

**CLINICAL ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS**  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA & STOLLERY CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS,  
MAZANKOWSKI ALBERTA HEART INSTITUTE and KAYE EDMONTON  
CLINIC - CLINICAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

## **CAN THE COMPASSIONATE PHYSICIAN KILL?**

**Date:** Tuesday, 19 April 2016

**Time:** 12:00 – 13:00 MST/MDT

**Location:** Dvorkin Centre (2G2.07 WMC)

**Presented by:** **Brendan Leier, PhD**  
Clinical Ethicist, Alberta Health Services;  
Assistant Clinical Professor, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

Proponents and opponents of physician assisted death (PAD) alike, recognize and appeal to compassion as both a virtue and legitimate source of motivation for the good physician. Quite often, however, appeals to compassion frustratingly appear as either rhetorical/sophistic devices or mere sentimentalism. In this presentation, I will provide a working and coherent theory of compassion and its relationship and function inside medicine and healthcare. Building on this, I will review the current status of PAD in Canada following the recent Supreme Court decision, and while juxtaposing this new responsibility with my account of 'the compassionate physician', answer the question: "Can the Compassionate Physician Kill"?

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

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