

# Annual Report 2020 - 2021

**John Dossetor**  
**HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE**



**Whether a health professional is a doctor, a nurse, a social worker, or other provider, we have an ethical responsibility to practice with a caring regard for the experiences of others—our patients and colleagues. At the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, we recognize that fundamental to ethics is a concern for whom or what is other to ourselves. We embrace activities that promote ethical understanding and lead to critical reflection on matters of moral concern in the practice and delivery of health care.**

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# Vision, Mission, Values

## Our Vision

To build dialogue, reflection, and understanding surrounding contemporary issues of health ethics within and beyond the University of Alberta.

## Our Mission

To promote ethical engagement, mutual respect, and critical reflection on matters of moral concern in health care. We aim for excellence in four interdependent domains of activity: interdisciplinary scholarship, clinical ethics, health policy consultation, and professional and public health ethics education. Compassion and social justice are cross-cutting themes in all that we do.

## Our Values

We embrace the interdisciplinary values of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, the Faculty of Nursing, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, and those engaged in health ethics scholarship.



# History

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre has a rich history rooted in interdisciplinary collaboration in ethics education, research, and clinical service.

The Centre was founded in 1985 by the pioneering physician and bioethicist John Beamish Dossetor. As a member of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Dossetor led an informal Innominate Committee composed of individuals from nursing (Janet Storch, Donna Smith), medicine (David Schiff), chaplaincy (Doug Cossor, Cullene Bryant), law (Ellen Picard, Margaret Shone), and philosophy (Glenn Griener). This group met regularly to discuss challenging clinical cases that exposed the ethics of decision-making. Over time, these meetings spurred planning for a health ethics centre. The Joint Faculties Bioethics Project was launched with the encouragement and support from the Presidents of the University of Alberta, the University Hospitals, the Deans of the health faculties, and the Medical Research Council of Canada in June 1986.

Over the subsequent years, the Joint Faculties Bioethics Project supported interdisciplinary ethics scholarship in education, research, and clinical service. For example, from the cooperation of John Dossetor in medicine, Glenn Griener in philosophy, and Tom Dailey in theology, a clinical ethics curriculum was developed in concert with clinical experts in various medical specialties. A collaborative conference with the Hastings Center bioethics

research institute in 1989 was another highlight from these early years.

In 1990, bioethics was given official status with the creation of the Division of Bioethics. The Division and the Joint Faculties Bioethics Project comprised the *Bioethics Centre*. In January 1998, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to health ethics, the Centre was renamed *The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre*. The change to “health ethics” from “bioethics” indicated a broader focus on ethics across health domains than the more specialized, technical focus of bioethics.

Vangie Bergum, Faculty of Nursing, is a key figure in the history of the Dossetor Centre. Her research situated ethics within human relationships. She explored the experience of mothering, which led to two books: *Woman to Mother. A Transformation* (1989), and *A Child on Her Mind. The Experience of Becoming a Mother* (1997). Her exploration of relational ethics supported an interdisciplinary research project resulting in the 2005 book *Relational Ethics. The Full Meaning of Respect* (coauthored with Dossetor).

Paul Byrne, from the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, has supported the Centre throughout his career at the University of Alberta in clinical ethics; education of students in medicine, nursing, and other health science disciplines; and research projects on such topics as ethical decision making in perinatal medicine.

Wendy Austin, from the Faculty of Nursing, explored core elements of relational ethics and their application in healthcare environments. Her research programs' aims included identifying and exploring relational ethics issues in mental health, developing a relational ethics perspective on research ethics, exploring ways to prepare healthcare practitioners and researchers for ethical practice, and advancing the theoretical basis of relational ethics. Other key individuals from nursing include Janet Kerr, Donna Smith, and Jeanne Vanderzalm.

Dick Sobsey, Educational Psychology, worked to improve healthcare, educational opportunities, and social conditions for people with disabilities and their families. He studied the changes in families that occur as a result of having a child with a significant disability, focusing on positive changes. And he explored ethical and human rights issues, particularly as they are related to people with disabilities.

Gary Goldsand, Brendan Leier, and other clinical ethicists have supported the development of

ethics education, public engagement, and other centre activities. The Dossetor Centre is essentially linked to clinical ethics service delivery as members develop scholarship in ethics to clinical practice.

The Dossetor Centre would not have survived without the commitment and work of administrative leads such as Carol Nahorniak, who has managed the Centre for decades.

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre came under the aegis of the Coordinating Council of Health Sciences (renamed Health Sciences Council in 2001) until it moved under the Faculty of Medicine in 2010. Throughout its history, the Centre has benefited from interdisciplinary collaboration, including but not limited to, Nursing, Medicine, Rehabilitation Medicine, Law, Philosophy, and Spiritual Care through its history. The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre (is the only interdisciplinary, academic ethics centre in Alberta, and one of the first in Canada.

