



**May  
2022  
News**

Send news to include in the next edition to [bioethics@pitt.edu](mailto:bioethics@pitt.edu).

As the current academic year draws to a close, the University can look forward to expanded educational offerings in bioethics and the health humanities for this summer and next year.

**UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:** The **Certificate in Health Humanities** was approved this month and will be available for undergraduates beginning in Fall 2022. The 18 credit certificate requires two core courses—*Literature and Medicine* and *Medical Sociology*—and a capstone seminar, *Unruly Bodies in Culture, Art, and Medicine*. Students will choose electives to form a thematic cluster focused on their particular interest, such as Bioethics, Cross-cultural Perspectives on Health and Healthcare, Embodiment and Disability, Gendered Bodies, Perspectives on Death, or Religion and Health. Affiliated faculty member **Jeff Aziz** in the Department of English will be the primary advisor for the Certificate in Health Humanities. Jeff wrote the successful proposal of the certificate with **Jacques Bromberg, Phil Kao, Mark Paterson, Lisa Parker, and Uma Ramana Satyavolu**. The certificate is complemented by extra-curricular offerings such as the Center’s Health Humanities Lecture Series, **Abdesalam Soudi’s** Humanities in Health programming, and the new Honors College Scholar Community in Religion and Health Sciences, a collaboration of the Center, Department of Religious Studies (**Brock Bahler**), and Jewish Studies Program (**Rachel Kranson**).

**GRADUATE EDUCATION:** The Center’s proposed graduate **Certificate in Bioethics**, which utilizes the core curriculum of its Master of Arts Program in Bioethics, was approved by the Dietrich School Graduate Council. It now continues through the approval process with review by Dean Blee, the Dietrich School Council, the University Council on Graduate Study, and finally, the Provost.

The Center is pleased to welcome **Evangelian Collings**, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Philosophy, as its first **Health Humanities and Ethics Fellow**. Her dissertation investigates questions of personal identity and mind-body interaction via a focus on the phenomena of pregnancy, birth, and infancy. Embracing a process-based view of biological entities, she intends for her doctoral project to lead to a monograph in analytic philosophy on the importance of birth for the ontology of persons. Her fellowship will afford an opportunity to receive feedback from colleagues in bioethics, obstetrics, public health, and gender and women’s studies. She intends to develop a portion of her dissertation into a manuscript relevant to the abortion debate.

The Health Humanities and Ethics Fellowship is a collaboration of the Center with the Humanities Center, which is hosting five graduate fellows. One of them, **CE Mackenzie**, a doctoral candidate in English, is writing a dissertation that integrates affect theory into addiction studies to deepen understanding of the opioid crisis and to resist capitalistic constructions of the body. As a Humanities Center fellow, CE will engage in auto-ethnographic research at Prevention Point Pittsburgh, and consider needle exchange as a site in which to reconceptualize

precarity by analyzing wonder as an often overlooked affect. CE will then explore the political potentiality of wonder as the feeling of world-making, being in community, being seen, and having agency. Along with Evangelian, CE will be invited to present work in the Center's Bioethics Colloquia next year.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** The Center's **Consortium Ethics Program** is presenting its first in-person seminar since the start of the pandemic. The May 23, day-long seminar designed by **Michael Deem** will provide background and hone skills necessary for participation on ethics committees, ethics consultation services, and ethics education planning committees.

This summer, **Bridget Keown** is offering a five-session Osher Lifelong Learning Institute course, *The Many Faces of Trauma*, in conjunction with the Center's exhibit [Experience, Integration, Expression: The Work of Norman Klenicki](#). She will be joined by Jessy Saffell-Busch, one of the presenters from the [Rethinking War](#) conference Bridget organized this spring, who presented her research on monuments at Dachau and Auschwitz. Together they will examine both trauma's lingering and sometimes pervasive effects, and the ways of meaning making that arise in the wake of "traumatic events." A goal of the course is to explore how trauma is integrated into the lives of individuals and communities. Another iteration of this course, to be offered in the fall, will complement the Provost's [Year of Emotional Well-Being](#) initiative. **Jamie Zelazny** will lead this initiative, along with Jay Darr, Associate Dean of Students for Wellness.

## CENTER FACULTY:

**Robert Arnold** published:

- Baggett ND, Schulz K, Buffington A, Marka N, Hanlon BM, Zimmermann C, Tucholka J, Fox D, Clapp JT, **Arnold RM**, Schwarze ML. [Surgeon Use of Shared Decision-making for Older Adults Considering Major Surgery: A Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial](#). *JAMA Surgery*. Published online March 23, 2022. [10.1001/jamasurg.2022.0290](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamasurg.2022.0290)
- Wolfe AHJ, Hind PS, **Arnold RM**, Soghier L, Tompkins R. Vulnerability of Inexperience: A Qualitative Exploration of Physician Grief and Coping after Impactful Pediatric Patient Deaths. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2022.0050>

**Mary Crossley** presented "HCBS: One Piece of the Community Living Puzzle for Disabled Adults" as part of a symposium on Long-Term Care Services and Supports (LTSS): Payment and Caregiving. The symposium was sponsored by Seton Hall Law School's Center for Health and Pharmaceutical Law. She was also a speaker on the plenary panel opening George Washington University Law School's 2022 Health Law Symposium, *Just Health*. The symposium built on the recently published book by GW Law Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew, *Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America*. The plenary panel addressed implementation of responses to structural racism in healthcare.

