



# BIOETHICS BOOTCAMP

## AN INTENSIVE INTRODUCTION TO HEALTHCARE ETHICS

Monday, April 17, 2023

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Robert Morris University—UPMC Event Center



**Cynthia S. McCarthy, DHCE, NREMT**

Bioethicist and Teaching Assistant Professor,  
Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences  
Assistant Professor, Athletic Training  
Program  
University of Pittsburgh



**Matthew Shea, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
Franciscan University of Steubenville



**Carrie Stott, MSW, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Social Work (MSW)  
Carlow University



**Mark R. Wicclair, PhD**

Adjunct Professor of Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh



**Aimee Zellers, PhD**

Chair, Art, Communication & English  
Program Director, Communication  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Carlow University

**OVERVIEW:** This day long program will provide an intensive introduction to ethical issues that arise in contemporary healthcare practice. Aimed at providing healthcare professionals with a basic introduction to the frameworks needed to understand and address ethical issues within their institution, this program will examine general principles in healthcare ethics through lecture and case-based discussion and will apply these principles to areas of informed consent, decision-making capacity, surrogate decision making, advance care planning and conscientious objection.

In support of improving patient care, the University of Pittsburgh is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physician (CME): The University of Pittsburgh designates this live activity for a maximum of 5.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nursing (CNE): The maximum number of hours awarded for this Continuing Nursing Education activity is 5.0 contact hours.

Physician Assistant (AAPA): The University of Pittsburgh has been authorized by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for 5.0 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

Social Work: As a Jointly Accredited Organization, University of Pittsburgh is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. University of Pittsburgh maintains responsibility for this course. Social workers completing this course receive 5.0 continuing education credits.

Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

**Faculty Disclosure:** No members of the planning committee, speakers, presenters, authors, content reviewers and/or anyone else in a position to control the content of this education activity have relevant financial relationships with any companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

The information presented at this program represents the views and opinions of the individual presenters, and does not constitute the opinion or endorsement of, or promotion by, the UPMC Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, UPMC / University of Pittsburgh Medical Center or Affiliates and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Reasonable efforts have been taken intending for educational subject matter to be presented in a balanced, unbiased fashion and in compliance with regulatory requirements. However, each program attendee must always use his/her own personal and professional judgment when considering further application of this information, particularly as it may relate to patient diagnostic or treatment decisions including, without limitation, FDA-approved uses and any off-label uses.

## AGENDA:

- 8:30 am**                      **Registration**
- 9:00 am**                      **General Welcome & Introductions**
- 9:10 am – 10:10 am**        **Bioethics at the Bedside**  
Carrie Stott, MSW, PhD

**Abstract:** Bioethics is the study of ethical issues that arise from advances in biology and medicine. The vast array of issues related to bioethics has created a multitude of concerns that complicate healthcare today. As a result, ethical dilemmas are common daily occurrences in healthcare that impact professionals, patients, organizations, and society at large. With increased awareness of these issues and knowledge about guiding principles and frameworks, healthcare providers will be prepared to mitigate and confront common ethical issues in practice before they negatively disrupt patient care, patient satisfaction, and length of stay. This presentation will define bioethics and common ethical issues in healthcare today, review basic ethical principles, and overview a framework that can be used by healthcare professionals to address ethical concerns in practice.

- 10:10 am - 10:20 am**        **Break**
- 10:20 am - 11:20 am**        **Respect for Persons: Autonomy, Informed Consent, Privacy and Confidentiality**  
Matthew Shea, PhD

**Abstract:** This presentation will examine the ethical principle of respect for persons and explore two ethical obligations stemming from the principle: respect for patient autonomy and respect for patient privacy. Special attention is given to how these obligations are clinically operationalized in the rules governing informed consent and confidentiality, and to some common ethical challenges surrounding them; and will explore the fundamental ethical issues underlying the principle of respect for persons, such as personhood, dignity, rights, and autonomy.

- 11:20 am – 11:30 am**        **Break**
- 11:30 am – 12:30pm**        **Ethical Issues in Surrogate Decision Making**  
Aimee Zellers, PhD

**Abstract:** This talk will engage participants through case studies to examine the ethical dimensions of surrogate decision making in the clinical setting. We will review the historical context, present legal context, as well as current practices and guidance around the ethical nuances of surrogate decision making.

- 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm**        **LUNCH**
- 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm**        **Conscientious Objection in Healthcare**  
Mark R. Wicclair, PhD

**Abstract:** Conscientious objection is the principle that allows medical personnel to refrain from practices or treatments that cannot be reconciled with their moral judgement. This talk will introduce the topic of conscientious objection in healthcare, including its history, important arguments for and against this protection, and current guidelines regarding conscientious objection. We will then discuss a variety of cases that highlight the ethical issues related to conscientious objection in healthcare.