**Directors of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre (JDHEC)**

John Dossetor	1986 - 1998	Director, Joint-Faculties Bioethics Project (1986), Division of Biomedical Ethics (1990), and Bioethics Centre (1995), First Chair in Bioethics, University of Alberta (1996 - 1998)
Vangie Bergum	1997 - 2002	Co-Director, JDHEC (1997 - 1999), Director, JDHEC (1999 - 2002)
Paul Byrne	1997 - 2016	Co-Director, JDHEC (1997 - 1999), Interim Director, JDHEC (2002 - 2006, 2010 - 2016)
Dick Sobsey	2006 - 2010	Director, JDHEC
Gary Goldsand	2016 - 2019	Director, JDHEC
Michael van Manen	2020 -	Director, JDHEC

# Members

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre benefits from an interdisciplinary core faculty that steers and supports the Centre's mandate. These individuals contribute their energy, time, and expertise to promoting activities within and beyond the University of Alberta that lead to ethical engagement, mutual respect, and critical reflection on matters of moral concern in health care. While each has their domains of expertise in health ethics, it is their combined efforts that support the Centre.



**Michael van Manen, MD, PhD, FRCPC(Peds, NICU, CIP)**  
Director, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre  
Endowed Chair in Health Ethics

Michael is the Director of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. He also has a clinical practice as a physician in neonatal-perinatal medicine with the Stollery Children's Hospital. His research is primarily concerned with relational ethics, situated within the tradition of phenomenology. Michael is considered an international expert in qualitative health research. His research projects relate to ethical decision-making, the experiential life of the fetus/newborn, the use of medical technologies in clinical encounters, and patient-family experiences of hospital care.



**Carol Nahorniak, BSc**  
Administrator, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

Carol is the Administrator for the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, managing the Dossetor Centre's operations, business, and overall community outreach marketing. She is responsible for the Centre's financial, administrative, and human resource management. Carol is Assistant Editor for the newsletter, *Health Ethics Today*, responsible for the Centre's website management, coordination of the annual Health Ethics Seminar series, and planning and organizing symposia and workshops. She also provides administrative support for the University of Alberta Hospitals' Clinical Ethics Committee.



**Wendy Austin, PhD**

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre  
Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Nursing

A Professor Emeritus with Nursing and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, Wendy's approach to health ethics is that of relational ethics. She held a Canada Research Chair in Relational Ethics in Health Care from 2003 to 2013 and takes an interdisciplinary approach to studying ethical issues in health care, including from a global perspective. Dissemination of research includes in book form (*Lying Down in the Ever-Falling Snow*) and through film (*Just Keep Breathing* re: moral distress of PICU staff). Recent teaching includes interdisciplinary graduate courses, *Healthcare Ethics* and *Research Ethics*. Her clinical expertise is in mental health nursing; she is an editor of *Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing for Canadian Practice*; its 5<sup>th</sup> edition coming in 2022. She has served on The Canadian Nurses Association's Ethics Committee.



**Tracey Bailey, BA, LLB, QC**

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre  
Associate Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Tracey has 30 years' experience in providing legal, legislative, policy, and ethics advice on a wide range of issues in health law. She has worked in both public and private practice settings, including as Corporate Counsel for Alberta Health, and General Counsel Health Law for Alberta Justice and Solicitor General. She also served in an academic position for close to a decade as Executive Director of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta where she conducted a wide range of legal and law reform projects, working locally, provincially, nationally and internationally on a broad range of issues in health law; edited a peer-reviewed publication; taught extensively in the health professional faculties and the law faculty; published on a wide range of topics; conducted media interviews; organized national health law conferences; and provided outreach education for the public and others. In addition to her current work with the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, she is Associate Counsel with Miller Thomson LLP where she advises health system and health professional clients.





**Heidi Janz, PhD**

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre  
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Heidi specializes in Disability Ethics. She is currently the Chair of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, Ending-of-Life Ethics Committee, and serves on the federal government minister’s Disability Advisory Group. In her “other life,” she is a writer/playwright and filmmaker. Her creative work focusses on making the experiences of people with disabilities accessible to audiences made up of both people with disabilities and people who are

temporarily able-bodied.



**Doris Kieser, PhD**

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre  
Associate Professor, St. Joseph’s College

Doris is an Associate Professor of Theology at St. Joseph’s College, the Catholic College. Doris teaches ethics and theology in the areas of bioethics, sexuality, death & dying, the body, and women & spirituality. She is also a counselling therapist who maintains a small practice in Edmonton, working with adolescent girls, adult women and men, and couples. Her research and writing includes elements of both theology and psychology,

moral and ethical decision-making, and human flourishing. All of her work reflects a particular commitment to social justice and the wellbeing of females.



