Not so very long ago, our Summer Newsletter featured excerpts from an “Ethics Best Essay” award paper that had come from the final papers written for the Medical Ethics Course taught by the Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities, and required for all 4th year medical students at the University of Utah School of Medicine. With curriculum reform in recent years, that course is no longer taught as a single unit, but its contents are interspersed throughout all four years of the medical school curriculum, beginning with the unit, “Foundations of Medicine,” for first year students. The DMEH continues to be involved in the education of fourth year students, as we teach sessions in their “Transitions” unit, and teach 4th year elective courses. This year, we have taught four different electives: “Imagining Medicine” and “Medicine in Art/Art in Medicine” (both taught by Gretchen Case), “Writing the Physician-Patient Relationship,” (taught by Susan Sample), and “Clinical Ethics.” (taught by Jay Jacobson.)

Creative thought and innovative teaching possibilities for ethics and humanities abound at the School of Medicine. We would like to update our readers on two exciting changes coming in the 2014-15 year to medical education. First, is the “Layers of Medicine” course, co-directed by Gretchen Case, PhD, DMEH, Ben Lewis, MD, Psychiatry, and Karly Pippitt, MD, Family Medicine. This will be introduced as a required course and is intended to highlight and emphasize, not replace, medical ethics and humanities content that is already being taught. The “Layers of Medicine” curriculum, which will extend longitudinally through the first and second years of medical school, will have students engage in ongoing dialogue about the interdisciplinary complexities and challenges of health care.

From the “Layers of Medicine” course description:
“Medical education in the preclinical years is designed largely to simplify, synthesize, and mentally organize vast amounts of discrete knowledge. While this is a necessary task in medical training, it is not sufficient. The practice of medicine is complex, messy, and challenging on interpersonal, ethical, and sociocultural levels. Students will study and discuss a broad range of issues that do not have easily formulated answers, with the fundamental assumption that reflective skills are critical to the development and practice of being a physician. Students will attend to the ‘big picture’ conceptualization of what medical care means and the broader socio-cultural factors that shape its delivery, and, at the same time, attend closely to the unique particularities of the patient-doctor relationship: analyzing ethically and practically challenging scenarios and examining issues of professionalism in medicine.”

Working with facilitators from a variety of medical and non-medical disciplines, students will explore complex ideas such as health care delivery systems, global views of health and health care, and sex and gender as they relate to health. Medical ethics and humanities will make up some of the “layers” in these complicated discussions. “Layers of Medicine” will make use of large and small group settings and creative assignments. The interdisciplinary emphasis of the course will encourage discussion that is rich and meaningful.
A second innovative course, proposed as an elective for second and fourth year medical students, will be offered in the spring of 2015, co-taught by DMEH faculty, Leslie Francis and Teneille Brown. This exciting new course intended for clinicians is entitled, "Health Law for Non-Lawyers." Teneille Brown writes: “Throughout our work teaching medical students, we have been told there is a need for a course that covers basic health law concepts in a way that is more accessible to graduate students with no background in law. We will be using a very readable book with excerpted cases, to learn some of the basic principles of health law. The course will be an overview of topics such as medical negligence, informed consent, reproductive rights, privacy, and public programs such as Medicaid and Medicare. We will draw from traditional "landmark cases" as well as contemporary cases in genetics and research ethics, and will work with the School of Medicine to make sure this course is unique in its coverage. We welcome students from all disciplines to enroll.” If you are interested in this course, please contact Teneille Brown (Teneille.Brown@utah.edu) or Linda Carr-Lee Faix (linda.carlee@hsc.utah.edu)
Impaired abilities among the elderly can raise concerns about self-neglect, the capacity to consent to or refuse treatment, and the capacity to drive, manage money, or live alone. Almost every healthcare provider will encounter circumstances in which a person’s decision-making abilities raise ethical challenges. Providers often grapple with abstract rights and duties and their practical manifestations: the need to balance an individual’s safety against the actual harm that providers or courts may cause when they take away an individual's rights to control his or her life. Is weighing these rights what is needed to best address these cases? If so, how ought these differing rights be weighed and what ought not—to be considered? How might providers, healthcare teams, and families work together to better help the elderly when they appear to be failing? Tim Farrell, MD, geriatrician, and Maureen Henry, JD, DMEH associate, will facilitate this discussion. We hope that you will join us with your insights, concerns, and questions about this important topic.

