and isolation surrounding death and bereavement. This project was created with generous support from Science in the Cinema, the Vitreous Film Festival, the Kule Institute for Advanced Studies, and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. The 2024 / 2025 year enjoyed two public screen events including ***Death is But a Dream*** (November 17, 2024) at the Metro Cinema, Garneau Theatre, and ***Extremis*** and ***End Game*** (February 1, 2025) at the Muttart Theatre, Stanley Milner Public Library.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

Science IN THE Cinema

ASK A HEALTH RESEARCHER: IS IT SCIENCE OR FICTION?



Death is But a Dream (2021)

Sunday
November 17, 2024
3:30 - 5:45 PM
(doors open at 3:00 PM)

FREE
admission & popcorn

Metro Cinema
at the
Garneau Theatre

8712 - 109 Street
Edmonton

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA KIAS | Kule Institute for Advanced Studies AHHM

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Media and Public Inquiries Faculty and Adjunct Members of the Dossetor Ethics Centre respond to a variety of health ethics inquiries from academics, health care professionals, the general public, national and local press, and radio and television media. The responses have appeared as feature articles in local media (Edmonton Journal and the University of Alberta’s Folio) and national media (Globe and Mail, CTV, CBC Radio and TV) on a variety of health ethics issues.



Canadian Bioethics Society–Société Canadienne de Bioéthique (CBS–SCB) The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre is a supporting organization of the CBS–SCB. The CBS–SCB is a national, member-driven, registered charity serving as a forum for individuals interested in sharing ideas relating to bioethics. The CBS–SCB provides resources and opportunities for dialogue to help individuals, organizations and societies explicitly identify, explore, and make decisions on bioethics issues. Members of the CBS–SCB are engaged in a wide variety of activities including research in bioethics; health policy; bioethics teaching and education; research ethics; delivery and planning of health and health care; and public engagement and consultation on bioethics issues, and more. The Dossetor Centre is proud to be a supporting organization of CBS–SCB, and that a number of its adjunct members serve in various CBS–SCB capacities to advance its work.

Publications

Since 1990, the John Dossetor Centre has been publishing *Health Ethics Today*. This newsletter has a circulation of approximately 5000, which includes distribution to many physicians and surgeons across Alberta, health care professionals, scholars, students, members of the Canadian Bioethics Society, and friends of the Dossetor Centre. Each issue of *Health Ethics Today* is posted on the Dossetor Centre’s website.



Volume 32, Number 1, June 2025

Editor’s Forum

Michael van Manen, MD, FRCPC, PhD
Endowed Chair in Health Ethics and Director, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre;
Associate Professor, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Department of Paediatrics, University of Alberta.

Each year, the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre organizes a symposium on a contemporary topic for healthcare practice. We aspire for the symposium to be a welcoming, accessible, and ultimately safe public space for engagement, discussion, and reflection including students, practitioners, researchers, ethicists, scholars, administrators, and other interested parties. For the 2024/2025 academic year, we chose the topic *Disability Ethics: Within and Beyond a Canadian Context*. This issue of *Health Ethics Today* includes critical insights and thoughtful reflections from some of the presenters and panellists.



Disability ethics is a crucial topic for health ethics that has grown out of the disability rights movement. At its core, it is an interdisciplinary approach that forefronts the perspectives and experiences of individuals living with disabilities, recognizing that what constitutes a disability is, in part, socially constructed. While disability ethics addresses a manifold of topics shared with other approaches to

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Research

Individual and Collaborative Peer-Reviewed Publications

Books

- Bailey T**, Sheldon CT, Sheley JJ. (2019). *Public Health Law and Policy in Canada* (4th edition). Toronto: LexisNexis.
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