**Diane Konyk, PhD**

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre  
Vice Dean & Professor, Faculty of Nursing

Diane is a Professor and Vice Dean with the Faculty of Nursing, Adjunct Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta. Her program of research focuses on enhancing the ethical capacity of health and organizational policies as these relate to the wellbeing of populations. The methods she employs in this research include qualitative, quantitative and knowledge synthesis, and much of this work has been

with interdisciplinary research teams.



**Brendan Leier, PhD**

Core Member, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre  
Clinical Ethicist, Northern Zone, Alberta Health Services  
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Brendan earned his doctorate from the Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta, in 2002. He is currently the Clinical Ethicist at the University of Alberta and Stollery Children’s Hospitals and Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute. He is a Clinical Assistant Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. Brendan is presently doing research on the topics of pediatric best interest, moral distress, end-of-life decision-making, transplant ethics, ethics of medical technology, compassion in the practice of medicine, risk and decision-making.

## Adjunct Members

Adjunct members of the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre comprise a network of practitioners, researchers, and other individuals undertaking and supporting health ethics scholarship. These members make themselves consistently available to support Dossetor activities.



**Ari Joffe, MD, FRCPC**

Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Critical Care, University of Alberta

Ari is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. He is an attending physician in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine. He has interests in animal ethics [e.g., is it morally permissible to perform harmful animal research? (no)], and the definition of death [e.g., is brain death the state of death of the human organism? (no), and is the donation after circulatory death donor dead when organ removal starts? (no)]. His other research interests are in long-term outcomes in children having complex interventions in the pediatric intensive care unit, focusing on potentially modifiable acute care variables that may lead to improved decision making and outcomes. He has published broadly on these topics and others.



**Austin Mardon, PhD, CM, FRSC**  
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Austin's work in ethics focuses on mental illness, faith, homeless, medication, and income support. He has provided leadership as a member of the board of directors of both the Edmonton and Alberta chapters of the Schizophrenia Society, and for a number of years he was coordinator of the Alberta Mental Health Self-Help Network. Austin has received numerous awards including, the Flag of Hope Award (2001), the Order of Canada (2007), the Bill Jefferies Family Award of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada (2007), the C.M. Hincks Award from the national division of the Canadian Mental Health Association (2007), and the Medal of Honour of the Alberta Medical Association (2010).



**Charl Els, MBChB, FCPsych, MMedPsych, DipABAM, MROCC, DESS, ACBOM**  
Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry  
Clinical Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

Charl is a fellowship-trained Psychiatrist, Addiction Specialist, and Occupational Physician. Els serves as a Clinical Professor at both the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta. He co-authored several of the clinical practice guidelines of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, as well as for the Railway Association of Canada, and served on the Board of Directors for the Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Canada. Finally, Els serves on the Advisory Board of Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH), the 2019 recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice.



**Catherine Mardon, DCSS, JD**  
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Catherine is a retired attorney whose former practice included representing the homeless, the disabled, and those with mental illnesses. She is an author of 36 books which have been translated into over a dozen languages. She has over 30 years' experience in board governance. She currently serves as a special advisor to the Glenrose Hospital and on their Medical Ethics Board. Her advocacy on behalf of those with mental illnesses and disabilities was recognized by, the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction's True Grit Award in 2016, the Sovereign's Medal in 2018, and was invested as a Dame Commander of the Order of St. Sylvester in 2017, a Papal Knighthood.



**Cheryl Mack, MD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Cheryl is an anesthesiologist/pediatric palliative care doctor at the Stollery Children’s Hospital. She is chair of the clinical ethics committee for the Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre, Stollery Children’s Hospital, Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, and Kaye Edmonton Clinic; and the chair of the Canadian Anesthesiologists’ Society Ethics Committee. She is also the ethics and palliative care lead for the Office of Global Surgery, Department of Surgery at the University of Alberta. She is a team leader and game developer for Doctors Against Tragedies. Her interests include clinical bioethics, perioperative palliative care, administrative and professional ethics, international healthcare development, and wellness.



**Daniel Garros, MD FRCPC**

Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Division of Pediatric Critical Care, University of Alberta

Daniel has been a staff pediatric intensivist for more than 25 years at the Stollery Children’s hospital; he is responsible for the PICU data base and co-leads the Quality & Safety council. His research interests are moral distress, end-of-life care, supporting health care professionals, and palliative care. He has volunteered around South America helping to support pediatric cardiac surgery programs. Daniel is a member of the University of Alberta bioethics committee since 2018. His background includes Bioethics at Georgetown University and Critical Incident Stress Management and Quality and Safety in Health Care training at University of Calgary.



