



**February
2024
News**

Send news to include in the next edition to bioethics@pitt.edu.

HEALTH HUMANITIES NEWS: In case you missed the reading of [*In Our time: Pandemic Stories from the Frontlines*](#) as part of the Center's Healthcare and Humanity Reading Series at City of Asylum, a staged reading will be presented February 18 at 6:00 pm at [Carnegie Stage](#). The new play by Anya Martin is based on her interviews with female critical care physicians working during the various waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also drawing connections with Ernest Hemingway's collection *In Our Time*. Information and tickets are available from the play's producer, [Hiawatha Project](#).

The inaugural issue of [The Canary](#), Pitt's online journal of health and healthcare-related writing and art, was published January 31. Pediatrics resident Christy Lucas is editor-in-chief, with Chelsea Cockburn and Center affiliated faculty member Gaetan Sgro as editorial associates. Center Program Coordinator Mia Spinelli served as publication curator. Jeff Klein, who designed the Center's virtual art exhibition, also designed *The Canary*'s website. The call for submissions for the next annual issue will be posted on May 15, 2024.



Inaugural Issue
January 2024



Two events are scheduled in relation to the Center's virtual exhibition, [Experience, Integration, Expression: The Work of Norman Klenicki](#). On March 5 at 8:00 am, bioethicist Laurie Zoloth from the University of Chicago will present [Second Texts and Second Opinions: Religion, Medicine, and Jewish Thought](#), in recognition of the important roles that the Holocaust, the subject of much of Klenicki's work, and Jewish philosophy have played in bioethics. (This will be the Center's March Healthcare and Religion Lecture.)

Then, on April 2 at noon, in recognition of the role that boxing plays in Klenicki's life and work, Clarkson University historian Stephen Casper will present [Punch-Drunk Slugnuts: Violence and the Vernacular History of Disease](#) in the series the Center co-sponsors with the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Norman Klenicki himself will have a one-person show of his artwork in Westport, Connecticut, beginning March 8. For information, contact bioethics@pitt.edu.

This spring, two shows at Pittsburgh's [Center for Contemporary Craft](#), at 5645 Butler Street, have health humanities themes. February 2 – May 4, Brie Ruais, whose work “inherently addresses the experience of embodiment,” and is described as “process-oriented, performative,” and a “body-conscious strain of feminist sculpture,” is the first in the gallery’s solo artist exhibition series. In a second overlapping exhibition, March 8 – June 28, Vicki Branagan explores the theme of comfort and vulnerability in a body of work whose text and materials emphasize “tension found in relationships, identity, and family.”

THE 31ST ANNUAL HEALTHCARE ETHICS CONFERENCE: For the 8th year, Center faculty have received a grant from the Provost’s *Year of ...* initiative to support programming, including its annual conference. In this Year of Discourse and Dialogue, the Center seeks to bring bioethics and disability studies perspectives into dialogue to improve healthcare for patients with disabilities. The free, hybrid conference—*Ethics, Disabilities, and Healthcare*—will be offered in-person at the Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center in Allison Park on April 12, beginning with breakfast at 7:30 am and ending at 3:30 pm. (Applications to award continuing education credit in law and multiple health professions, at no cost to participants, are being processed.)

Speakers’ talk titles and abstracts, biographies, and recommended resources will be posted on the [conference webpage](#) March 1, along with registration information. This is a preview of topics:

- Brain injury, disability, and quality of life assessment
Amanda K. Booher, PhD, Bioethicist, Summa Health, Akron, Ohio
- Developmental disabilities, healthcare, and decision-making across the lifespan
Nanette Elster, JD, MPH, Associate Professor, Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
and
Kayhan Parsi, JD, PhD, Professor of Bioethics, Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
- Panel: Medical and surrogate decision making with those on the autism spectrum
- Substance use disorder as a disability and associated ethical issues arising in healthcare
Todd Harvey, BSN, RN, CARN, Programmatic Nurse Specialist in Addiction Medicine, UPMC Mercy
- Disabilities and healthcare disparities
Mary Crossley, JD, Interim Dean, Professor of Law, John E. Murray Faculty Scholar, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- Disability-related accommodations in healthcare
Chatón T. Turner, Esq., Senior Associate Counsel and Vice President of Risk Management/Disabilities Services, UPMC

As a prelude to the conference, a series of virtual talks began last term, including Sarah Jean Barton’s [Attending to Disability: Honoring the Religious Lives and Practices of People with Intellectual Disabilities](#). The next talk will be February 23 at 8:00 am, when Louise Christensen from the University of Copenhagen will present [Tooth Shame & its Various Choreographies — An Ethnographic Study of Dental Health-Related Shame within Elderly Care Systems](#).

