



**April  
2022  
News**

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

**RECOGNITION OF COLLABORATION:** This month the Center received recognition of its many collaborations with units across Pitt’s various schools and campuses. On April 2, as part of the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Department of Africana Studies, the Department formally recognized the Center for Bioethics & Health Law with an award in the category of “Allies to the Department of Africana Studies.” The Department noted that “in seeking to celebrate 50 years of the department’s growth and achievements, we wanted to recognize the many people and organizations that have made our department’s success possible.” The Center was one of four units at Pitt so recognized.

In a similar vein, in response to the Center’s annual report to her, Provost Ann Cudd expressed being “impressed with the variety and depth of activities” the Center carries out, and congratulated its “impactful efforts.” She reiterated her enthusiasm for the Center’s interdisciplinary, inter-unit, cross-school activities, following the April 1 Faculty Honors Convocation.

Among the faculty honored at the convocation were Center faculty: **Ann Thompson** (Distinguished Service Professor of Critical Care Medicine), **Margaret Rosenzweig** (Distinguished Service Professor of Acute and Tertiary Care, also receiving the President’s Award, Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research), and **Lisa Parker** (Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote Professor of Bioethics). Indicative of the contributions Center faculty make to research at Pitt were the faculty honored at the convocation for research programs; Center colleagues have contributed their ethics expertise to the research of these colleagues: David Brent (Psychiatry), Takashi Kozai (Bioengineering), Adrian Lee (Precision Medicine), Steffi Oesterreich (Cancer), John Williams (Infectious Diseases/Pediatrics).

**EXCERPTS FROM THE CENTER’S REPORT TO PROVOST CUDD:** During the past year, the Center did the following:

Health Humanities and Audiences beyond Pitt

- helped to support Karen Gilmer’s [Say Her Name Memorial Gown](#) exhibit in Frick Fine Arts and four other faculty projects in bioethics and health humanities
- created a **virtual art exhibition**—[Experience, Integration, Expression: The Work of Norman Klenicki](#)—and programmed four related lectures, invited student essays, and commissioned faculty essays
- developed a collaboration with City of Asylum to present readings and lectures in the health humanities and bioethics that reach national and international viewers

Clinical Ethics Education and Continuing Education

- offers **ethics grand rounds** in six departments, a **clinical ethics elective** for medical students, and case-based seminars in three clinical rotations

- teaches an **undergraduate bioethics course in Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS)**
- co-sponsored a **health informatics hackathon** and a **bioengineering case competition**, in both instances emphasizing the ethics of the technologies employed
- is developing an **interprofessional ethics seminar series for SHRS**
- offers continuing ethics education through its **Consortium Ethics Program**, as well as classes and lectures for the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**

#### Graduate and Undergraduate Education

- proposed a **graduate Certificate in Bioethics** that will utilize the curriculum of its **MA Program in Bioethics**
- sponsored an **ethics and health humanities summer research fellowship** (in conjunction with the Humanities Center)
- collaborated to propose an **undergraduate Certificate in Health Humanities** (awaiting final Provost-level review)
- is collaborating with the Department of Religious Studies to launch a **new Honors College Religion and Health Sciences Scholar Community**

#### Lecture Series

- hosted fifteen [Healthcare and Religion Lectures](#) and programmed ten for next year, the second full year of the series (in collaboration with the Department of Religious Studies, Jewish Studies Program, Palliative and Supportive Institute, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminar)
- hosted eleven [Health Humanities Lectures](#) during the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the series, and planned a dozen lectures for next year (in collaboration with faculty teaching health humanities courses like *Ailing Bodies*, **Kalienne Ung**, *Gender and Medicine* and *Gender, Trauma, and Disability*, **Bridget Keown**, and *Literature and Medicine*, **Uma Satyavolu Rau**)
- sponsors the [C. F. Reynolds History of Medicine Lecture Series](#) (programmed by **Kristen Ehrenberger**), and supported development of Kristen's course on media coverage of COVID-19 in the historical context of other pandemics

#### Collaborations

- collaborated with the **European Studies Center** (in UCIS), **Gender and Science Reading Group** (of the GSWS Program), **Research, Ethics and Society Initiative** (RESI, Office of Pitt Research), **Social Justice and Tech Reading Group** (in SCI), and **Year of Data and Society Initiative** to host national and international speakers on ethical issues in science, technology, disability studies, and healthcare
- collaborated with faculty on the **Bradford and Johnstown campuses who created "watch parties"** to spark discussions there for many of the virtual offerings
- supports a **Neuroethics Group** (for Pitt and CMU students and faculty)
- hosted a **two-day virtual conference**, [Rethinking War](#)

#### **CENTER FACULTY:**

**Robert Arnold** presented a talk on communication with seriously ill patients for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation on March 28.

**Julie Childers** is being honored by her colleagues this spring as the recipient of the 2020 Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Foundation Mid-Career Physician Award that recognizes physician efforts to enrich the doctor-patient relationship near the end of life. The selection process for this prize is overseen by Duke University Divinity School's Program in Medicine, Theology, and Culture.

On March 8 **Clark Chilson** presented [Buddhism and Psychotherapy in Japan](#) for the University of British Columbia.

On March 1, **Mary Crossley** presented "HCBS: One Piece of the Community Living Puzzle for Disabled Adults" as part of [Long-Term Care Services and Supports: Payment and Caregiving](#), a symposium sponsored by Seton Hall Law School's Center for Health and Pharmaceutical Law. On March 18, she spoke on the plenary panel opening the [2022 Health Law Symposium: Just Health](#) of George Washington University Law School. The symposium built on the newly 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 health.