**Derrek Truscott, PhD, RPsych**

Professor, Faculty of Education

Derek Truscott is a Professor, Director of Counselling Training in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta, and a Registered Psychologist. He is the author of three books, *Ethics for the Practice of Psychology in Canada*, *Ethics and Law for Teachers*, and *Becoming an Effective Psychotherapist*, as well as many book chapters, articles, and conference presentations on the topic of being a good—that is, ethical and effective—psychologist. He has practiced, researched, taught, lectured, and written about professional psychology for over thirty-five years.

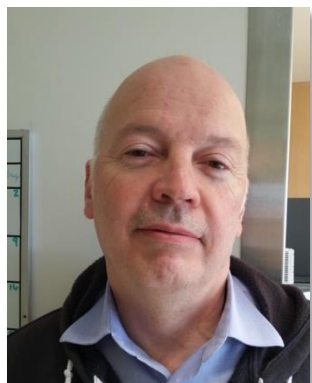


**Eric Waselynko, MD, MSc, CCFP(PC), MHSc(bioethics)**

Clinical Associate Professor, Division of Palliative Medicine, Department of Oncology, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Eric is a palliative care physician and a clinical ethicist. He is Medical Director, Health System Ethics and Policy with the Health Quality Council of Alberta. Eric chairs the Public Health Ethics Consultative Group for the Public Health Agency of Canada. He advises or sits on committees with many health agencies and lectures extensively provincially, nationally and internationally, primarily on ethics subjects involving end of life care. He

co-created Alberta's novel Goals of Care Designation, adopted throughout the health system, and co-led the creation of a community-owned, non-profit, free-standing rural hospice in southern Alberta. Eric helped revise the CMA's Code of Ethics and the Alberta Pharmacists' Code of Ethics.



**Gary Frank, BA, BEd, RN**

Nurse Consultant, Royal Alexandra Hospital

Gary has been a nurse consultant and palliative care resource nurse at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for the past two years. Prior to that he held a similar position at the University of Alberta Hospital for 15 years after having worked as a hospice manager, community palliative care consultant, bedside nurse, psychiatric nurse, and Special Education teacher over the first 20 years of his career. He was a member of the Clinical Ethics Committee while at University of Alberta Hospital and is currently a

member of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Clinical Ethics Committee.



**Gary Goldsand, BA, MA**

Clinical Ethicist, Regina and Integrated Rural Health Saskatchewan Health Authority

Gary Goldsand is a Clinical Ethicist in Regina and Integrated Rural Health Saskatchewan Health Authority, and an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. He was the previous director of the Dossetor Health Ethics Centre. Areas of interest include ethics education and clinical ethics.



**Katherine Duthie, PhD**

Clinical Ethicist, Northern Zone, Alberta Health Services

Katherine is a Clinical Ethicist with Alberta Health Services, providing frontline clinical ethics consultation at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, as well as provincial level-support on various projects and initiatives. She also provides consultant health ethics services to various organizations across Canada with a special focus on ethics analyses for health technology assessment. Katherine was the advising ethicist on the British Columbia Health Technology Assessment Committee, and provides ethics support for the Cancer Committee for the Health Research Ethics Boards of Alberta.



**Kunimasa Suzuki, PhD**

Manager, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Core Facility, Alberta Diabetes Institute

Kunimasa (Kuni), Manager Molecular Biology and Biochemistry core facility, Alberta Diabetes Institute, has extensive experience working on basic and medical sciences research. Kuni's main areas of expertise are protein chemistry, molecular biology, endocrinology and immunology. Currently, Kuni is also a research associate in two research laboratories in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, carrying out diabetes and contact dermatitis research. Based on his expertise and experience, Kuni acts as a bridge between health ethics researchers and life science researchers to provide insights of the constantly emerging novel medical therapies and treatments.



**Peter Brindley, MD, FRCPC, FRCP (Edin), FRCP (Lond)**

Professor, Division of Critical Care Medicine

Peter is first and foremost a critical care physician. His interests and publications centre on various aspects of resuscitation, including the importance of crisis management and human factors, the use of simulation, and practical insights that improve teamwork during acute care. Peter is a founding member of the Canadian Resuscitation Institute and its vice-chair. He is Western Canada's representative for the Royal College of Edinburgh, and North American Ambassador for Continuous Medical Education. He was first visiting scholar for the Intensive Care Society of the UK. He is secretary of the Canadian Critical Care Society.



