



**November
2021
News**

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

ALL ATWITTER: The Center is now publicizing its events on Twitter; follow @pittbioethics.

BOOK LAUNCH: Alex London's [*For the Common Good: Philosophical Foundations of Research Ethics*](#) will be published by Oxford University Press for the new year. Especially timely for its exploration of tensions between activity undertaken for the common good—research—and the rights and welfare of individuals, the book connects research to the goals of a just social order and reconceives research ethics as resolving coordination problems and assuring that basic requirements emanating from his conception of the common good are met by research practices. (The book is available in a traditionally marketed format and as an open access title available under the terms of a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license. It is free to read at Oxford Scholarship Online and offered as a free PDF download from OUP.)

COLLOQUIUM AND CONSORTIUM: With **Marci Nilsen** as its coordinator, the Center's Bioethics Colloquium series began with **Greer Donley** discussing the apparent tension between abortion rights and the recognition of pregnancy loss, and then **Rachel Kranson** presenting the 20th century history of legal teams representing American Jewish organizations presenting arguments defending abortion access as a religious right. On February 25, 2022, this focus will continue with *Abortion Rights at a Crossroads*, a symposium celebrating the 25th anniversary of Pitt's Health Law Program. Featured during this day-long symposium will be the Nordenberg Lecture—*Race-ing Roe: Reproductive Justice, Racial Justice, and the Battle for Roe v. Wade*—presented by Melissa Murray. December 10 is the next colloquium featuring [Michael DeVita](#).

The Consortium Ethics Program, directed by **Michael Deem**, offered its *Bioethics Boot Camp* on October 22, and continues its programming with two seminars: *Ethical Issues in Oncology* (including consideration of ethical issues related to genetic testing for cancer risk, individualized therapies, continuous deep sedation, and the influence of income and race on patients' cancer experience) and *Ethical Issues in Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, and Treatment of Blood Disorders* (focusing on ethics of pharmacogenomics, left-ventricular assist devices, and treatments for sickle cell disease and for endocarditis). These seminars will run December 13 – March 11; those interested in attending any of the sessions should contact cep@pitt.edu.

DATES TO SAVE:



Monday, January 24, 2022, 5:00–6:30 pm – *The Afterlives of Trauma: Art and Memory*, presented by Laura S. Levitt, Temple University, author of *Objects That Remain*, opening the Center's exhibition: *Experience, Integration, Expression: The Works of Norman Klenicki*

- Friday, February 25, 2022, 8:30 am–5:00 pm – *Abortion Rights at a Crossroads*

- Monday, April 4, 2022 – the Center’s Interprofessional Ethics Conference to be held in the Scaife Hall 11th floor Conference Center

EVENTS IN DECEMBER: Join for these year-end events ...

- [*Ethics at the Intersection of Academic Research and Human Rights Practice*](#) (Jay Aronson, CMU) – Friday, December 3, noon–1:00 pm – Inaugural Research, Ethics and Society Initiative Seminar
- [*Physician Aid in Dying: An Examination from Spiritual and Ethical Perspectives*](#) (Timothy Quill, University of Rochester; Heather Mikes, Pitt; and Jonathan Weinkle, Pitt) – Tuesday, December 7, 8:00–10:00 am
- [*Aging and Ageism: Are Older Healthcare Professionals Unsafe?*](#) (Michael DeVita, Columbia University) – Friday, December 10, 10:00–11:30 am – Bioethics Colloquium

CENTER FACULTY:

Robert Arnold published with Center colleagues **Julie Childers**, **Margaret Rosenzweig**, **Yael Schenker**, and **Doug White**:

- Rosenberg AR, **Arnold RM**, **Schenker Y**. [Holding Hope for Patients with Serious Illness](#). *JAMA*, 2021. Published online September 16, 2021. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.14802
- **Schenker Y**, Althouse AD, **Rosenzweig M**, **White DB**, Chu E, Smith KJ, Resick JM, Belin S, Young-Park, S, Smith TJ, Bakitas MA, **Arnold RM**. [Effect of an Oncology Nurse–Led Primary Palliative Care Intervention on Patients With Advanced Cancer. The CONNECT Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial](#). *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 2021. Published online September 13, 2021. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2021.5185.
- Morrison RS, Meier DE, **Arnold RM**. [What’s Wrong with Advance Care Planning?](#) *JAMA*, 2021. Published online October 8, 2021. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.16430
- Chiarchiaro J, **Arnold RM**, Ernecoff NC, Claxton R, **Childers JW**, Schell JO. [Serious Illness Communication Skills Training During a Global Pandemic](#). *ATS Scholar*, 2021.
- King C, **Arnold RM**, Dao E, Kapo J, Liebschutz J, *et al*. [Consensus-based Approaches to Managing Opioids, Including Opioid Misuse and Addiction, for Patients with Serious Illness: Protocol for a Modified Delphi Process to Generate Guidance](#). *BMJ Open*, 2021.

