

Annual Report 2022 - 2023

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

For the past 38 years, the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre has aimed to advance interdisciplinary health ethics scholarship in education, research, and clinical service. And certainly, through these years, the Centre has experienced challenges. However, the Centre continues to not only survive but also thrive as its members attend to its vision, mission, and values.

I assumed the role of Director of the Dossetor Centre in 2020, coincident with the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the onset of budgetary cutbacks and restructuring at the University of Alberta. The year 2020 was without a doubt challenging, and yet we strived to respond to challenges, offering a record number of public events, including virtual seminars, symposia, and workshops. In the years that have followed, we have maintained this momentum by addressing and advancing health ethics dialogue related to contemporary health ethics topics including, but not limited to, ethical decision-making, medical assistance in dying, resource allocation ethics, artificial intelligence in healthcare, end-of-life healthcare ethics, moral distress and compassion fatigue, individual freedoms and social responsibility, issues of confidentiality and privacy, and so forth. We have also explored and developed events spanning intersections of health ethics with equity, diversity, and inclusion as well as health ethics and health law. We are honoured that we continue to be relevant in supporting the health ethics education of individuals within and beyond the College of Health Sciences at the University of Alberta. And, we are thankful that we can continue to offer our events abiding by principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

This annual report celebrates the offerings and achievements of the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre from the past academic year. I recognize that the Dossetor Centre would not exist without the steadfast support of its members as well as its funders and partner organizations. We look forward to future years and developments in health ethics.

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.



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. She

also provides administrative support for the University of Alberta Hospitals' Clinical Ethics Committee.



Wendy Austin, PhD

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta

A Professor Emeritus with Nursing and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, Wendy's approach to health ethics is that of relational ethics. She held a Canada Research Chair in Relational Ethics in Health Care from 2003 to 2013 and takes an interdisciplinary approach to studying 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, *Interdisciplinary 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*, 5th edition. She has served on The Canadian Nurses Association's Ethics Committee.



Tracey Bailey, BA, LLB, KC

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

Tracey has 30 years' experience in providing legal, legislative, policy, and ethics advice on a wide range of issues in health law. 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 currently the Chair of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, Ending-of-Life Ethics Committee, and serves on the federal government minister's Disability Advisory Group. In her "other life," she is a writer/playwright and filmmaker. Her creative work focuses 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.



Diane Kunyk, PhD

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
Vice Dean & Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta

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
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 is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Nursing. Gillian's current research explores the embodied ethics of healthcare practices, employing a phenomenological method to investigate the nurse's touch in the neonatal intensive care unit. Past research projects have explored the experience of families in the NICU and during the process of considering organ donation. Her nursing background is in neonatal intensive care, family bereavement, and professional regulation. Her teaching practice is in healthcare ethics and nursing leadership.

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.



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. 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, 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.



Katherine Duthie, PhD

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 20 years. Prior, Gary 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 has served on the Clinical Ethics Committees of both the University of Alberta Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Although retired in July 2022, 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. Daniel is a member of the University of Alberta clinical ethics committee since 2018. 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.



Maria Begoña Errasti Ibarondo, 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.



Irehobhude Iyioha, LLB, LLM, BL, PhD

Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria

Irehobhude is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Victoria and an Adjunct Professor at the Dossetor Health Ethics 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 Professional Master of Laws Program. She is the Founder and Director of the *Black Professionals Leadership Program*, an educational support and leadership training program for Black students at the University of Victoria.

leadership training program for Black students at the University of Victoria.



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.



Cheryl Mack, MD

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta

Cheryl is an anesthesiologist/pediatric palliative care doctor at the Stollery Children's Hospital. She previously served as 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 continues to serve as 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.



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. 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,
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 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.



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.



Victoria Seavilleklein, PhD

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. She is a Clinical Lecturer with the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and a regular lecturer at Red Deer Polytechnic. Prior to working with AHS, she was an Ethicist and Policy Director with the Provincial Health Ethics Network. She drafted the ethics framework for the 2nd edition of the Canadian Tri-Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans and was previously a member of the Clinical Trials Committee with the Health Research Ethics Board of Alberta. She is currently the elected Membership Officer on the Canadian Bioethics Society Board of Directors.



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.



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

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, adopted throughout the provincial health system. 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: Interdisciplinary Healthcare Ethics (INT D 570) is an interdisciplinary course exploring selected topics in bioethics. 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



Rosemary Altobelli, RN
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing,
University of Alberta

Rosemary Altobelli is completing graduate studies toward a master's degree in nursing in the neonatal nurse practitioner stream in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta. Rosemary's capstone project is focused on a critical review of the literature that describes the emerging use of artificial technologies to assess the pain of babies in the neonatal intensive care unit. Her project acknowledges that relieving pain for an NICU baby is more than a medical or developmental importance, it is also a matter of ethics.



Gloria Brook, RN, MN, CNS
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing,
University of Alberta

Gloria Brook graduated from the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta in spring of 2023. Her capstone project focused on reviewing the literature of moral distress as experienced by NICU nurses. Specifically, Gloria explored the experience of caring for babies whose care has been deemed futile. The project concludes with a plan to develop an education module to support NICU nurses to recognize and prepare for the experience of moral distress.



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.



Jenna Lakhani, MD, FRCPC

Graduate Studies, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta

Jenna completed subspecialty residency in neonatal-perinatal medicine and graduate studies in the clinical investigator program at the University of Alberta in June 2023. Her work in health ethics has been in collaboration with Cheryl Mack, Diane Kunyk, and Michael van Manen focusing on narrative ethics and end-of-life experiences parents in newborn intensive care.



Mandi Paton, RN, MN

Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Mandi Paton is a Nurse Practitioner student at the University of Alberta, completing training in the area of newborn intensive care. Her work in health ethics has been in collaboration with Gillian Lemermeyer and Michael van Manen focusing on narrative ethics and healthcare providers experiences in newborn intensive care.

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 as well as public stakeholders.

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. In the context of COVID19, all seminars were offered virtually for the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

September 15	Bioethics and Interdisciplinarity at the University of Alberta	Gary Goldsand
October 13	MAID and Mental Illness	Rose Carter
November 10	Thinking about AI Ethics in Healthcare	Gillian Lemermeyer
December 8	When Does Coercion Invalidate Consent to Treatment?	Eric Mathison
January 19	Worthy Versus Unworthy Mentally Ill in the COVID Age	Catherine Mardon and Austin Mardon
February 9	The Health Professions and Society: is there a social contract?	Gary Frank
March 9	Why is it Difficult to Talk About Death?	Brendan Leier
March 23	The Nurse-Patient Relationship at the End-of-Life: What can we learn from patients' experiences?	Begoña Errasti-Ibarrondo

April 13	“Someone will commit suicide” Qualitative Exploration of Strategies to Mitigate Moral Distress Among Pediatric Critical Care Nurses	Sadie Deschenes
April 27	Dignity as a Guiding Principle and its Application in Disorders of Consciousness	Cheryl Mack and Cameron Cattell
June 15	The Ethics of Harm Reduction: In Conversation with Angie Staines of the 4B Harm Reduction Society	Angie Staines Moderator: Cheryl Mack

Health Ethics Seminars / Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Seminars The Dossetor Centre was proud to support a seminar series exploring themes related to health ethics and equity, diversity and inclusion. In the context of COVID19, all seminars were offered virtually for the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

September 29	Ethical Frameworks in a Plains Cree Community	Patsy Steinhauer and Noella Steinhauer
October 27	I’m not sick, I’m Transgender	Marni Panas
March 16	The Meaning of Indigenizing to Health Ethics	Andrea Menard
April 6	Race-based Data Collection: Opportunities and Challenges in Addressing Health Disparities	Jaspreet Khangura
April 20	Challenges to Providing Evidence-informed, Ethical and Equitable Care in Hospital Settings for People Who Use Substances	Kathryn Dong
May 18	Medical Ableism, Medical Education, and Medical Assistance in Dying	Heidi Janz

Grand Rounds The presentations focus on ethical challenges and opportunities in everyday clinical practice. These presentations provide an opportunity for healthcare professionals to build capacity in the field of clinical ethics. The presentations are presented in collaboration with Alberta Health Services and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre.

September 22	The War for Meaning: What are the Stakes in the New Psychedelic Research?	Brendan Leier
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Health Ethics Symposium The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre offers an annual symposium on a contemporary issue in health care practice. For the 2022/23 year, the symposium theme was Bodily Autonomy: an Ethical Dialogue on Gender Rights, Reproductive Freedoms, and Personal Choice. Speakers included Doris Kieser and Gillian Lerner on “Bodies in Relationship: Personal Autonomy and Flourishing”, Tracey Bailey on “Is There a Role for Compulsory Treatment of Individuals with Substance Use Disorders?”, Vangie Bergum on “The Imaginary. Speaking of Love”, and, Marni Panas and Fatmeh Kalouti on “Express Yourself: Real Talk About Identity, Autonomy, and Allyship”.