**Michael Deem** participated in a three-person panel discussion, *Science, Religion, and Vaccine Hesitancy*, at Duquesne University in April. It was organized by Duquesne's Consortium for Christian-Muslim Dialogue.

**Marielle Gross** was quoted in the *Scientific American* article [Some Medical Ethicists Endorse NFTs—Here’s Why](#).

**Paula Leslie** is a panelist on the webinar, [Positive risk taking and 'unwise' decisions](#), part of a webinar series focused on topics related to Ireland’s Assisted Decision Making Capacity Act 2015. She was also nominated to [#NorthInnovationWomen 2022](#), the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHTSA) and N8 Research Partnership that recognizes women who are pushing the boundaries of innovation within their chosen fields. In addition, with Judith Broll, she published: [Eating, Drinking, and Swallowing Difficulties: The Impacts on, and of, Religious Beliefs](#). *Geriatrics* 2022. 7(2):41.

**Alex London** was appointed to the U.S. National Academy of Medicine Committee on Creating a Framework for Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation in Health and Medicine. His book, *For the Common Good: Philosophical Foundations of Research Ethics*, was the subject of a book symposium at the Pacific American Philosophical Association meeting in April. In addition, he published:

- London, AJ. [Artificial Intelligence in Medicine: Overcoming or Recapitulating Structural Challenges to Improving Patient Care?](#) *Cell Reports Medicine*, 2022, April 27. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xcrm.2022.100622>
- London AJ, Kestigian A. [A Dilemma for Respecting Autonomy: Bridge Technologies and the Hazards of Sequential Decision-Making](#), *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 2022, April 22. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmp/jhab050>

**Lisa Parker** served as a reviewer for multiple internal grant and fellowship programs this spring, and as a “red team reviewer” for the National Science Foundation. For the University of Pittsburgh-Carnegie Mellon University Medical Scientist Training Program she is facilitating discussion of concepts in palliative care using *The Farewell* as a health humanities learning tool. She also presented *Precision Medicine: What does the All of Us Research Program mean for all of us?* to a local chapter of the American Association of University Women in April. Last month she was elected to a three-year term on the Faculty Assembly, representing the School of Public Health.

**Hannah Rogers**, former Center Visiting Scholar and Co-curator (with **Elizabeth Pitts**) of [Art’s Work in the Age of Biotechnology](#) is offering this digital copy of her book [Art, Science, and the Politics of Knowledge](#), which goes on sale May 17. Illustrating her argument with cases ranging from nineteenth-century artisans to contemporary bioartists, she suggests that art and science are not as different from each other as we might assume and shows how the tools of science and technology studies (STS) can be applied to artistic practice, offering new ways of thinking about people and objects that have largely fallen outside the scope of STS research.

**Mark Wicclair** has been invited to present a keynote address and participate in a panel discussion at the World Medical Association’s [International Code of Medical Ethics Revision: Dedicated Conference on Physician Conscientious Objection](#), which will take place July 4-5 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

**Daniel Wilkenfeld** was awarded a Social Justice Faculty Fellowship to focus on early screening and detection of autism in Black children. The project will enable providers in community settings to work with parents and children in facilitating proper diagnosis and treatment and

supporting better understanding of how to navigate the paperwork necessary to receive early therapeutic treatment.

With Christine Durmis, Daniel is publishing “When Law and Ethics Come Apart: Constraints vs. Guidance” in *Nursing Ethics*. Daniel presented its argument in a bioethics colloquium last year. Daniel has also developed a new course, *Ethical and Social Implications of Biotechnology*, which is anticipated to be offered in the School of Nursing at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

**Jamie Zelazny** was selected by the Provost to co-lead the [Year of Emotional Well-Being](#) initiative. Jaime’s research—including pilot studies examining ethical issues and using Human Centered Design for the implementation of a suicide risk prediction algorithm—makes her ideally suited to lead the initiative with Jay Darr, who was head of the University Counseling Center for three years before being named associate dean of students for wellness two months ago.

## **MA PROGRAM STUDENTS AND ALUMNI:**

**Michael Certo** will present his qualitative research project exploring patients (and parents’ of patients) concerns and interest in phage therapy at the [2022 Pittsburgh Phage Project Symposium](#) at the University Club on June 3.

**Marina DiMarco** spent the past year working with Sarah Richardson in Harvard’s Gender Sci Lab. A recent [blog post](#) discusses her paper, published: DiMarco M, Zhao H, Boulicault M, and Richardson SS. (2022). [Why 'Sex as a Biological Variable' Conflicts with Precision Medicine Initiatives](#). *Cell Reports Medicine* 3(4): 1-3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xcrm.2022.100550>