Michael Deem was interviewed for [Vaccine Mandates Could Improve Uptake but Face Political Hurdles](#), and presented “Vaccines: Moral Obligations, Prudential Judgments, Personal Responsibility, and the Common Good” on November 13 at The Children’s Hospital of San Antonio. The November 3 *Bioethics for The People* podcast featured his comments on [Religious Exemptions and Vaccine Policy](#). On November 2, for Cook Children’s Hospital and the North Texas Chapter of the Society of Pediatric Nurses, he presented “Ethics in an Emergency: Navigating Moral Duties to Self and to Patients.” He received a grant from Pitt’s Year of Data and Society initiative to enable Center programming to pay increased attention to the use of data in bioethics and the health humanities.

Greer Donley published a co-authored article, [The Messy Post-Roe Legal Future Awaiting America](#), in *The Atlantic*, as well as the co-authored *Harvard Law Bill of Health* blog post, [Pregnancy Loss, Abortion Rights, and a Holistic Reproductive Justice Movement](#). She presented “Subjective Fetal Personhood” (co-authored with Jill Lens) in the Center’s colloquium and at

Harvard Law's Health Law Policy, Bioethics and Biotechnology Workshop, and gave a talk about Texas's Senate Bill 8 through Pitt's Center for Women's Health Research and Innovation.

Marielle Gross published, with Robert C. Miller, [Protecting Privacy and Promoting Learning: Blockchain and Privacy Preserving Technology Should Inform New Ethical Guidelines for Health Data](#) in *Health and Technology*, August 2021.

Bridget Keown's "'A Perfect Hell of a Night which We Can Never Forget': Narratives of Trauma in the Private Writings of British and Irish Nurses in the First World War" was published in [Languages of Trauma: History, Memory, and Media](#) (University of Toronto Press, 2021). Her spring seminar—*Gender, Trauma, and Disability*—explores the history, social construction and lived experience of disability and trauma through a framework incorporating gender and queer theory, critical race studies, and feminist critiques of science and technology.

Rachel Kranson was selected to participate in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's faculty seminar, *Bioethics, Disease, and the Holocaust*, which will explore relationships between the Holocaust and the fields of bioethics and public health.

Paula Leslie was the lead academic author of the United Kingdom's national competencies in eating, drinking, and swallowing for the pre-registration education and training of speech and language therapists promulgated by the 17,000-member Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. She also published (with Bridget Xia and Jaemin Yoo) [It's Not Such a Small World After All: The Intersection of Food, Identity, and the Speech-Language Pathologist](#), *Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Group*, August 2021, and provided several presentations:

- "Supporting People with Chronic Dysphagia," American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) on-line conference, Maximizing Outcomes for Medically Complex Patients of All Ages
- "Confidently Approaching Palliative Care throughout the Continuum," a webinar with Tiffany Mohr for the ASHA Gerontology Special Interest Group
- "Not Could We, But Should We: Bioethical Perspectives on Research in Eating, Drinking, & Swallowing," the keynote address at the annual conference of the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists
- "Ethics in Research," Pan-London Specialist Registrar Training Day: Ethical Research, Evidence & Guidelines
- "How Do We Define Comfort P.O.?" October Dysphagia Cafe webinar

Alex London published:

- Shah SK, **London AJ**, et al. [Ethically Designing Research to Inform Multidimensional, Rapidly Evolving Policy Decisions: Lessons Learned from the PROMISE HIV Perinatal Prevention Trial](#). *Clinical Trials*, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17407745211045734>
- Nakazawa E, Yamamoto K, **London AJ**, et al. [Solitary Death and New Lifestyles During and After COVID-19: Wearable Devices and Public Health Ethics](#). *BMC Medical Ethics*, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-021-00657-9>
- Blumenthal-Barby J, Aas S, Brudney D, Flanigan J, Liao SM, **London AJ**, Sumner W, Savulescu J. [The Place of Philosophy in Bioethics Today](#), *American Journal of Bioethics (AJOB)*, 2021 doi: 10.1080/15265161.2021.1940355

- He also presented “An Ethical Case for Transparency in AI” to the August 2021 BOLD-AIR Summit, Stanford Center for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine & Imaging.

