Evening Ethics

“ETHICAL AND PRACTICAL CHALLENGES WITH SHARED DECISION MAKING IN SERIOUS ILLNESS”
WITH THE MAX & SARA COWAN MEMORIAL SPEAKER
Douglas B. White, MD, MAS

Thursday
March 7, 2019
5:30-7:00pm

Research Administration Building #117

Light Refreshments served
CME Offered

This session will focus on the ethical and practical complexities of shared decision making between clinicians and surrogate decision makers of patients with advanced illness. For example, although there is broad support that surrogates should be involved in making preference sensitive medical decisions near the end of life, there remains controversy about how best to accomplish this. Moreover, there are legitimate questions about what it means to truly “share” in decision making with patients, and whether there are limits to shared decision making for incapacitated patients near the end of life. Background article for this session is Shared Decision Making in ICUs: An American College of Critical Care Medicine and American Thoracic Society Policy Statement. Kon AA, Davidson JE, Morrison W, Danis M, White DB; American College of Critical Care Medicine; American Thoracic Society. (Crit Care Med. 2016 Jan;44(1):188-201.) (Contact linda.carrlee@hsc.utah.edu for a copy of this article.)

Our 2019 Cowan Memorial Lecturer is Douglas B. White, MD, MAS. Dr. White is University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Chair for Ethics in Critical Care Medicine, Professor, Departments of Medicine and Critical Care Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Director, Program on Ethics and Decision Making in Critical Illness, CRISMA Center, Department of Critical Care Medicine. Dr. White graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College in 1995 with a degree in English Literature, received his MD from UCSF in 1999 and completed a residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at UCSF. While at UCSF, he also completed a Master’s degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a fellowship in Bioethics under Bernard Lo. He joined the faculty at UCSF in 2005 as an Assistant Professor of Medicine and a Core Faculty of the Program on Medical Ethics. In 2009 he joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh in the Departments of Critical Care Medicine and Medicine as an Associate Professor. He was also appointed as a core faculty member in the Center for Bioethics and Health law at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. White directs the University of Pittsburgh Program on Ethics and Decision Making in Critical Illness. His research program encompasses both empirical research on and normative ethical analysis of surrogate decision-making for patients with life-threatening illness. He has several ongoing NIH funded studies. He has published widely using both quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the process of surrogate decision making in intensive care units. In conducting this work, he collaborates with a multi-disciplinary group of investigators, which includes faculty with expertise in bioethics, law, philosophy, sociology, biostatistics, and health services research.

Other opportunities to hear Dr. White:

- Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, Thursday, March 7, 2019 noon, Classroom A, SOM “Improving Surrogate Decision-making for Patients with Advanced Illness”
- Cowan Memorial Public Lecture Friday, March 8, 2019 noon, HSEB 2120 “Responding to requests for futile or potentially inappropriate treatment”