**Rose M. Carter, QC**

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

Rose brings more than 30 years' experience in the health law field. She assists various medical practitioners as well as scientific professionals, navigate the regulatory requirements of private and public practice. Rose has appeared before all levels of courts in Alberta, as well as before various administrative law tribunals. To complement her law practice, Rose devotes substantial time as an active and valuable member of the legal and medical community. She also serves the medical communities across

Canada as an executive member of the Medical Council of Canada, Chair of its Appeals Committee, and as Vice Chair of its Finance Committee. She is also a council member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.



**Victoria Seavilleklein, PhD**

Clinical Ethicist, Northern Zone, Alberta Health Services

Victoria is a Clinical Ethicist with Alberta Health Services, with the primary responsibility of serving the Central Zone. Her role includes ethics consultation, education, policy review, and support for organizational initiatives. Victoria holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy, specializing in Bioethics, from Dalhousie University, an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Calgary, and a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Victoria. She is a Clinical Lecturer with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre at the

University of Alberta and a regular guest lecturer at Red Deer College. Victoria is currently the elected Membership Officer on the Canadian Bioethics Society Executive.

# Clinical Service

Ethics are fundamental to the clinical delivery of health care. At times, we recognize ethics when health care professionals or their patient-families are faced with difficult choices in the course of treatment. Other times, it is situations of uncertainty that necessitate the services of clinical ethics.

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre directly supports the delivery of clinical ethics to the University of Alberta Hospital, including specifically the Mazankowski Heart Institute, Stollery Children’s Hospital, Walter McKenzie Health Sciences Centre, and Edmonton Clinic. Clinical ethics consultation is provided by a clinical ethicist, Brendan Leir, who is supported by a Clinical Ethics Committee, chaired by Dr. Cheryl Mack. On average, the Clinical Ethicist receives 7 to 8 detailed ethics consultations per month, in addition to many (100+) telephone and “corridor” consultations. Through the clinical service, the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre has created a partnership with Alberta Health Services for an ethical delivery of health care in the community.

The Clinical Ethics Service helps patients, families, and health care providers address such questions as: What is the right thing to do? How should a decision be made? Does a reasonable compromise? In addressing these questions, the clinical ethics service aims for compassion, accountability, respect, excellence, and safety.

Ethics consultations can be requested by patients, families, or any member of the health care teams. Consultations can be simple conversations, guided discussions with teams, assistance with decision-making, or shared analysis of complex situations and ethical issues.

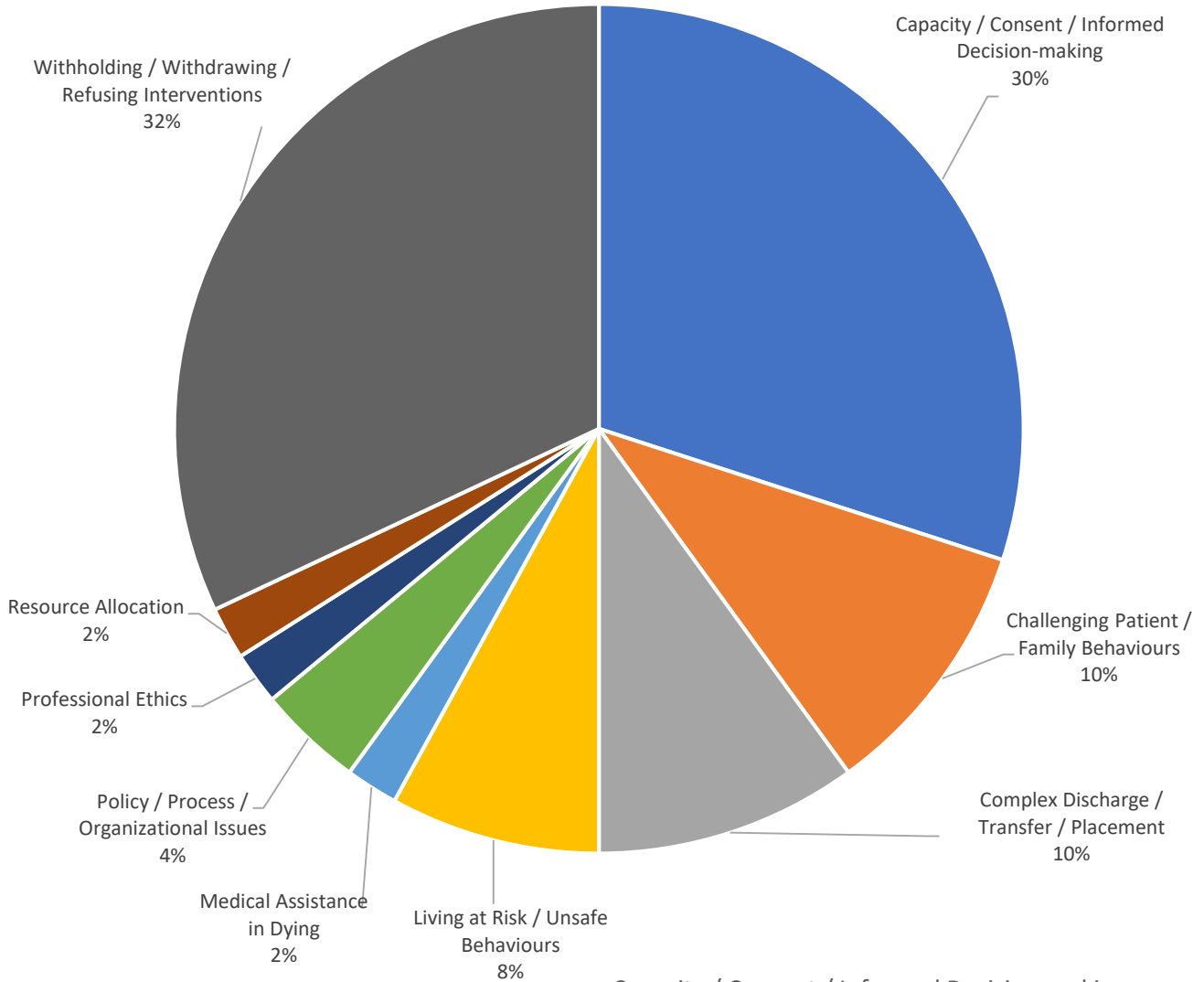
The Clinical Ethics Service does not make decisions or replace appropriate decision-makers. Rather, it may make recommendations or facilitate balanced, objective discussion of the situation at hand.