**Michael Deem** was granted tenure. He was selected to serve on the American Philosophical Association's Committee on Public Philosophy and will serve a three-year term. He delivered an invited presentation, "Vaccines: Moral Obligations, Prudential Judgments, Personal Responsibility, and the Common Good" at the *Health Care at the Service of the Patient & Professional* conference at St. Patrick's Seminary and University (San Francisco) on February 12, and at the *Art of Accompaniment* healthcare ethics conference at Notre Dame Seminary (New Orleans) on March 26. Michael also delivered an invited commentary for the Metaethics session of the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association on February 23 in Chicago.

**Greer Donley's** paper [The New Abortion Battleground](#), co-authored with David Cohen (Drexel Kline School of Law) and Rachel Rebouche (Temple Law School), was accepted for publication in the *Columbia Law Review*. The three also published a *New York Times* opinion piece, [States Want to Ban Abortions Beyond Their Borders. Here's What Pro-Choice States Can Do](#), on March 13. It outlines state legislative strategies to protect cross-border abortion. Greer's paper, "Subjective Fetal Personhood," co-authored with Jill Lens (University of Arkansas) was accepted for publication in the *Vanderbilt Law Review*.

Greer was interviewed as an expert in a [19thnews.org article](#) regarding the possibility of the Biden administration using executive powers to protect abortion access. She noted that this is a novel legal argument and that perhaps states cannot ban the sale of medication abortion, which would mean states must allow abortion up to 10 weeks. She was also quoted by [Bloomberg.com](#) about preemption and FDA regulation of medication abortion.

**Kristen Ehrenberger** and **Gaetan Sgro** were invited to present "Food for Thought: Qualitative Evaluation of a Pilot Nutrition Elective for Medical Students" at the 2022 National Conference for Physician-Scholars in the Social Sciences and Humanities, *Practicing Care in Crisis: Applied Scholarship in Syndemic Times*, in Los Angeles. Kristen will present "Teaching Medical Students History of Nutrition," at the 95th American Association of the History of Medicine conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, April 23. She is the course director for the elective *Medical Nutrition: Past & Present Theories and Practice*.

In *Learning Health Systems*, **Marielle Gross** published [Respect, Justice and Learning are Limited when Patients are Deidentified Data Subjects](#), with coauthors Amelia Hood, Joshua Rubin, and Robert Miller. The article presents the ethical foundation for empirical research and technology development Marielle is pursuing. Marielle is also planning a panel, Ethical and Legal Implications of Blockchain Healthcare, for presentation at the School of Law on April 20.

**Jennifer Lingler** received a project grant from the Adira Foundation to study *Narrative as a Tool to Enhance Diversity in Research on Late Life Neurodegenerative Disorders*.

**Lisa Parker** was invited, along with **Peg Rosenzweig**, to develop an ethics supplement application to examine patient attitudes and ethical issues related to AI/ML in the context of breast imaging (PI Shandong Wu). This built on an application to the Bridge2AI program for which Lisa was the Pitt ethics co-investigator (with Shandong and University of Chicago ethics Co-I Lainie Friedman Ross). She was also an ethics Co-I on another Bridge2AI application with PI Michael Becich and UCSF ethics Co-I Christine Cassel).

Lisa collaborated with **Elizabeth Pitts** on an application to the National Science Foundation (NSF) submitted by Meng Wang, *Biomining for Sustainable Metal Extraction and Resource Recovery*. The ELSI component of the project was noted as an application strength, and the overall proposal will be resubmitted. Lisa is the ELSI Co-Lead on another NSF application proposing creation of an Engineering Research Center that would span four universities. Following the annual training meeting this month, Lisa concludes her service on the NHGRI Research Training Expert Panel for which she is the longest serving training advisor. She is also participating in the spring meeting of the Expert Scientific Panel of the Electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE) Network.

**Tomar Pierson-Brown** co-authored [Developing a Holistic Measurement Plan for Transition to Adulthood](#), a plan that received a 2022 Pitt Momentum Fund award. Through collaboration between the Schools of Medicine, Law, Education, and Social Work, this project will develop an innovative holistic measurement plan to evaluate the quality of care received during the transition from pediatric to adult services.

With the publication of her edited volume, [Routledge Handbook of Art, Science, and Technology Studies](#), **Hannah Rogers** has moved to Copenhagen and accepted a postdoctoral position at the Medical Museum to assemble a research project and exhibition on art-science in the context of metabolism. A [book launch celebration](#) is being held on April 14 at 11:00 am.

At the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine's 2022 Curriculum Colloquium, **Gaetan Sgro**, **Ritu Thamman**, and **Andrew Thurston** received the Carl R. Fuhrman Clinical Educator of the Year Award for co-directing the elective *Literature, Narrative, and the Experience of Illness*.

**Alyson Stover** was featured in PittWire and in a [video](#) showcasing her ideas for reinventing the profession of occupational therapy. Alyson is President-Elect of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

**Daniel Wilkenfeld** has two manuscripts in press: "Understanding Necessarily and Understanding Actually" in the *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*; and with coauthor

CM Johnson, “In Defense of Vaccine Mandates: An Argument from Consent Rights” in *Public Health Ethics*.

**Mark Wicclair** contributed a chapter on conscientious objection for the second edition of *Guidance for Healthcare Ethics Committees* (Cambridge University Press, 2022). He also presented a seminar for the Center’s Consortium Ethics Program on ethical issues related to treating infectious endocarditis in patients with substance use disorder.

**Jamie Zelazny** presented “Social Media and Suicide Prevention: Ethical Considerations” for Thiel College’s Community Medical Ethics Project.

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

**Tinsley Webster**, who is writing her MA Thesis under the direction of **Jack Rozel**, matched with her first choice and will enter a residency program in psychiatry at Case Western University.

**Janetta Brundage** and **Gabriella Nutter** will begin their clinical practica this May, including the practicum seminar with **Valerie Satkoske**.