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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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.
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 Innominant 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 (co-authored 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. The Dossetor Centre is essentially 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)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Dossetor</td>
<td>1986 - 1998</td>
<td>Director, Joint-Faculties Bioethics Project (1986), Division of Biomedical Ethics (1990), and Bioethics Centre (1995), First Chair in Bioethics, University of Alberta (1996 - 1998)</td>
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<td>Dick Sobsey</td>
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<td>Gary Goldsand</td>
<td>2016 - 2019</td>
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<td>Michael van Manen</td>
<td>2020 -</td>
<td>Director, JDHEC</td>
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In Memorandum

Dr. John Beamish Dossetor (1925-2020) passed away April 6, 2020 in his 95th year. Our Centre recognizes him not only as a celebrated physician and bioethicist for his pioneering work in kidney transplantation and health ethics. He was also a teacher, colleague, and friend to past and current faculty and community members.

We remember John for his extraordinary capacity to reach out and connect with people. He had an uncanny ability to relate to people, to make others feel respected and valued. Without fail, someone who met or worked with John at some point in their lives will be able to recount a story that, almost without exception, expressed his kindness and thoughtfulness. John epitomized the humanity and responsibility that we hope practitioners engaged in health ethics embody, and also the ethical practice of physicians, nurses, social workers, and other caring professionals. Even though it has been some years since John worked at the Centre, we know his influence as a person will never be forgotten, and serve as inspiration for future health professionals.

In the span of his career, John Dossetor had 295 medical/scientific publications as well as authored and co-authored 10 books. His last book, Beyond the Hippocratic Oath, served as a reflective memoir of the evolution of modern medicine and bioethics. 1958, he made Canadian medical history at McGill University by coordinating the first kidney transplant from a living donor in Canada and the British Commonwealth. John received numerous awards for his contributions. He received the 125th Canadian Confederation commemorative medal for his work with the Kidney Foundation of Canada in 1992, and he was named an Officer of the Order of Canada for his achievements in the fields of medicine and bioethics in 1995. He was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Gold Medal in 2003, and the Canadian Medical Association’s Dr. William Marsden Award in Medical Ethics in 2007. Finally, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 from the Canadian Bioethics Society. Outside his talents as a physician and many great accomplishments, he was a truly kind and remarkable man.

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre bears its name in honour of John’s outstanding contributions to health ethics at the University of Alberta and in Canada.
Members

**Michael van Manen**, MD, PhD, FRCPC(Peds,NICU,CIP)
Director, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Endowed 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.

**Carol Nahorniak**, BSc
Administrator, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

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.

**Stacy Cabral**, BA
Information Officer, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

Stacy is the Information Officer for the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. She coordinates communications, maintains contact databases, and provides administrative support for the Dossetor Centre.
Core 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.

Wendy Austin, PhD
Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Nursing

A Professor Emeritus with Nursing and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, Wendy’s approach to health ethics is relational ethics. She held a Canada Research Chair in Relational Ethics in Health Care from 2003-2013 and takes an interdisciplinary approach to study ethical issues in health care, including from a global perspective. Dissemination of research includes in book form (Lying Down in the Ever-Falling Snow) and through film (Just Keep Breathing re: moral distress of PICU staff). Recent teaching includes interdisciplinary graduate courses, Healthcare Ethics and Research Ethics. Her clinical expertise is in mental health nursing; she is an editor of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing for Canadian Practice; its 5th edition coming in 2022. She has served on The Canadian Nurses Association’s Ethics Committee.

Tracey Bailey, BA, LLB, QC
Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Associate Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Tracey has worked in the health law area for almost 30 years in both private and public practice, most recently as General Counsel, Health Law with Alberta Justice. She is returning to private practice with a national firm. She also served as Executive Director of the University of Alberta’s Health Law Institute in an academic position for almost a decade, working with all health professional faculties. Tracey has taught extensively, including delivery of over 435 invited lectures, and is experienced in media interviews. She is the author of more than 65 publications (including books, peer-reviewed articles, and commissioned papers and reports) which address a wide range of health law topics. Tracey has been a member of numerous committees, including policy and law reform working groups, conference organizational steering committees, clinical ethics committees, research ethics boards and legal organizations.
**Paul Byrne, MB, ChB, FRCPC**
Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Clinical Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Paul is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Alberta, as well as a Neonatologist in the Northern Alberta Neonatal Program. Paul has been involved in research projects on ethical decision making in perinatal medicine. In addition, he is an expert consultant for the health ethics consultation services at the University of Alberta and Stollery Children’s Hospitals and the Mazankowski Heart Institute. He teaches health ethics to a wide variety of health care professionals. Paul Byrne is the recipient of the Canadian Medical Association 2015 CMA Dr. William Marsden Award in Medical Ethics.

