

**JOHN DOSSETOR HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE and
UNIT FOR PHILOSOPHICAL NURSING RESEARCH
NURSING ETHICS SERIES**

***THE RELATIONAL ETHICS OF THE NURSE'S
TOUCH IN THE NICU***

**Gillian Lemermeyer, RN, MN, PhD(c)
Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta**

Healthcare ethics is often associated with deliberating a morally correct decision or course of action, but ethics in healthcare can also be found in the moments that practitioners spend with patients and their families. Moments such as placing a newborn child into their mother's arms, soothing a distraught, disoriented adult: these types of caring encounters reveal ethics. In this presentation I will draw on observations of and interviews with neonatal nurses exploring the relational ethics of healthcare practice by considering a specific experience: the relational encounter of nurse with baby. Using a phenomenological approach, helpful for understanding the taken-for-granted aspects of professional practice, I hope to better understand the possible meanings of the nurse's touch of babies and parents from a relational ethics perspective. I will offer a short critique of the way touch has been described in the nursing literature before outlining my initial phenomenological reflections on the meanings of the NICU nurse's touch.

FRIDAY, 18 October 2019

12:00—13:00 MDT

Dvorkin Centre (2G2.07 WMC), University of Alberta Hospital

**For more information, please call: 780-492-6676 or visit:
<https://www.ualberta.ca/john-dossetor-health-ethics-centre>**

For telehealth registration: <https://ischeduler.albertahealthservices.ca/ischeduler/>

EVERYONE WELCOME!

John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
5-16 University Terrace, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2T4
Phone: 780-492-6676; E-mail: dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca

