



**December
2023
News**

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HEALTHCARE ETHICS AND DISABILITY: The Center is including attention to disability and disability studies in several of its lecture series. In the **Healthcare and Religion Lecture Series**, Sarah Jean Barton, author of *Becoming the Baptized Body: Disability and the Practice of Christian Community*, presented [*Attending to Disability: Honoring the Religious Lives and Practices of People with Intellectual Disabilities*](#). On February 6, in the **Health Humanities Lecture Series**, author of *Crippling Girlhood* Anastasia Todd will offer a new theorization of disabled girlhoods and why ‘the disabled girl’ often emerges in twenty-first century US media culture. On March 6, Lucille Toth will examine the long history of “infectious dances,” from St Vitus epidemics of dancing mania to HIV+ dancers, to explore how times of health crisis create space for disobedience, in [*Dance, Pandemics, and Kinesthetic Disobedience*](#). Also on the topic of pandemics, on February 12, in its **Healthcare and Humanity Reading Series**, a collaboration with City of Asylum, the Center will feature a reading of [*IN OUR TIME/ Stories from the Front Lines of the Medical Fields*](#), a play inspired by interviews with female critical care physicians on the frontlines of the COVID pandemic.

This focus on ethics, disability, and healthcare will culminate in the Center’s 31st annual **Interprofessional Healthcare Ethics Conference** on Friday, April 12. With support from the Offices of the Provost and the Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, as well as the Heinz Foundation and Passavant Foundation, participants will be able to attend the conference, in-person or online, for free.

Leading up to the day-long conference, the program planning committee is devising two online morning sessions to begin discussion of the traditional tension between bioethics and disability studies and the concerns people with disabilities express about the field of bioethics. These concerns often center on assessment of quality of life and end-of-life decision making, including discussions of forgoing of life-sustaining interventions and assistance in dying. Following the conference, on April 16 at noon, in the Department of Medicine’s **Bioethics Grand Rounds** psychiatrist Madeline Li from the University of Toronto will discuss Canada’s experience with physician-aid-in-dying, including assistance of those with mental health disorders. All events are listed on the Center’s [calendar](#).

MORE CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION: Like the Center’s conference and its Healthcare and Religion Lecture Series, the **Clinical Ethics Forum** is approved CME credit. Held on the second Monday of the month at noon, the forum provides an opportunity to discuss current issues, cases, and articles. On January 8, the forum will discuss [*The Use of Stigmatizing and Biased Language in Electronic Medical Record Notes*](#).

MORE OPPORTUNITIES AT THE INTERSECTION OF RELIGION AND HEALTHCARE: The Department of Spiritual Care, Palliative Care, and Volunteer Services at UPMC Mercy, under the direction of Center faculty member **Valerie Satkoske**, hosts the No One Dies Alone ministry that trains “compassionate companions” to accompany patients, who may otherwise be alone, during their final hours. The program seeks volunteers, who may contact UPMC Mercy Priest-Chaplain Igor Hohosha (hohoshai@upmc.edu).

The Center’s **Healthcare and Religion Lecture Series (HRLS)** will resume on February 6 and continue on first Tuesdays of the month at 8:00 am. February will feature Ahmed Abdul Rehman talking about Islamic perspectives on gene editing, an important topic in light of the FDA’s recent approval of the first gene therapy for sickle cell disease. March 4-5, bioethicist Laurie Zoloth will visit campus. On the 5th in the HRLS, she will discuss Jewish bioethics and the notion of hospitality. On April 2, Israel Institute Fellow Hilla Nehushtan will discuss religious perspectives on body size. All lectures are online with details announced on the [webpage](#) for the series, where recordings are also posted.

OTHER COLLABORATIONS: The **CF Reynolds Medical History Society**, with support from the Center and the School of Public Health, will continue its **History of Medicine Lecture Series** on January 23 at 6:00 pm with a lecture by Vicki Daniel on [“Could a situation be more ghastly?”: Doctors, Disinfectants, and the Dead After the Johnstown Flood of 1889](#). Health risks resulting from mass fatalities are, unfortunately, quite currently relevant given global events.

The schedule for the **SHRS-CBHL Bioethics and Health Humanities Lectures** will be announced in January. Programming of the *Research, Ethics and Society Initiative (RESI)*, supported by Pitt Research, includes interdisciplinary dialogues on generative AI, a series of panel discussions of generative AI in research and in relation to pedagogy, and a February 17 short course for graduate students on use of generative AI; details will be on the RESI’s [calendar](#).