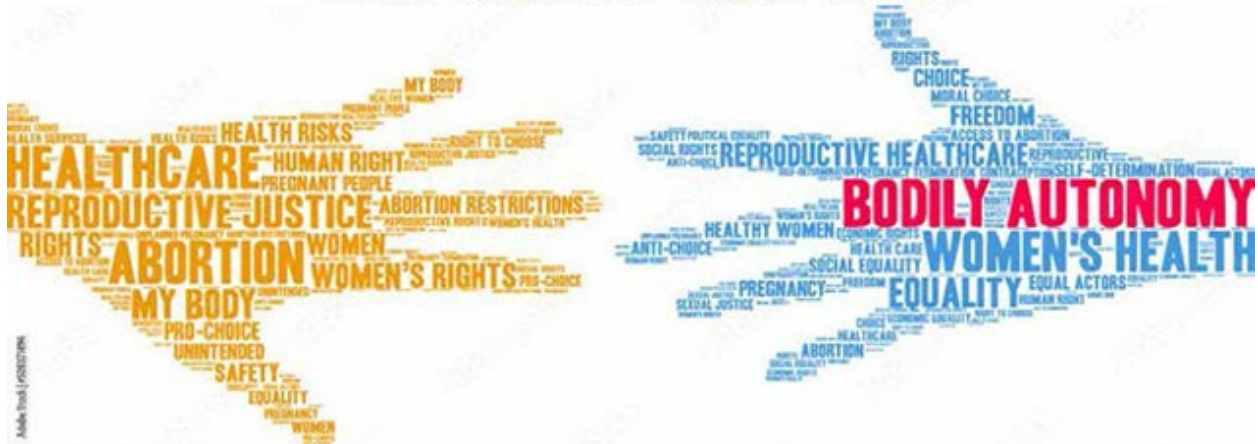


HEALTH ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

BODILY AUTONOMY: an Ethical Dialogue on Gender Rights, Reproductive Freedoms, and Personal Choice

Save the Date - Friday, 25 November 2022

Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM MST



Hybrid event: In-person at Lister Conference Centre, UofA
Online via Zoom

Health Ethics Workshops The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre facilitated one health ethics workshop open to the general public without cost for the 2022/2023 academic year. Speakers included Wendy Austin, Tracey Bailey, Heidi Janz, Doris Kieser, Gillian Lermeyer, Brendan Leier, and Michael van Manen exploring selected topics in health ethics encountered in clinical practice: Respecting autonomy and surrogate decision-making; Responding to medical errors: Obligations to colleagues and patients; Disability, ableism, and quality of life; Withdrawing parenteral nutrition: Is it active killing?; Agreement and disagreement: Moral distress in clinical teams; and, Ethics at the end of life.



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.

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 30, Number 1, May 2023

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

In the sphere of health ethics, there is perhaps no principle given more weight, more significance, and more authority than "autonomy". Composed from autos "self" and nomos "custom or law", the term autonomy expresses a self-governing, a freedom from external control, an absence of controlling influences, an independence, a freedom as liberty. Following, when we add the qualifier "bodily" to autonomy, we may understand autonomy in a way that expresses control over the body and bodily processes. In other words, "my body, my choice".

Now, while I profess that I prescribe to this mantra—"my body, my choice"—should we not also wonder whether there is something missing from its formulation? Something not quite true about "my body, my choice"? Has my body always been my own? Has it ever been my own? What aspects of bodily autonomy are beyond our control? Is there a foreignness to our body's sovereignty?

The truth is that our bodies are of the flesh of the world. This is evident not merely from a study of the materials from which our bodies develop, but also from how we develop quite literally as embodied bodily beings. From the very start, before we even have a sense of self or other, our body is inherently relational and intersubjective. Birth itself does

not individuate the body, as a newborn remains dependent not only on others to have their needs met; but also the child's very subjectivity would appear to be one in which divisions of self and other may be difficult to demarcate (see van Manen, 2018). And as we age, the lived body develops its operative intentionality and reflective structures directed towards and open to the world in which it is situated

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- The Imaginary, Speaking of Love – Vangie Bergum 9



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Research

Individual and Collaborative Publications

Books

- Bailey T**, Sheldon CT, Sheley JJ. (2019). *Public Health Law and Policy in Canada* (4th edition). Toronto: LexisNexis.
- Brindley PG**, Cardinal P. (2018). *Optimizing Crisis Resource Management: A Handbook for all Acute Care Health Professionals*. Ottawa: Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.
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Chapters (last 5 years)

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