The John Dossetor Ethics Centre uses themes identified from clinical ethics to serve its mandates of education, engagement, and scholarship.

compassion  
accountability  
respect  
excellence  
safety



# Consultation Themes



- Capacity / Consent / Informed Decision-making
- Challenging Patient / Family Behaviours
- Complex Discharge / Transfer / Placement
- Living at Risk / Unsafe Behaviours
- Medical Assistance in Dying
- Policy / Process / Organizational Issues
- Professional Ethics
- Resource Allocation
- Withholding / Withdrawing / Refusing Interventions

# Education

The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre supports ethics education within and beyond the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

## **Classroom-based Ethics Teaching**

Undergraduate Health Ethics Seminar Teaching This Dossetor Centre offers instructional academic sessions on medical ethics teaching. These days are directly related to ethics content requirements for accreditation in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Members of the Dossetor Centre also support ethics education in Nursing and other disciplines at the University of Alberta and St. Joseph's College.

Postgraduate Health Ethics Seminar Teaching This Dossetor Centre offers instructional academic half-days sessions for residency and subspecialty residency programs. These sessions are focused to the needs of the residents. This also includes an annual 2-week health ethics course to internal medicine residents.

Graduate Courses in Health Ethics In collaboration with the Faculty of Nursing, the Dossetor Centre offers two semester courses in health ethics on a biannual basis: Healthcare Ethics (INT D 570) is an interdisciplinary course exploring selected topics in bioethics. Includes examination of ethical theories and principles within the context of clinical practice (nursing, medicine, rehabilitation medicine, dentistry, pharmacy) and learning experiences to improve moral reasoning and ethical decision making. Research Ethics (INT D 670) examines the ethical issues which arise in research involving human subjects. Research methods studied may include clinical trials, surveys, secondary analysis of stored data, and the observation of public behavior. Problems encountered in studying particular populations, such as children or persons with dementia, will also be studied.

## **Clinical Ethics Teaching**

Undergraduate Health Ethics Electives The Dossetor Centre Health Ethics Electives are the only undergraduate health ethics elective offered in all of Canada. The options range from: a reading course accompanied by discussions of the ethics issues in the literature (e.g., issues in reproductive ethics, geriatrics, neonatal problems, or human experimentation); direct experience of a specific practical problem in health care ethics by first-hand exposure; or, a combination of these. Students normally focus their conclusions by writing a position paper in the last week of the elective.

Postgraduate Health Ethics Electives The Dossetor Centre offers ethics electives to residents and subspecialty residents. Interested graduate students may also partake in health ethics electives.