**Heidi Janz, PhD**
Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Heidi specializes in Disability Ethics. She is currently the Chair of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, Ending-of-Life Ethics Committee, and serves on the federal government’s COVID-19 and Disability Advisory Group. 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, St. Joseph’s College

Doris is an Associate Professor of Theology at St. Joseph’s College, the Catholic College. Doris has been teaching ethics and theology for over 15 years, most frequently bioethics and sexuality. She is also a psychological counsellor who maintains a small practice in Edmonton, working primarily with adolescent girls and women. Her research and writing include elements of both theology and psychology, particularly the unique features of adolescent development, moral decision-making, and human flourishing. All of her work reflects a particular commitment to social justice and the wellbeing of females.
Diane Kunyk, RN, PhD
Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Vice Dean & Professor, Faculty of Nursing

Diane is a Professor and Vice Dean with the Faculty of Nursing, Adjunct Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta. Her program of research focuses on enhancing the ethical capacity of health and organizational policies as these relate to the wellbeing of populations. The methods she employs in this research include qualitative, quantitative and knowledge synthesis, and much of this work has been with interdisciplinary research teams.

Brendan Leier, PhD
Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Assistant Clinical Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

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

Visiting Faculty

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre is fortunate to support faculty members interested in health ethics scholarship from around the world. For the 2019 to 2020 academic year, the Centre benefited from hosting Begoña Errasti-Ibarrondo from the Faculty of Nursing, University of Navarra, Spain, and Gurkan Sert from the Faculty of Medicine, Marmara University, Turkey.
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 Centre activities.

Ari Joffe, MD, FRCPC
Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Division of Pediatric Critical Care, 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.

Austin Mardon, PhD, CM, FRSC
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Austin holds Adjunct appointments in the Department of Psychiatry and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. His 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. 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).
Catherine Mardon, DCSS, JD
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Catherine is a retired attorney whose former practice included representing the homeless, the disabled and those with mental illnesses. She has extensive training in Mediation, and has held certifications in General, Victim/Offender, Divorce, Landlord/Tenant, and Debtor/Creditor mediation. She has a Masters of Theological Studies degree in Moral Theology/Ethics. She is a recognized expert in dealing with clients with mental illnesses and/or mental disabilities and has given over 200 public speeches to consumers, students, and professionals. 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 special 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.

Charl Els, MBChB, FCPsych, MMedPsych, DipABAM, MROCC, DESS, ACBOM
Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry
Clinical Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

Charl is a fellowship-trained Psychiatrist, Addiction Specialist, and Occupational Physician. Els serves as a Clinical Professor at both the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Medicine. He co-authored several of the clinical practice guidelines of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, as well as for the Railway Association of Canada, and served on the Board of Directors for the Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Canada. Finally, Els serves on the Advisory Board of Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH), the 2019 recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice.

Cheryl Mack, MD
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Cheryl is an anesthesiologist/pediatric palliative care doctor at the Stollery Children’s Hospital. She is chair of the Clinical Ethics Committee for the Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre, Stollery Children’s Hospital, Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, and Kaye Edmonton Clinic; and the chair of the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society Ethics Committee. She is also the ethics and palliative care lead for the Office of Global Surgery.
Department of Surgery at the University of Alberta. She is a team leader and game developer for Doctors Against Tragedies. Her interests include clinical bioethics, perioperative palliative care, administrative and professional ethics, international healthcare development, and wellness.

**Daniel Garros, MD, FRCP**
Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Division of Pediatric Critical Care, 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 and supporting health care professionals, and palliative care. He has volunteered around South America helping to support pediatric cardiac surgery programs. Daniel has been a member of the University of Alberta Clinical Ethics Committee since 2018. His background includes Bioethics at Georgetown University and Critical Incident Stress Management training.

**Derek Sellman, RN, PhD**
Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing

Derek is Associate Professor and Director of the unit for Philosophical Nursing Research in the Faculty of Nursing and Associate Adjunct Professor, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta. Derek has an interest in virtue ethics as a base for ethical practice with an emphasis on the moral education of nurses. He also has a particular interest in ethical issues related to the care of older people and related to working interprofessionally in health care. Derek is currently editor of the journal, *Nursing Philosophy*.

**Derek Truscott, PhD, RPsych**
Professor, Faculty of Education

Derek 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.

