A special Evening Ethics discussion was the kickoff event for the Association for Utah Genetic Counselors’ Spring conference, featuring a staged reading and panel discussion of “White People,” by J.T. Rogers. The event was co-sponsored by AUG, the Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities and Health Equity and Inclusion, Utah Health.

One of the monologues from “White People” comes from Mara Lynn, a housewife and former homecoming queen in Fayetteville, NC. For this event, Mara Lynn was portrayed by professional actor Mary Parker-Williams, who originated the role at Salt Lake Acting Company in an earlier version of the play many years ago. Mara Lynn is mother to a young son suffering from intractable seizures due to a rare genetic disorder. Mara Lynn is brutal and frank as she reveals her belief that she and her family are being left behind somehow, early dreams of success lost. She blames others for her situation, particularly her husband, and most pointedly the many non-Caucasian people she feels have taken the opportunities owed to her. She resents the professional success of the Indian-born surgeon who offers her son a chance at relief from his seizures, and hates her dependence on his skill. Still, her heart-wrenching stories and confessions offer audience members a chance to watch Mara Lynn wrestle with guilt and prejudice. Rogers’ script, and Parker-Williams’ virtuoso performance, kept the audience deeply uncomfortable, moving between pity and disgust toward Mara Lynn.

As the post-show discussion moderator, Division member Gretchen Case began with the idea of “cultural humility,” a term coined by health educators Melanie Tervalon and Jann Murray-Garcia in 1998. Cultural humility is meant to replace other approaches to culture based on “competence” or “sensitivity,” and insists instead on a commitment to lifelong learning and attention to the importance of culture, on both individual and institutional levels. Dr. Case then turned the discussion to a panel of genetic counselors—Anthony Chen, Deborah Hartzfeld, and Suzana San Roman Rivera—who addressed questions raised by the “White People” monologue, especially how healthcare professionals might, or should, handle offensive comments related to race and other aspects of identity. All three of the panelists, who offer genetic counseling services by phone, revealed that they had heard comments from patients, who could not see them, that were deeply offensive. The audience, made up of many genetic counselors and other medical professionals, joined in to share their own experiences and perspectives on being insulted for aspects of their identity—or witnessing colleagues insulted—while trying to maintain a professional relationship with a patient or family.

The impact and importance of this uncomfortable, but necessary, discussion was clear as the audience lingered far past the allotted time. Dr. Vickie Venne, whose memory of the original version of the play at SLAC years ago initiated this event, finally called an end to the evening and invited the genetic counselors to continue this difficult conversation over the course of the weekend conference. By all accounts, they did.

Medical Student Art Exhibit at Eccles Library

Don’t miss the Layers of Medicine Art show in the Eccles Health Sciences Library, April 13-May 15, featuring art created by medical students that “layers” human elements of healthcare over scientific knowledge and skills. Enjoy a few select examples, here. This memorable art is well worth the time! For more information, see the College of Fine Arts blog.

Example artwork shown on page two.
If Opiods Could Speak… But Alas, She is Asleep
By: Jared Reese

In 2016, more than 50,000 American died from drug overdoses. To put that into perspective, just looking at heroin deaths, that’s more than the total number of gun homicides or car accidents in the United States. My artwork depicts a personal experience of mine as an EMT, and the thoughts that went through my head at the tragic scene of a mother of two children. She has a story to tell. If only opioids could speak. What would they say to you?

Equilibrium
By: Sam Whittier

There is an inherent dilemma in choosing the path of medicine. For an individual to genuinely pursue such a course, there are enormous sacrifices to be made. It is incumbent upon each of us to be vigilant in our training, that our future patients can wax confident, knowing an adept physician stands before them. Likewise we must not abandon our personal selves, family, and relationships. The stethoscope on the left pan of this balance scale represents the devotion and focus required of us in our medical training. The ring, on the right pan, represents family, values, and personal development that must be kept in a tight balance throughout the journey we have undertaken.