## Dossetor-Associated Graduate Students



**Janine Chesworth, MA**

Graduate Studies, Department of Educational Psychology

Janine Chesworth is a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). Her early education classroom experience has included both co-teaching and consulting in addition to clinical education at the University of Alberta. She also has special interests in Developmental Trauma and motor speech disorders including Childhood Apraxia of Speech, Oral Myofunctional disorders and Developmental Dysarthria. Since 2013, Janine has provided early-learning SLP to Indigenous communities both on and off reserve. It is within these settings that Janine was inspired to pursue the work of researching relational ethics within professional SLP practice. She is currently a doctoral student in Special Education in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta. Through the human science lens of phenomenology, her proposed study seeks to better understand the lived experiences of Indigenous children and their families receiving SLP care.



**Gillian Lemermeyer, RN, MN, PhD(c)**

Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Gillian Lemermeyer is a doctoral candidate and Killam Scholar in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta. Gillian has a clinical nursing background in neonatal intensive care, organ donation and family bereavement care. Policy and practice experience includes professional regulation and nursing jurisprudence. Her research is concerned with the relational ethics of healthcare practice. Her doctoral dissertation uses a phenomenological method to explore the NICU nurse's experience of encountering babies through touch. Past research projects have focused on the relationship between parents and healthcare practitioners in the NICU and family care during the process of considering organ donation.



**Michelle Gagnon, RN, MN**  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Michelle Gagnon is a Registered Nurse who graduated from the Bilingual Nursing Program at the University of Alberta in 2012. With a background in emergency and adult intensive care, she has worked with patients of varying acuities, often including those who are critically ill, unstable, and have complex medical needs. It was during this time that she witnessed the moral complexities involved in this bedside care and was encouraged to learn more on the topic of moral distress and relational ethics through graduate school. Her research seeks to understand the moral distress experiences of pediatric intensive care unit nurses related to the death and dying of child patients.



**Sadie Deschenes, RN, MN**  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Sadie Deschenes, RN, MN, is a doctoral student in the Faculty of Nursing, at the University of Alberta. Sadie's doctoral research focuses on developing an intervention to mitigate the negative effects of moral distress. She also has a particular interest in relational ethics and this ethic will help guide her doctoral research. Sadie is currently the co-director of Mentor-Us, a student-led mentorship program for graduate nursing students at the University of Alberta.



**Stewart MacLennan, RN, MN**  
Graduate Studies, Faculty of Nursing

Stewart MacLennan is a Nurse Practitioner in correctional health, associate teaching professor at UofA Faculty of Nursing, and currently completing his PhD in Nursing focusing on relational ethics and pain experiences of people who are incarcerated. Specifically, Stewart is interested in better understanding the subjective experiences of physical pain during periods of incarceration as a means to develop relevant and ethically sound practice guidance to improve pain management practices within correctional settings

# Engagement

For the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, engagement expresses supporting community spaces for discussion and reflection on past, contemporary, and anticipated health ethics issues. The Centre hosts supports such activities to include practicing and in-training physicians, nurses, social workers, and other frontline healthcare professionals as well as public stakeholders.

**Health Ethics Seminars** These events focus on emerging issues in healthcare. The speakers are usually affiliated with various healthcare disciplines, programs, and institutions, and have special expertise, practice, and/or academic knowledge about specific ethical issues. In the context of COVID19, all seminars were offered virtually for the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

September 10	COVID-19: Rethinking the Lockdown Groupthink	Ari Joffe
September 24	Alberta's Bill 30 and the Public-Private Mix of Health Care Delivery	Tracey Bailey
October 22	Duty to Accommodate: The Ethical Imperative for a Human Rights-based Approach to COVID-19	Heidi Janz
November 5	Telemedicine: Ethical and Practice Issues for Confidentiality of Patient Information	Rose Carter
November 19	Restricted Visiting in Care Settings During COVID-19	Eric Wasylenko
January 14	Special Issues for the Seriously Mentally Ill During Pandemic Recovery	Austin Mardon and Catherine Mardon
January 28	Self-care for Caregivers	Doris Kieser
February 11	Health Ethics and Dialogue: Can We Agree?	Gary Frank

February 25	Should Clinicians be Allowed to Refuse Having their Image or Voice Recorded by Patients or Families?	Brendan Leier
March 11	The Opioid Crisis: What is the Role of Ethics?	Charl Els
March 25	Never Again? Revisiting Racial Discrimination through a Post-Holocaust Lens	Gary Goldsand
April 8	Caring in a Time of Contagion: The Silent Danger of Compassion Fatigue	Wendy Austin
April 22	Recommendations for Navigating Moral Distress: the Results of a Scoping Review	Sadie Deschenes
May 6	The Ethics of Safe Supply: Opioids and Harm Reduction	Katherine Duthie
June 3	Surviving and Thriving Now That We Are All "Coronials": A 12-step Program for Medical Culture Change	Peter Brindley
June 17	Ethical Complexities on Neurological Determination of Death	Jim Kutsogiannis