Poetry can represent a challenge, but we think you’ll find Heaney’s work very rewarding. Heaney won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995. His speech on accepting it is printed at the end of *Opened Ground*, and you might find it interesting and helpful as a reader of his poems. Below are listed a few poems chosen by our facilitator, found in his volume *Opened Ground*, that we will discuss at our session. Additional poems for discussion, chosen by Mark Matheson, are listed on our DMEH website, http://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/medicalethics/activities/literature/2014.php

1. “Digging,” p. 3. A poem about Heaney’s vocation as a writer and his relationship with his father and the generations of men in his family, who tilled the soil as farmers.
2. “Follower,” p.10. Another poem about Heaney’s father and his legacy for the poet.
3. “Mid-Term Break,” p. 11. This is the one I mentioned at the end of our last discussion together. Heaney’s younger brother Christopher was killed in an auto-pedestrian accident at the age of four.

Five Days at Memorial is a careful, in-depth look at the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as it was experienced at Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans. After the hospital flooded and lost power, help was excruciatingly slow in coming and staff had to make decisions about who would be rescued first. Written by physician and journalist Sheri Fink, who spent years unraveling the desperate scenarios that took place in a hospital left to fend for itself.

Post Mortem: Solving History’s Great Medical Mysteries doesn’t solve every medical mystery, but does address the conditions of twelve important historical figures, from Akhenaten to Joan of Arc to Booker T. Washington. Author Philip Mackowiak is both a physician and historian of medicine, and draws on these dual specialties to give a detective’s attention to the lives and deaths of these famous people.
**Evening Ethics Discussion** 5:30-7:00 pm  RAB 117
"Safety in the Balance: The Role of Healthcare Professionals in Weighing Patient Autonomy and Safety among Older Adults with Decisional Impairment” with Tim Farrell, MD & Maureen Henry, JD

*Genetics Hot Topics* 5:30-7:00 pm  RAB 117
“Prenatal Whole-Genome Sequencing—Is the Quest to Know a Fetus’s Future Ethical?” with Jeffrey Botkin, M.D. and Nancy Rose, M.D.

**Resident Ethics Conferences** 12:30-1:30 pm
*Difficult Conversations: How to Convey Bad News*
VAMC Tsagaris Conference room: Jim Tabery, PhD and Peter Yarbrough, MD
IMC: Jay Jacobson, M.D.
UUMC Cartwright Conference room: Jim Tabery, PhD and Sam Brown, MD

*Personalized Medicine: Resident and Genetic Testing*
IMC: Jay Jacobson, M.D.
UUMC Cartwright Conference room: Jeffrey Botkin, MD

*July Resident Conference to be determined*

**The Physicians Literature and Medicine Discussion Group** 6:00 pm
*Opened Ground: Selected Poems by Seamus Heaney, Facilitated by Mark Matheson, D. Phil*
LD Sh Pugh Boardroom

*Five Days at Memorial by Sheri Fink , Facilitated by Gretchen Case, PhD*
LD Sh Pugh Boardroom
UU Hospital Large Conference Room #W1220

*Post Mortem by Phillip Mackowiak, Facilitated by Gretchen Case, PhD*
LD Sh Pugh Boardroom

*CME Statements*
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Leslie Francis was elected vice-president of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association at the recent APA meeting in San Diego. This is the highest academic honor the Pacific Division has to bestow. She will serve a year as vice-president beginning July 1, 2014, and then assume the Presidency of the Pacific Division July 1, 2015.

Leslie Francis also attended the annual tenBroek disability law symposium at the National Federation for the Blind; she served on the planning committee for the symposium and was part of a tribute to the work and memory of Adrienne Asch.

Maureen Henry, PhD candidate in nursing affiliated with the Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence in the College of Nursing, was awarded the 2014 Elizabeth Fuhriman Gardner Prize for the Outstanding Woman Student in the Health Sciences during the May 2, 2014 College of Nursing Convocation.

Peggy Battin presented "Lessons from Brooke," at the Center for Practical Bioethics, Kansas City, MO, April 24, 2014, and will give the plenary talk on Sept. 1, 2014, at the Association of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals, St. Louis, MO.

This summer, Jacob Stegenga will present “Hollow Hunt for Harms” at the University of Aarhus (Denmark) and at Bielefeld University (Germany). He will also present “Measuring Effectiveness” at the Prediction in Epidemiology and Healthcare workshop in London (U.K.), and “Measuring the Quality of Evidence in Medical Research” at the Evidence in Science and Epistemology Workshop in Helsinki (Finland).