FACULTY NEWS: Affiliated faculty member Bridget Keown is a 2024 co-recipient of the Tina and David Bellet Teaching Excellence Award, which was established in 1998. An historian, Bridget focuses her teaching on gender and science. She is Teaching Assistant Professor in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies and frequently teaches in Pitt’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Her research examines experience and treatment of war-related trauma among British and Irish women during the First World War and the Irish War of Independence, and the construction of history through trauma. Bridget organizes the international *Rethinking War* virtual interdisciplinary conference, is a frequent contributor to [Nursing Clio](#), serves as the Programming Director for Pitt’s *Research, Ethics and Society Initiative*, and curated the Center’s virtual art exhibition.



Bridget Keown



Kaliane Ung



Bob Arnold

Affiliated faculty member Kaliane Ung in Pitt’s Department of French and Italian was recently offered a tenure-stream position at Pitt. As a Visiting Assistant Professor, Kaliane has programmed substantial portions of the Center’s Health Humanities Lecture Series. Her book project “Wounded Writings: Disability in France” focuses on first-person accounts of disability across literary genres. The manuscript is structured around four “situated experiences” of disability (war wounds, mental illnesses, neurodivergence, and skin disorders) that display four different ways of negotiating the articulation of first-hand experience and the search for community.

In far less happy news for us, Bob Arnold has accepted a position at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai as Professor and Vice-Chair of Faculty Development within the Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. During his 36 years at Pitt, Bob established the Clinical Ethics Teaching Program in the School of Medicine, a Fellowship in Medical Ethics, and the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics in the Department of Medicine. Several Center faculty and MA Program students have participated in its Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship, including Kelly Harris and Michael Certo. Bob was the inaugural incumbent of the Dr. Leo H. Crip Chair in Patient Care (2000-2016) and became Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine in 2016. Since 2010, Bob served as Chief Medical Officer of the Palliative and Supportive Institute, which has co-sponsored the Center’s Healthcare and Religion Lecture Series. Reflecting on his “bittersweet” move to New York, Bob wrote that he values Pitt/UPMC as a “collaborative place – where people really care about patients and learners. The medical educators have taught me so much about learning and caring. People do not care about titles or structure; they care about doing the right thing.”

CURRICULAR NEWS: Proposed in March 2022 by Michael Deem and Lisa Parker, the graduate Certificate in Bioethics received approval from the Graduate Council later that spring and its final approval just this month from interim Provost McCarthy. Rachel Peabody, a physician assistant in cardiac surgery, matriculated into the certificate program this spring.

In its second year, the undergraduate Certificate in Health Humanities now has 46 students enrolled. The Area of Concentration (AoC) in Medical Humanities and Ethics, which launched in 1997, has 9 medical students participating. With the new Three Rivers Curriculum being implemented at the School of Medicine, the precise contours of the AoC are in flux; however, Center affiliated faculty member Jason Rosenstock, Associate Dean for Medical Education, has expressed his commitment to maintaining curricular pathways for students to pursue the humanities and bioethics within their medical education.

The MA Program in Bioethics is now accepting internal applicants, those who are already enrolled in other Pitt programs, for both Spring and Fall matriculation. History and Philosophy of Science doctoral candidate Rose Gatfield-Jeffries, a native of New Zealand, joined in January and brings to the program her interests in feminist philosophy of science and the role of values in scientific inquiry, particularly in the biological and biomedical sciences.

MA Program alumnus, James Tabery, now at the University of Utah, will present *[The Black Prisoners of Stateville: Race, Research, and Reckoning at the Origin of Precision Medicine](#)* in the Department of Human Genetics and Public Health Bioethics Grand Rounds on March 22 at noon. The talk will be held in A115 Public Health, as well as online; contact bioethics@pitt.edu to register for online access.