**Eric Waselynko, 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 palliative care physician and a clinical ethicist. He is Medical Director, Health System Ethics and Policy with the Health Quality Council of Alberta. He chairs the Public Health Ethics Consultative Group for the Public Health Agency of Canada. Eric advises or sits on committees with many health agencies and lectures extensively provincially, nationally and internationally, primarily on ethics subjects involving end of life care. He co-created Alberta’s novel Goals of Care Designation, adopted throughout the health system, and co-led the creation of a community-owned, non-profit, free-standing rural hospice in southern Alberta. Eric helped revise the CMA’s Code of Ethics and the Alberta Pharmacists’ Code of Ethics.

**Gary Frank, BA, BEd, RN**
Nurse Consultant, Royal Alexandra Hospital

Gary has been a nurse consultant and palliative care resource nurse at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for the past two years. Prior to that he held a similar position at the University of Alberta Hospital for 15 years after having worked as a hospice manager, community palliative care consultant, bedside nurse, psychiatric nurse, and Special Education teacher over the first 20 years of his career. He was a member of the Clinical Ethics Committee while at University of Alberta Hospital and is currently a member of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Clinical Ethics Committee.

**Gary Goldsand, BA, MA**
Clinical Ethicist

Gary Goldsand, is a Clinical Ethicist 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.
**Katherine Duthie, PhD**  
Clinical Ethicist, Northern Zone, Alberta Health Services

Katherine is a Clinical Ethicist with Alberta Health Services, providing front-line 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.

**Kunimasa Suzuki, PhD**  
Manager, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry core facility, Alberta Diabetes Institute, University of Alberta

Kuni has extensive experience working on basic and medical sciences research. His main areas of expertise are protein chemistry, molecular biology, endocrinology and immunology. He has been involved in teaching molecular biology and protein chemistry techniques to students and researchers. He has also carried out numerous mini-projects, related to molecular biology, protein chemistry and immunology, through the core facility services. 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 would like to act as a bridge between health ethics researchers and life science researchers to provide insights of the constantly emerging novel medical therapies and treatments.

**Peter Brindley, MD, FRCPC, FRCP (Edin), FRCP (Lond)**  
Professor, Division of Critical Care Medicine

Peter is first and foremost a critical care physician. 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.

**Rose M. Carter, QC**
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Rose brings more than 30 years' experience in the health law field. She assists various medical practitioners as well as scientific professionals, navigate the regulatory requirements of private and public practice. 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.

**Victoria Seavilleklein, PhD**
Clinical Ethicist, Central Zone, Alberta Health Services

Victoria holds a PhD in Philosophy, specializing in Bioethics, from Dalhousie University, an MA in Philosophy (Ethics) from the University of Calgary, and a BA in Philosophy from the University of Victoria. She completed a clinical practicum in multiple Canadian health centres. Her work in research ethics includes drafting the ethics framework for the 2nd edition of the Canadian Tri-Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans and developing common consent form templates for the Harmonization initiative of the Alberta Research Ethics Boards. Victoria is currently a member of the Research Ethics Review Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and the elected Western representative on the Board of the Canadian Bioethics Society.

**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.

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre directly supports the delivery of clinical ethics to the University of Alberta Hospital, including specifically the Mazankowski Heart Institute, Stollery Children’s Hospital, Walter McKenzie Health Sciences Centre, and Edmonton Clinic. Clinical ethics consultation is provided by a clinical ethicist, Brendan Leier, who is supported by the Clinical Ethics Committee, chaired by Dr. Cheryl Mack. On average, the Clinical Ethicist receives 7 to 8 detailed ethics consultations per month, in addition to many (100+) telephone and “corridor” consultations. Through the clinical service, the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre has created a partnership with Alberta Health Services for an ethical delivery of health care in the community.

The Clinical Ethics Service helps patients, families, and health care providers address such questions as: What is the right thing to do? How should a decision be made? Is there a reasonable compromise? In addressing these questions, the clinical ethics service aims for compassion, accountability, respect, excellence, and safety. Ethics consultations can be requested by patients, families, or any member of the health care teams. Consultations can be simple conversations, guided discussions with teams, assistance with decision-making, or shared analysis of complex situations and ethical issues.

The Clinical Ethics Service does not make decisions or replace appropriate decision-makers. Rather, it may make recommendations or facilitate balanced, objective discussion of the situation at hand.

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre uses themes identified from clinical ethics to serve its mandates of education, engagement, and scholarship.

compassion
accountability
respect
excellence
safety
Consultation Themes
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 days 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 on the needs of the residents. This also includes 5 sessions of a 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.

Clinical Ethics Teaching

**Undergraduate Health Ethics Electives** The Dossetor Centre Health Ethics Electives are the only undergraduate health ethics electives offered across 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

Janine Chesworth, MA  
Graduate Studies, Department of Educational Psychology

Janine 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.