CENTER FACULTY:

In November, **Bob Arnold** gave the Ruth Gray Memorial Lecture at North Shore University Hospital. He has also published:

- **Arnold RM**, Levoy K, Hickman SE, Jawahri AE, Jackson V, Tulsy JA. JPSM Controversies in Palliative Care: “What is the Most Important, Measurable Goal of Serious Illness Conversations in the Ambulatory Setting?”, *J Pain Symp Manag*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2023.08.006>.
- Das Gupta MN, Hantzmon SV, Kutner JS, **Arnold RM**, Duck V, Mahoney H, Willis E, Pollak KI. Patient and Caregiver Expression of Reluctance and Ambivalence During Palliative Care Encounters, *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 2023, 1391-1394, <http://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2022.0533>.
- Jones KF, Khodyakov D, Han BH, **Arnold RM**, Dao E, Morrison J, Kapo J, Meier DE, Paice JA, Liebschutz JM, Ritchie CS, Merlin JS, Bulls HW. Expert Consensus-based Guidance on Approaches to Opioid Management in Individuals with Advanced Cancer-

related Pain and Nonmedical Stimulant Use, *Cancer*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1002/cncr.34921>.

- Kluger BM, **Arnold RM**. The Total Enjoyment of Life: A Framework for Exploring and Supporting the Positive in Palliative Care, *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 2023, 1322-1326, <http://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2023.0321>.
- **Piscitello GM**, Stein D, **Arnold RM**, **Schenker Y**. Rural Hospital Disparities in Goals of Care Documentation, *J Pain Symp Manag*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2023.07.020>.
- Schell JO, **Schenker Y**, **Piscitello GM**, Belin SC, Chiu EJ, Zapf RL, Kip PL, Marroquin OC, Donahoe MP, Holder-Murray J, **Arnold RM**. Implementing a Serious Illness Risk Prediction Model: Impact on Goals of Care Documentation, *J Pain Symp Manag*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2023.07.015>.
- Schwarze ML, Clapp J, **Arnold RM**. Innovations in Surgical Communication 3: Promote Deliberation, Not Technical Education, *JAMA Surgery*, 2023, 158(10):996–998, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamasurg.2023.3476>.
- Schweiberger K, **Harris KW**, Kavanaugh-McHugh A, Soudi A, **Arnold RM**, Merlin JS, Kasparian NA, Chang JC. “I Just Want You to Hear That Term”: Characterizing Language Used in Fetal Cardiology Consultations, *Journal of Cardiovascular Development and Disease*, 2023, 10(9):394, <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcdd10090394>.
- Zaza S, **Arnold RM**, Schwarze ML. Innovations in Surgical Communication 4: Present the Downsides of Surgery, Not Just Risks, *Am J Surg*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamasurg.2023.3650>.

On November 2 as the result of an award given by the International Society of First World War Studies, **Bridget Keown** gave the 2023 Dennis Showalter Memorial Lecture. She drew from her manuscript *She Was Sure She Was in Hell: Women and War Trauma, 1914-1935* to discuss the narratives of British and Irish women who experienced trauma as a result of the First World War.

On October 21 and 22, **Paula Leslie** served as the keynote speaker at the New York City Dysphagia Symposium. She began the meeting with “Telos & Techne: Why DO We Eat?” and closed it with “Worship the Dog: We’re Getting Closer.”

Paula spoke at The Edinburgh School of Surgery Undergraduate Student Research Symposium on November 24. She has also published:

- O’Keeffe ST, **Leslie P**, Lazenby-Paterson T, McCurtin A, Collins L, Murray A, Smith A, Mulkerrin S. Informed or Misinformed Consent and Use of Modified Texture Diets in Dysphagia, *BMC Med Ethics*, 2023, 24(1):7, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-023-00885-1>.
- McCurtin A, Byrne H, Collins L, McInerney M, Lazenby-Paterson T, **Leslie P**, O’Keeffe S, O’Toole C, Smith A. Alterations and Preservations: Practices and Perspectives of Speech-Language Pathologists Regarding the Intervention of Thickened Liquids for Swallowing Problems, *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 2023, 1-18, https://doi.org/10.1044/2023_AJSLP-23-00226.

Jennifer Lingler and her colleagues presented the poster “Narrative-Driven Recruitment Messaging to Enhance Ethnoracial Diversity in AD Research” on November 10 at the Gerontological Society of America Meeting. On December 7, as part of an annual retreat held by the University of Pennsylvania Institute on Aging, she gave the keystone address “Navigating Toward Responsible Transparency in the Era of ADRD Biomarker Testing.”

Alex London published: McCradden MD, Joshi S, Anderson JA, London AJ. A normative framework for artificial intelligence as a sociotechnical system in healthcare, *Patterns*, 2023, 4(11), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.patter.2023.100864>. He has also presented multiple talks:

- “The Unbearable Lightness of AI Hype: Moral Pitfalls of Inflated Technological Enthusiasm” Festschrift for Urban Wiesing, Tübingen, Germany, October 14, 2023.
- “Structural Challenges to Implementing AI in Healthcare” Till & McCulloch Meetings 2023, Toronto Keynote Panel: Integrating AI and ML into Research and Clinical Care: Scientific and Ethical Challenges. Toronto, Canada, October 24, 2023.
- “Key Ethical Elements in a National Biotech Strategy” Center for a New American Security, Washington, DC, November 8, 2023.
- “Ethics and Governance of AI for Health” University of Toronto, Joint Center for Bioethics, Toronto, Canada, November 14, 2023.
- “Real Benefit & Associated Failure Cases” The AI Symposium, Google and CMU Software Engineering Institute, Washington, DC, November 14, 2023.
- “Conceptualizing and Assessing the Social Value of Research” PRIM&R Plenary Panel, Washington, DC, December 6, 2023.
- “Structural Barriers to Implementing AI in Health Care” Empowering the Future: The Military Health System’s Digital Revolution, a summit, hosted by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Defense Health Agency, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, December 7, 2023.

With her committee co-chair John Radzilowicz, **Lisa Parker** submitted the preliminary report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Generative AI in Research and Education to Interim Provost McCarthy and Senior Vice Chancellor Rutenbar December 13. The 29 member committee, drawn from 12 schools of the University, met regularly throughout the fall to draft the report detailing potential uses of generative AI in research, education, and administrative and service activities, and providing points to consider when employing generative AI or developing policy regarding its use. To inform the Committee’s discussion and its report, AI ethicist Ravit Dotan was charged by the *Research, Ethics and Society Initiative* (RESI) to conduct a survey and focus groups in 8 units of the University. The report includes an inventory of 32 AI/generative AI initiatives at the University and its 70 events this year focused on generative AI.

In addition, as director of the RESI, Lisa convened the University’s Research Ethics Advisory Board in October; the impact of generative AI on research activities was the primary focus of its discussion. Though not limited to consultation on clinical research, the RESI’s Research Ethics Consultation Service (RECS) has joined the [Clinical Research Ethics Consultation Collaborative](#) at the suggestion of RECS consultant and Center affiliated faculty member **Jonathan Fuller**.

This fall, Lisa participated in the 100th meeting of the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research, featuring special guest Francis Collins, the former and longest-serving director

of the NIH. She also participated in the External Scientific Panel of the Electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE) Network, and presented “The Ethics of Polygenic Risk Assessment” at the Festival of Genomics and Biodata in Boston. In Indianapolis, she participated in the fall meeting of Pitt’s McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine Human Post-Mortem Tissue Conatus project. Relatedly, she is now serving, along with **Mark Wicclair**, on the Committee for Oversight of Research and Clinical Training Involving Decedents (CORID).

Jack Rozel was one of eleven people appointed by Governor Josh Shapiro to serve on the Citizen Law Enforcement Advisory and Review Commission.

The *Journal of General Internal Medicine* appointed **Gaetan Sgro** as Associate Editor of its Healing Arts section. This section of the *JGIM* seeks to satiate “general internists’ appetite for and commitment to the personal essay, fiction, and poetry as means to work through their experiences as physicians” (Charon R, Ship A, Asch SM. Arts, Humanities, Medicine, and Discovery: a Creative Calling, *JGIM*, 2020, 35(2):407-408, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-019-05513-6>). On December 18 at 8:00 pm, Gaetan will appear on *Rattlecast*, a livestreaming poetry and reading podcast. He and host Timothy Green will discuss the intersection of medicine and poetry.

With colleagues, **Ritu Thamman** published: **Thamman R**, Yong CM, Tran AH, Tobb K, Brandt EJ. Role of Artificial Intelligence in Cardiovascular Health Disparities: The Risk of Greasing the Slippery Slope, *JACC Adv.*, 2023, 2(7):100578, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacadv.2023.100578>.

MA PROGRAM STUDENTS AND ALUMNI:

Program alum **Michael Certo**, with **Robert Arnold**, published *Responding to Medical Conspiracy Theories*, Palliative Network of Wisconsin, 2023, <https://www.mypcnw.org/fast-fact/responding-to-medical-conspiracy-theories/>.

Program student **Jess McKelvey** completed the Jewish Healthcare Foundation’s Salk Health Activist Fellowship this fall. She joined an interdisciplinary cohort of 28 fellows, representing 18 different specialties and 13 universities, in developing advocacy action plans that address existing or theoretical legislation in Pennsylvania. The topics included elevating youth voices to improve mental health care systems, establishing universal mental health screenings in primary care, and providing financial support to strengthen the behavioral health workforce, as well as addressing healthcare worker mental health.