- 2:15 pm – 2:25 pm**        **Break**
- 2:25 pm - 3:30 pm**        **Advance Care Planning: Reviewing Advance Directives, DNR and POLST**  
Cynthia S. McCarthy, DHCE, REMT

**Abstract:** Advance Care Planning is an important aspect of protecting patient autonomy. Understanding Living Wills and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care documents is a key step in this process. Another step in advance care planning may include the use of physician's orders pertaining to end of life care, specifically Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders (DNR) and Pennsylvania Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST). Advance Care Planning can be overwhelming and confusing for a variety of reasons. Clarification of the options available to patients and their surrogates can maximize patient autonomy and reduce the moral distress experienced by families and health care providers involved in end-of-life decision making.

- 3:30 – 3:40 pm**                **Wrap-Up and Evaluation**
- 3:40 pm**                        **Conference Adjournment**

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES:**

**CYNTHIA S. MCCARTHY, DHCE, MA, NREMT** has a Doctoral Degree in Health Care Ethics from Duquesne University and a Master's Degree in Philosophy, Specializing in Health Care Ethics from Loyola University of Chicago. Cindy has been an adjunct faculty member for the Consortium Ethics Program since January 2000. In addition to presentations in acute care, home care, and rehabilitation, she coordinated the UPMC Home Care Ethics Committee for 10 years and was actively involved with the UPMC Life programs for several years. Cindy has been a teaching faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh since 2009 and taught in the nursing program at La Roche College for five years prior to that. In addition to teaching at the University of Pittsburgh, she is also a consultant for the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board and actively in the process of creating the first undergraduate certificate in Bioethics on the Pittsburgh campus. In addition to ethics education, her outside consultation work has revolved around various Data and Safety Monitoring Boards for the National Institute of Health and work as an accreditation specialist. Although her areas of interest are Advance Directives, Public Health Ethics, Organ Donation and educating health care professionals on bedside ethical dilemmas, she has had two publications in the area of non-heart-beating organ donation, one of which was included in the leading ethics journal Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal (Spielman B and McCarthy C. "Beyond Pittsburgh: Protocols for Controlled Non-Heart-Beating Cadaver Organ Recovery." Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal 1995; 5(4): 232-333).

**MATTHEW SHEA, PH.D.** is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He received a doctorate in philosophy from Saint Louis University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical ethics at the UCLA Health Ethics Center. He has served as an ethics consultant and ethics committee member at UCLA Health System; a lecturer in the schools of medicine, nursing, and public health at UCLA; a part-time faculty member at the Bioethics Institute at Loyola Marymount University; and an ethics committee member at Geisinger Health System. His primary research areas are moral philosophy and bioethics, and he regularly teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in health care ethics.

**CARRIE STOTT, PHD, LSW** is an Assistant Professor in the Master of Social Work Program at Carlow University. She received her Master of Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002 and spent over a decade working as a medical social worker in the areas of critical care and hospice before earning her PhD in Healthcare Ethics from Duquesne University. In addition to teaching across the social work curriculum, Dr. Stott has taught various courses in bioethics, consults as a healthcare ethicist, volunteers as a Congressional Advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, and is a member of the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council.

**MARK R. WICCLAIR, PHD** is Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus at West Virginia University and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, where he teaches in the Master of Arts in Bioethics program; the Clinical Ethics Training Program, in which he coordinates the fourth-year medical ethics elective; and the Center's Consortium Ethics Program. He is co-chair of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Committee for Oversight of Research Involving the Dead (CORID); he served on the UPMC Ethics Consultation Service for approximately twenty years; and he is a member of two hospital ethics committees. His primary research and teaching interests are in bioethics and applied ethics; and he has published extensively in these areas. His publications include two books: *Conscientious Objection in Health Care: An Ethical Analysis* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) -- designated a 2012 Choice "Outstanding Academic Title in Philosophy"--and *Ethics and the Elderly* (Oxford University Press, 1993). He has published numerous articles in professional journals and has contributed several book chapters. He also wrote two entries for the *International Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013) and an entry for the *Encyclopedia of Global Bioethics* (Springer, 2016). The topics of his published work include conscientious objection in health care, surgeons' discretion, dismissing patients, research and teaching with recently deceased patients, end of life decision-making, decision-making capacity, futility, ethics and aging, preferential treatment, censorship, and abortion. He also published two articles and a book chapter on the television series, *House, M.D.* He is a member of the *Cambridge Quarterly of Ethics* editorial board and co-edits the journal's Bioethics in Film and Television section. He has received several fellowships, including a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars. During his tenure as Professor of Philosophy at West Virginia University, he won five awards for outstanding research, teaching, and public service.

**AIMEE ZELLERS, PHD** is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Carlow University, where she has taught since 2013. She is presently serving as the Department Chair for Art, Communication, and English, Program Director for Communication, Co-Chair of the University Faculty Assembly, and participating in a number of committees and taskforces. She is active in Carlow's Center for Global Engagement, supporting and participating in study abroad activities in Uganda and Italy. From 2013 - 2016 she served as the Michele R. Atkins Endowed Chair for Ethics Across the Curriculum. She has previously served as an ethics consultant for UPMC Mercy and presently served on the Ethics Committee and as third-party reviewer for LIFE Pittsburgh.