Lisa Parker participated as a co-signatory to the [ABPD Statement in Support of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates For All Eligible Americans](#). She serves on the program committee for [ELSIcon2022: Innovating for a Just and Equitable Future](#) to be held at Columbia University in June. At Pitt, she serves on University committees examining issues of conflict of interest, data governance, licensing of data, universal consent to collection of biological materials, and vaccination mandates.

Uma Satyavolu Rau was promoted to Senior Lecturer and this fall offered *Narrative and Graphic Perspectives in Health Humanities*, a course that examines emerging modes of understanding the importance of diversity and inclusion in medicine and the health humanities. She coordinates the English Department’s Medical Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellows Program that helps to prepare them for careers in medical and healthcare fields, as well as science writing and narrative medicine. Her own research project, *Sight and Insight: Ocular Surgery/Health in British India, 1900-1940*, benefitted from a summer research grant from the Center.

Jack Rozel is the 2021 recipient of the Allegheny County Medical Society’s Ralph C. Wilde Leadership Award. He helped draft and was featured in the [AMA amicus brief](#) in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*, a 2nd Amendment case. With Bioethics Program student **Tinsley Grimes**, he presented a workshop on ethics and threat management to the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals in June 2021.

Candace Skibba co-edited [The How Well? Anthology: Wellness for the Rest of Us](#), a compilation of illustrated short stories centered around ideas of community and mutual caretaking and reflecting diverse perspectives from Pittsburgh graphic narrative artists and community members. This contribution to the graphic medicine genre grew out of years of interviews, research, and cultural events coordinated by Carnegie Mellon University faculty Heather Kelley, Gabriele Maier, and Candace Skibba.

Jonathan Weinkle received the 2021 Nathaniel Bedford Primary Care Award from Allegheny County Medical Society.

Mark Wicclair published [Conscience Clauses and Ideological Bias](#) in *American Journal of Bioethics*, July 2021 and [Commentary: Special Issue on Conscientious Objection](#) in *HEC Forum*, September 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10730-021-09458-4>. He presented “Conscientious Objection in Health Care” in the Institute of Ethics, University of New Mexico, lecture series on Medical Aid in Dying.

MA PROGRAM STUDENTS AND ALUMNI:

Janetta Brundage received a BS focused on molecular biology and a BPhil from the University of Pittsburgh. Her BPhil thesis considered the ethics of knowingly transplanting HIV+ organs into HIV- recipients. After earning her MA in Bioethics, she plans to pursue a PhD in public health focused on population-level bioethics. She is currently employed by both Pitt’s Writing

Center and a research group at Johns Hopkins, and is working with Michael DeVita on a paper elaborating ethical issues raised in ["Settled" Ethical Issues Reevaluated in the Context of the COVID Pandemic: Lessons from Harlem Hospital](#), his Ethics and Medicine Grand Rounds lecture last December.

Gabriella Nutter, a native of South Africa, witnessed the discontinuity between the advancement of healthcare and its implementation in communities around her from an early age. Bent on understanding this interaction, she pursued a pre-medical curriculum at Denison University where she graduated with a BA in Psychology, and concentration in Neuroscience. During college, Gabriella developed interest in empirical research on a range of topics including chemosensation, traumatic brain injury, social affective psychology, neuropsychology, and the microbiome, with research spanning healthcare systems in southern Africa, Kenya, England, and the United States. While pursuing an MA in Bioethics, Gabriella is a neuroimaging researcher for the Brain, Aging and Cognitive Health Lab at the University of Pittsburgh where she investigates brain aging in response to interventions of exercise.

Molly Sear received her MA in Bioethics after successfully defending her thesis entitled [Ethical Issues in Use of Crowdfunding to Finance Healthcare](#). She is currently a Patient Advocate for Travers Therapeutics. Prior to that, she worked as an Analyst in the University of California San Francisco's Institute for Neurodegenerative Disease, and in the fields of nutrition and PTSD research, managing clinical trials.