“Circle of Hope: Cancer in Color”
By: Erica Takagi

Cancer is a non-discriminatory and unifying disease; however, each individual’s experience, perspective and goal is unique. Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI), located on “circle of Hope Drive” serves as an inspiration to many, exemplifying the profound impact that atmosphere and attitude can have on the morale of patients. The top border is a collection of colors that patients, family members, and employees selected to best represent their emotions toward Cancer. The bottom illustrates their feelings toward Cancer when receiving treatment at HCI. Interestingly, a visible noted difference between color patterns.
Are U.S. physicians complicit in unethical organ harvesting when they provide surgical education to international transplant physicians?

May 31, 2017
5:30 pm-7:00 pm, RAB #117

Although organ trafficking and transplant tourism have raised ethical questions for many years, recent events have heightened concerns. In February 2017, the British Medical Journal retracted an article about a Chinese liver transplantation study after the authors "failed to persuade editors that 564 livers grafted in the course of the research were not taken from executed prisoners." An Australian researcher had alerted BMJ editors of the "statistical improbability" that so many livers could have been freely donated. The Vatican also held a Pontifical Academy of Science Summit on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism in February. The international group Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH) reported that in China "anywhere between 100,000 and 1 million prisoners of conscience have been killed for their organs in the past 17 years." A majority of the prisoners are practitioners of Falun Gong, a spiritual practice that the Communist Party illegally banned in 1999 and continues to persecute heavily. However, other minority populations are also targets of alleged organ trafficking, including Uyghurs, Tibetans, and House Christians. Despite the Chinese Communist Party attempting to say the practice has stopped, there is no evidence to support this claim.

Leading our Evening Ethics Discussion will be Glynn Weldon Gilcrease, M.D., U of U assistant professor of oncology, who serves as deputy director of DAFOH. He has worked closely with David Matas, a Canadian lawyer specializing in refugee law and co-author with David Kilgour of Bloody Harvest: The Killing of Falun Gong for Their Organs (2009), which has been made into a documentary. Questions we'll discuss include:
- What are the ethical ramifications of organ trafficking and transplant tourism for U.S. physicians?
- Are health-care professionals obligated to care for patients who receive an organ transplant in a country that is suspected of illicit organ trafficking?
- Should U.S. surgeons adopt prohibitions similar to Australia and Taiwan, which do not provide surgical education to Chinese physicians?

Background readings**:


Matas, David. “Ethical standards and Chinese organ transplant abuse,” (Revised remarks for a presentation to the Department of Bioethics and Medical Humanism, College of Medicine, University of Arizona, 15 April, 2016)

**Contact linda.carrlee@hsc.utah.edu for copies of these articles
May 10, 2017
University of Utah Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220 6:00-8:30p, Facilitated by Gretchen Case, PhD

*A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman

The eponymous protagonist of Frederik Backman’s novel *A Man Called Ove* is an apparently cantankerous and unpleasant older man who has a rich life story and is capable of unexpected friendships. This book explores preconceived notions about aging and death, questioning what is most important to people as they age, and how cultural differences matter at all stages of life.

June 14, 2017
University of Utah Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220 6:00-8:30p, Facilitated by Mark Matheson, D. Phil

*The Patient Will See You Now* by Eric Topol

Eric Topol is a cardiologist, professor of genomics, and director of the Scripps Translational Science Institute in La Jolla, California. He makes large claims and predictions about medicine in his 2015 book *The Patient Will See You Now: The Future of Medicine is in Your Hands*. In political terms, Topol believes that medicine is still paternalistic, especially in the doctor-patient relationship, but sees this era coming to an end, a process of change accelerated by the digital revolution. Smartphones and big data mean that patients will be less reliant on doctors, and their independence will continue to increase as new networks of medical information are created. Topol likens hand-held internet access combined with open information systems to the invention of printing in 15th-century Europe, a technology that helped bring about numerous social and political disruptions. The coming of massive, open, on-line medicine means that patients will be increasingly in charge of their own medical care, including making their own diagnoses. This technological revolution is also rendering traditional medical education obsolete. Topol thus makes many broad assertions about the future of medicine, and the reader is left to evaluate his provocative theses. There should be no shortage of topics for us to take up in our discussion.