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Symposium** In collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), the Dossetor Centre was proud to support a longitudinal seminar series exploring themes related to health ethics and EDI. In the context of COVID19, all seminars were offered virtually for the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

October 8	Indigenization, Reconciliation, and Decolonization in Science	Kim Tallbear
November 12	Social Determinants of Health and Racism: Health Disparities of Immigrant Children	Bukola (Oladunni) Salami and Bonnie Islam
December 10	Thoughts and Lessons on Anti-Racist Praxis in Diverse Professions and Organizations	Yasmeen Abu-Laban
January 7	Fighting for a Hand to Hold: Confronting Medical Colonialism Against Indigenous Children in Canada	Samir Shaheen-Hussain and Teyohá:te Brant
February 18	Listening to Communities—A Grassroots Approach to Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Migrant Communities	Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika
April 15	(In)Tolerance & Pain: Brown Skin, White Coats, and Microaggressions	Onyenyechukwu Nnorom
May 27	Anti-Indigenous Racism in Health Systems	Wayne Clark
June 24	Trauma-Informed Care in Medical Education and Clinical Practice: Creating Space for Courageous Conversations	Sophia Parks

**Health Ethics Symposium** The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre offers an annual symposium on a contemporary issue in health care practice. For the 2020/2021 year, the symposium theme was Moral Distress: Caring for Those Who Care. Keynote speakers were Wendy Austin and Daniel Carros. Speakers included Charles Larson on “Epidemiology of Moral Distress,” Paul Byrne on “Care, Empathy, and the Electronic Health Record in NICU—A Clinician’s View,” Chloe Joynt, Erin Burton, and Ashlyn Skaley on “Critical Incident Stress Management Teams: Realization, Refocus, and Resiliency in the NICU,” Mat Rose on “Whose Distress is it Anyway? Helping One Another Manage Moral Distress,” and Gary Frank on “Sources of Moral Distress in Palliative Care.”





**Health Ethics Workshops** The John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre facilitated two health ethics workshops for the 2020/2021 academic year. The first, “From Code of Ethics to Developing Ethical Code: A Practical Approach to Applied AI Ethics in Health” included Katrina Ingram and Fahim Hassan exploring contemporary health ethics intersections with emerging artificial intelligence technologies. The second, “Introducing Health Ethics” included Wendy Austin, Tracey Bailey, Heidi Janz, Doris Kieser, Brendan Leier, and Michael van Manen exploring selected topics in health ethics encountered in clinical practice. Both events brought together students, academics, health professionals, and members of the public in productive dialogue.



**Media and Public Inquiries** Faculty and Adjunct Members of the Dossetor Ethics Centre respond to a variety of health ethics inquiries from academics, health care professionals, the general public, national and local press, and radio and television media. The responses have appeared as feature articles in local media (Edmonton Journal and the University of Alberta’s Folio) and national media (Globe and Mail, CTV, and CBC Radio and TV) on a variety of health ethics issues.

# Publications

Since 1990, the John Dossetor Centre has been publishing *Health Ethics Today*. This newsletter has a circulation of approximately 5000, which includes distribution to many physicians and surgeons across Alberta, health care professionals, scholars, students, members of the Canadian Bioethics Society, and friends of the Dossetor Centre. Each issue of *Health Ethics Today* is posted on the Dossetor Centre's website.



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## Editor's Forum

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What is the meaning of moral distress? How does moral distress differ from other distressing experiences encountered in clinical practice? Is moral distress in and of itself a bad thing? Should we worry if we work in a clinical environment where no one feels moral distress? What strategies exist to address moral distress? In this issue of *Health Ethics Today*, researchers and clinicians address moral distress in contemporary health care. The articles are based on presentations from the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre symposium "Moral Distress: Caring for Those Who Care" held virtually on November 27, 2020.

Wendy Austin and Daniel Garros begin by clarifying the meaning of moral distress as a human phenomenon. Situating moral distress in relational ethics, they explicate moral distress as an embodied response to a perceived moral problem to which we feel constrained in our ability to act. They elucidate constitutive elements of moral distress through recourse to the literature and their own work within the context of critical care. From their article, we appreciate that sources of moral distress exist from the bedside to institutional levels. As such, any interventions that we hope respond to or otherwise address moral distress need to be multilayered in their approach. Recognizing our contemporary health care is complicated by a plurality of values and beliefs as well as budgetary and human resource constraints, moral distress is undoubtedly a perennial concern. We need to acknowledge its enduring existence and lasting effects.

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# Research

## Individual and Collaborative Publications (last 5-years)

### Books

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