Gillian Lermeyer, RN, MN, PhD(c)  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Gillian is a doctoral candidate and Killam Scholar in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta. Gillian has a clinical nursing background in neonatal intensive care, organ donation and family bereavement care. Policy and practice experience includes professional regulation and nursing jurisprudence. Her research is concerned with the relational ethics of healthcare practice. Her doctoral dissertation uses a phenomenological method to explore the NICU nurse’s experience of encountering babies through touch. Past research projects have focused on the relationship between parents and healthcare practitioners in the NICU and family care during the process of considering organ donation.

Michelle Gagnon, RN, MN  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Michelle 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.

**Sadie Deschenes, RN, MN**  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Sadie is a doctoral student in the Faculty of Nursing, at the University of Alberta. Sadie’s doctoral research focuses on developing an intervention to mitigate the negative effects of moral distress. She also has a particular interest in relational ethics and this ethic will help guide her doctoral research. Sadie is currently the co-director of Mentor-Us, a student-led mentorship program for graduate nursing students at the University of Alberta.

**Stewart MacLennan RN, MN**  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Stewart is a Nurse Practitioner in correctional health, associate teaching professor at UofA Faculty of Nursing, and currently completing his PhD in Nursing focusing on relational ethics and pain experiences of people who are incarcerated. Specifically, Stewart is interested in better understanding the subjective experiences of physical pain during periods of incarceration as a means to develop relevant and ethically sound practice guidance to improve pain management practices within correctional settings.
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 Dossetor Centre hosts and supports such activities to include practicing and in-training physicians, nurses, social workers, and other frontline healthcare professionals as well as public stakeholders.

**John Dossetor Health Ethics Public Lecture** This annual public lecture is jointly hosted by the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and Alberta Health Services on a topic of health ethics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 22</th>
<th>What is conscience? Balancing patients’ rights of access with doctors’ rights of conscience</th>
<th>Brendan Leier &amp; Cheryl Mack</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**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. There are typically three or four seminars in the Fall semester and three or four seminars in the Winter semester. Most seminars take place from 12:00 to 13:00 MDT/MST in the Dvorkin Centre (2G2.07), Walter Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre, and are broadcast over Telehealth to remote sites across Alberta.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 20</th>
<th>On reducing moral distress in clinical practice</th>
<th>Gary Goldsand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td><em>Primum non nocere</em>: Tea bags, bees, and health care ethics</td>
<td>Derek Sellman &amp; Maya Kalogirou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>Ethics and expressing objection in clinical care</td>
<td>Wendy Austin, Brendan Leier, &amp; Michael van Manen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Unfolding the ethics of neonatal intensive care</td>
<td>Michael van Manen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Caring for patients who don’t care for you</td>
<td>Andrew D. Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Extreme follow-up: Knocking on a patient’s front door</td>
<td>Matthew Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Determining brain death: the epistemic problems</td>
<td>Ari Joffe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>The difficulties faced by the mentally ill when incarcerated</td>
<td>Austin Mardon &amp; Catherine Mardon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**John Dossetor Virtual Health Seminars** These public 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. The Dossetor Centre began offering these seminars in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide a platform for discussion and reflection on emerging ethical issues. Most seminars take place from 17:00 to 18:00 MDT/MST over Zoom with ample time for discussion. Sessions are recorded to ensure availability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>COVID-19 and pandemic ethics</td>
<td>Robyn Harrison, Brendan Leier, &amp; Michael van Manen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Pandemic ethics and allocating scarce resources</td>
<td>Eric Wasylenko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Professional obligations in the time of COVID-19. The reciprocity of the social contract</td>
<td>Cheryl Mack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>How can I survive this? Supporting health care professionals in a pandemic</td>
<td>Daniel Garros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Part of the “surplus population?” Disability ethics in the midst of a pandemic</td>
<td>Heidi Janz &amp; Nancy Hansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Government powers in COVID-19: Balancing public health and civil liberties in a public health emergency</td>
<td>Tracey Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Social distancing in the line-up at the food bank: Considerations for socially vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic</td>
<td>Mat Rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Social justice and mental health ethics in COVID-19</td>
<td>Doris Kieser, Austin Mardon, &amp; Catherine Mardon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Moral distress in times of crisis and uncertainty</td>
<td>Charles Larson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health Ethics Grand Rounds** These presentations focus on ethical challenges and opportunities in everyday clinical practice. The speaker is usually Brendan Leier, Clinical Ethicist, University of Alberta Hospital & Stollery Children’s Hospital and Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute. The presentations provide an opportunity for healthcare professionals to build capacity in the field of clinical ethics. These presentations are presented in collaboration with Alberta Health Services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>What’s the harm in being right? Managing risk in communicating medical information</td>
<td>Brendan Leier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Nursing Ethics Series** The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre offers seminars jointly with the Nursing Philosophy Institute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>The relational ethics of the nurse’s touch in the NICU</td>
<td>Gillian Lemermeyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Regulation of safe and ethical nursing practice</td>
<td>Sadie Deschenes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health Ethics Symposium** The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre offers an annual symposium on a contemporary issue in health care practice. For the 2019/2020 year the symposium was unfortunately canceled given the physical distancing measures for COVID-19.