July 5, 2017

Please Note Re-Scheduled Date to 1st Wednesday of July

University of Utah Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220 6:00-8:30p, Facilitated by Gretchen Case, PhD

*Taking Turns* by MK Czerwiec

MK Czerwiec’s new graphic memoir *Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371*, uses poignantly hand-drawn pictures and words to share Czerwiec’s experience as a nurse on one of the first hospital wards dedicated to the care of patients caught up in the AIDS epidemic of the late 20th century. Czerwiec manages to tell not only her own story, but those of many of her co-workers and patients as well, based in large part on oral history interviews. The graphic, or comic, format used in this book is part of a growing trend in telling stories of health care.

The 2017 Schedule of Readings is posted on our website at:

http://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/medicaledics/
## DMEH Calendar of Activities and Programs

### Health Law Rounds
Health Law Rounds will begin again in the Fall, at noon, in HSEB

### Resident Ethics Conferences
**Difficult Conversations: How to Convey Bad News**
VAMC Tsagaris Conference room: Jim Tabery, PhD & Susan Roberts, Chaplain U of U
IMC: Jay Jacobson, MD
UUMC Cartwright Conference room: Sam Brown, MD
*Boundaries: Humor, Social Media, and Empathy*
UUMC Cartwright Conference room: Erin Rothwell, PhD
VAMC Tsagaris Conference room: tbd
IMC: Jay Jacobson, MD
*July resident conferences tbd.*

### The Physicians Literature and Medicine Discussion Group
**6:00-8:30 pm**
**U of U Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220**
*A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman Facilitated by Gretchen Case, PhD
*The Patient Will See You Now* by Eric Topal Facilitated by Mark Matheson, D.Phil
*Taking Turns* by MK Czerwiec Facilitated by Gretchen Case, PhD

### *Evening Ethics*
**5:30-7:00p**
**U of U RAB #117**
Are U.S. physicians complicit in unethical organ harvesting when they provide surgical education to international transplant physicians?

### Save the Date

**“God and Human Suffering: Conversations on 21st Century Genetics and Our Shared Future”**
A Faith and Science Workshop on Ethical Issues in Human Germ line Editing

**October 6-7, 2017**

What is our shared mission as people of science, ethics, and faith? What is the role of such dialogue in the development of regulations that both promote the alleviation of suffering, and protect the inherent diversity of our planet?

Join with clergy, theologians, scientists and bioethicists for presentations and conversations in Salt Lake City next October as we engage in a multi-disciplinary exploration of these and other questions facing us today. Keynote speakers include: Dana Carroll, Ph.D., University of Utah, Ted Peters, Ph.D., Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA and The Very Rev. Mark Richardson, Ph.D., the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and Graduate Theological Union.

Co-Sponsored by the University of Utah, Divisions of Medical Ethics & Humanities and Medical Genetics, Mount Tabor Lutheran Church of Salt Lake and the Episcopal Diocese of Utah
In March, Gretchen Case received the Early Career Teaching Award from the University Teaching Committee for her significant contributions to teaching through development of new and innovative teaching methods, effectiveness in curriculum and classroom, and commitment to enhancing student learning. She was also elected to the Academy of Health Sciences Educators in April. At the conference in March, she won, with Mary Steinmann, the award for Best Innovation in the Poster category. As the faculty advisor for UUSOM chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, she traveled to Chicago for the annual Humanism in Medicine conference, where she met with students, residents and faculty from across the country.

This Spring, Peggy Battin was awarded the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters Gardner Prize. She also was the Fink Professor at Washburn University during the last week of March 2017. She attended the Pacific American Philosophical Association meetings in Seattle and the meetings of the American Association of Suicidology meetings in Phoenix, both in April 2017. Her upcoming publication, “Could Suicide Really be a Fundamental Human Right? A Triple Threat”, in Assisted Death and Human Dignity, Sebastian Muders, ed., Oxford University Press, has an estimated publication date of October 2017.

Susan Sample is presenting her paper, “Poetic Re-narration and Chemotherapy: Infusing Purpose and Meaning into the End of Life,” at the 8th annual Hippocrates Poetry and Medicine Symposium to be held May 6 at Harvard Medical School.

Sam Brown participated in a panel on Joseph Smith and translation at Utah State University. https://chass.usu.edu/stay-connected/news/translation-conference
