



**November
2022
News**

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

CLINICAL ETHICS EDUCATION: **Julie Childers** is assuming the role of the Center's Associate Director for Clinical Ethics Education, previously held by **Bob Arnold**. Julie is already the co-course director for the first-year medical students' *Ethics, Law, and Professionalism* course. She also co-directs the second-year internal medicine resident communication course, which includes motivational interviewing and discussing advance care planning. Julie's research interests lie in teaching communication skills, particularly end-of-life discussions and motivational interviewing, and managing addiction in patients with serious illness. She is also the Co-Chair of the Ethics Committee of UPMC Presbyterian, UPMC Montefiore, and UPMC Shadyside Hospitals. A graduate of Oberlin College and Pitt Med, where she participated in the Area of Concentration in Medical Humanities and Ethics, Julie recently received the Hastings Center Award for Excellence in End-of-Life-Care for a mid-career professional and in 2010 received the Award for Innovation in Medical Education.

NEW CENTER STAFF: The Center is pleased to announce the addition of **Mia Spinelli** as its Program Coordinator and as the Program Coordinator for the *Research, Ethics and Society Initiative* (RESI) of Pitt Research. Mia will assist in managing the online presence and events of both the Center and the RESI, as well as the Center's academic programs and RESI offerings. As a student at Franklin and Marshall College, Mia studied English creative writing and Arabic and German language. After graduating, Mia worked as a business immigration paralegal and German teacher.

THE IRIS MARION YOUNG AWARD will be presented to **Greer Donley** to recognize her extraordinary work on reproductive justice (see her [bibliography](#)). Iris Marion Young Awards for Political Engagement honor those who work to promote justice in the University, at the local or national level, or across the globe. The award was created in honor of philosopher and social theorist Iris Young (1949 – 2006), who taught in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs for nine years. All are invited to the awards ceremony on Thursday November 17, at 5:30 pm in Alumni Hall 121, with a reception to follow in the Cathedral Gallery of Views, also in Alumni Hall.

PODCASTS AND CERTIFICATES: Hosted by Lynn Priestley and produced by Pitt students, the podcast *Welcomed by Design* released its [first episode](#) on September 29th. The podcast interviews authors, researchers, designers, advocates, and practitioners across a range of fields to learn how design can be made more accessible and inclusive. Episodes will be released monthly on [Spotify](#) and [LibSyn](#), and the production team welcomes comments, suggestions, and questions; email welcomedbydesign@gmail.com.

Welcomed by Design complements Pitt's growing interest in disability studies and a new undergraduate [Disability Studies Certificate](#), approved a month ago and offered in the College of

General Studies. The Certificate will enable students from across the university to bring a disability studies lens to their home fields of study, as well as engage with Disability Studies as a rich interdisciplinary field in its own right. For information about this opportunity, contact Sam Pittman, Director, Disability Studies Certificate, sep44@pitt.edu.

Also currently under review is a new undergraduate Certificate in Bioethics. The certificate is proposed and to be directed by Cindy McCarthy, a faculty member in the Office of the Dean of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, who teaches healthcare ethics courses in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and College of General Studies, as well as providing continuing ethics education through the Consortium Ethics Program. “The certificate is designed to provide students translatable skills and authentic experiences” within health-related fields. Open to undergraduates from all schools, the Certificate will be offered by the School of Public Health, where **Michael Deem** has developed a new course, *Ethical Issues in Public and Community Health*. This course will be offered for the first time in Spring 2023 and serves as a required course for the Certificate. This fall, Michael is also teaching *Rehabilitation Ethics* (in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Science), which is a potential elective for the Certificate. Also under review is a proposed graduate Certificate in Bioethics, employing the curriculum of the MA Program in Bioethics, designed for those who want to incorporate attention to bioethical issues in their own fields, professions, or research projects.

The new undergraduate [Certificate in Health Humanities](#) enrolled its first cohort of declared students this fall. **Jeff Aziz** will offer *Unruly Bodies in Culture, Art, and Medicine* for the first time in Spring 2023 as the certificate capstone course. In different semesters, the capstone will be offered by four departments/programs: Anthropology, English Literature, Film Studies, and Sociology.

CENTER OFFERINGS AS SIGNATURE EVENTS OF YEAR OF EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING:
On December 4 and January 22, the Center is teaming with the City of Asylum jazz program to highlight connections between creativity and mental health. The jazz concerts—in-person at City of Asylum (40 North Avenue) and online, from 6:00 – 7:30—will feature artwork by [Norman Klenicki](#) and jazz greats Charles Mingus (December 4) and Thelonious Monk (January 22). City of Asylum’s [40 North Bar & Restaurant](#) will be open on the evenings of these programs. This series is supported in part by the Year of Emotional Well-being Initiative as one of its signature events.

The Initiative is also featuring the Center’s March 31 conference—*Ethics, Healthcare, and Emotional Well-being: Lessons Learned, Challenges Remaining*—as a signature event. The planning committee—**Jack Rozel**, **Valerie Satkoske**, and **Jamie Zelazny**, as well as Philip Empey and Rick Morycz—would be pleased to receive suggestions for the conference program at bioethics@pitt.edu.

