Evening Ethics

“Professional Conscripts: Rethinking Conscience in Medicine”
with the Max & Sara Cowan Memorial Speaker
Abraham M. Nussbaum, MD

Wednesday
November 15, 2017
5:30-7:00 PM
Research Administration Building Room #117

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Light Refreshments served

Other opportunities with Dr. Nussbaum include:

- Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Thursday, November 16, 2017, 7:45am-9am, HSEB 1750:
  "Questionable Agreement: The Inter-Rater Reliability of Major Depressive Disorder and its Implications for Quality Improvement"

- Cowan Memorial (Public) Lectureship, Thursday, November 16, 2017, noon-1pm, HSEB 1730:
  "Mistaking The Map for The Territory: How We Got Lost In the Patient-Practitioner Relationship"

Recently, the question of conscientious objection was prominently raised in an NEJM article by Ronit Y. Stahl, Ph.D., and Ezekiel J. Emanuel, M.D., Ph.D. Using this article, “Physicians, Not Conscripts—Conscientious Objection in Health Care” (NEJM, 2017 Apr 6;376(14):1380-1385) to frame our conversation, we will consider the similarities and differences between conscientious objection in the military and in medicine; ask if it should be legal for a health practitioner to opt out of performing specific procedures because of his or her moral or religious beliefs; if and when a practitioner should not participate in a particular practice endorsed by a professional society; consider if professional societies constitute a moral authority; explore the difference between individual and communal conscience; and think through other ways to honor pluralism within contemporary health professions. (Contact Linda.carrlee@hsc.utah.edu for a copy of this article.)

Abraham M. Nussbaum, MD, MTS, our 2017-18 Cowan Memorial Speaker, will facilitate this discussion. Dr. Nussbaum is an Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine, and a board certified psychiatrist who practices at Denver Health, an academic safety-net hospital in downtown Denver. He previously directed its adult inpatient psychiatry units, which care for adults throughout Colorado experiencing mental health crises and currently serves as Chief Education Officer, providing strategic vision, daily direction, and administrative oversight for Denver Health’s clinical education programs. In his practice, he strives to inhabit the roles described in his book, The Finest Traditions of My Calling: One Physician’s Search for the Renewal of Medicine, asking how he and his fellow practitioners can restore patients to health through person-centered care. Dr. Nussbaum is actively involved in teaching undergraduate students, medical students, psychiatry residents, and psychosomatic fellows.

The HSEB Bookstore will have copies of Dr. Nussbaum’s book, The Finest Traditions of My Calling: One Physician’s Search for the Renewal of Medicine, to purchase after Grand Rounds, and before and after the Cowan noon Lecture. Dr. Nussbaum will sign copies after Grand Rounds and after the Cowan noon Lecture.