**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, and CBC Radio and TV) on a variety of health ethics issues.
Publications

Since 1990, the John Dossetor Centre has been publishing Health Ethics Today. This newsletter has a circulation of approximately 9,000, which includes distribution to all physicians and surgeons across Alberta, health care professionals, scholars, students, members of the Canadian Bioethics Society, and friends of the Dossetor Centre. Past issues of Health Ethics Today are posted on the Dossetor Centre’s website.

Editor’s Forum

Paul Byrne, MB, CHB, FRCPC, FAAP
Medical Director, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Grey Nuns Community Hospital and
Staff Neonatologist, Shriners Children’s Hospital
Clinical Professor, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta

Discussions of death and dying in bioethics tend to focus on concerns about technology driven treatment in terminal illness, reluctance to recognize the prolongation of dying in such circumstances, and more recently in Canada, medically assisted death (MAD). The discussions relate to routines about the dying process in hospital settings but seldom contribute to our understanding of death itself.

Gary Frank’s paper corrects a common mis-understanding that palliative care is for the dying who are at the brink of death. He describes the clinical picture of excellent palliative care for those with incurable illness long before they become terminally ill. This distinction between being incurable and terminal is frequently confused in clinical practice. Frank proposes that palliative care may act as a “supportive treatment” for the patient and family ensuring that the final stages of life are comfortable, meaningful, and even pleasantable. This is in keeping with older care based medical and nursing traditions around death that pre-dated modern curative medical care. When care was a rare familiarity, the needs of the dying was the first step in providing good palliative care. It remains so today. Recognition that care is not possible is an essential prerequisite to facilitating the dying patient and family with their needs. Today that recognition is often more difficult because of the incredible success of technology driven treatments. Frank describes the breadth of scope of good palliative care far beyond hospital settings and illustrates this beautifully with examples.

continued on page 2 ▶

In This Issue...

- The Good Life in Palliative Care?
  - Gary E. Frank

- Dying in Hospitals: A Pediatric Perspective
  - The New Paradigm: Palliative Care is for the Living
  - Daniel Gmos

- A Super-Hero with a 3-Mallet
  - Melodie Frostuck

- Every Breath You Take: Ethical Considerations
  - Regarding Health Care Metrics
  - Derek Tennant

- Dossetor Centre Upcoming Events for 2019-2020

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Research

Individual and Collaborative Publications (last 5-years)

Books
Mardon C. (2019). *Dual Diagnosis, the Two-Edged Sword*.

**Chapters**


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Truscott D, Rourke L. (2018). Teaching professional ethics and law: Blending the professional expectations and reflective practice approaches. In B Maxwell, N Tanchuk, & C Scramstad (Eds.), *Professional Ethics Education and Law for Canadian Teachers* (pp. 1-14). Ottawa: Canadian Association for Teacher Education/Association canadienne pour la formation des enseignants.


**Journal Articles**


Becker TB, **Mardon AA.** (2015). Mate recognition systems promoting sexual isolation in family Gryllidae: behavioral, tactile and chemical recognition methods used prior to copulation.


Becker TB, **Mardon AA.** (2015). Using a Mars Analog Environment to Study the Possible Success of Neutrophilic Iron-Oxidizing Microorganisms on Mars.

Becker TB, **Mardon AA.** Entomophagy, a Solution to Help Reduce Anthropogenic Greenhouse Gas Emissions.


**Brindley PG, Brindley JD.** (2020). “Critical” and “Seven Signs of Life”. Two great reads from the frontlines of Intensive Care Medicine. *Anesth Analg, 130*(1), e25-e26,


Brindley PG. (2020). This is gonna hurt. *Anesth Analg.*


Byrne PJ. (2020). Duty to treat: where do the limits lie? *BMJ.* 369 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m2150 (Published 01 June).


Trencheau, 2023.


Wasyleanko E. (2017). Let’s recognize that community and the health care system are both important at end-of-life. Alberta Doctor’s Digest, 42(2).


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