CENTER FACULTY:

With colleagues, including **Jessie Soodalter** and **Dio Kavalieratos**, who were previously faculty and friends of the Center, **Robert Arnold** published:

- Martin ME, Vergo MT, Cullinan AM, Zarrabi A, & **Arnold RM** (2022). Palliative Care Fellowship Training: Are We Training Fellows for Where the Field is Going? (with Apologies to Wayne Gretzky). *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2022.0388>

- Abdullahi LB, Viera-Oriz L, Lyttle KA, Indralingam R, **Arnold RM** (co-senior), & Schenker YA (co-senior) (2022). Novel Educational Program for Medical Students to Increase Diversity in Palliative Care. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2022.07.018>
- Vergo M, Cullinan A, Wilson M, Foster-Johnson L, Wasp GT, & **Arnold RM** (2022). Low-Cost, Low-Resource Training Model to Enhance and Sustain Serious Illness Conversation Skills for Internal Medicine Residents. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2022.0247>
- Frydman JL, Gelfman LP, **Arnold RM**, & Smith, C (2022). Can Serious Illness Communication Help Clinicians Uncover Our Implicit and Explicit Biases?. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*.
- **Kavalieratos D**, Lowers J, Moreines LT, Hoydich ZP, **Arnold RM**, Yabes JG, Richless C, Ikejiani DZ, Teuteberg W, & Pilewski JM (2022). Embedded Specialist Palliative Care in Cystic Fibrosis: Results of a Randomized Feasibility Clinical Trial. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2018.12.094>
- Lowers J, Dellon EP, Stephenson AL, **Arnold RM**, Althouse A, Jeong K, Dubin E, **Soodalter JA**, Hovater C, Bakitas MA, Goggin J, Hunt WR, Ladores S, Curseen K, Winter GR, Solomon GM, Ailon J, Conrad D, & **Kavalieratos D** (2022). Integrating Specialist Palliative Care to Improve Care and Reduce Suffering: Cystic Fibrosis (InSPIRe:CF) – Study Protocol for a Multicenter Randomized Clinical Trial. *BMJ Open Respiratory Research*. [10.1136/bmjresp-2022-001381](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjresp-2022-001381)
- Elmer J, Mikati N, **Arnold RM**, Wallace DJ, & Callaway CW (2022). Death and End-of-Life Care in Emergency Departments in the United States. *JAMA Network Open*.

As part of the Medical Sociology Conference sponsored by the British Sociological Association, on September 15, **Mary Crossley** presented “Trustworthy Medicine: Perspectives from the Race-Disability Intersection.” Her book, [*Embodied Injustice: Race, Disability, and Health*](#), was published by Cambridge University Press.

With palliative care neonatologist Steven Leuthner, **Paula Leslie** presented “Eating, Drinking, and Swallowing: Ethical Subtleties and Solutions” for the Dysphagia Research Society Institute for Education. She also presented “Ethics & Evidence: Advancing Clinical Care” at the Third Conference of the Saudi Society of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and “Eating, Drinking, & Swallowing - Ethics & Decision Making” at University of Uppsala, Sweden.

In October, **Lisa Parker** participated in advisory group meetings for the Electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE) Network and the National Human Genome Research Institute. “Using Prediction Algorithms to Identify Individuals at Risk of a Fatal Overdose: A Promising Opportunity that Requires a Comprehensive Legal Framework,” a commentary with colleagues from the RK Mellon funded project to predict opioid overdose, including **Tina Hershey**, is appearing in *Health Affairs* November 22.

With Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Darcy Moschenross, **Jack Rozel** had a chapter published on practical approaches to bioethics in community psychiatric settings:

Rozel, JS, & Moschenross, DM (2022). Practical Ethics for Practicing Clinicians. In WE Sowers, HL McQuiston, JM Ranz, J Maus Feldman, & PS Runnels (Eds.), *Textbook of Community Psychiatry: American Association for Community Psychiatry* (2nd ed., pp. 803–815). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-10239-4_58.

Mark Wicclair was invited to participate in a seminar hosted by Rutgers University's Center for Population-Level Bioethics. The seminar topic was potential conflicts between clinicians' personal and professional commitments and their "democratic" commitments after *Dobbs v. Jackson*.

MA PROGRAM STUDENTS AND ALUMNI:

Current MA Program student **Gabriella Nutter** presented "Building on Epistemic Error: A Non-ideal Approach To Epistemic Injustice In Healthcare" at the October American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. Alumnus **Michael Certo** presented "Using Experiential Capacity and Self-Awareness to Inform Assessment of Suffering in Children," based on his MA thesis project, as well as "Incorporating Formalized Ethics Education into a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Curriculum," reporting on his work to introduce more discussion of ethical issues into his fellowship at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

Next year, the ASBH will meet in Baltimore on October 10-14. Students should consider submitting an abstract for the program, or a paper for the [student paper prize](#). Two students in the MA Program have received the award: Jessica Benham (2017) and Andrea Scarantino (2000). Students should also consult with the Center about availability of financial assistance to attend the meeting.