



## **ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS**

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AND STOLLERY CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITALS & MAZANKOWSKI ALBERTA HEART INSTITUTE  
CLINICAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

### **IS THERE AN ETHICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE LIMITATION OF HIGH-RISK TREATMENT IN EBOLA-CONFIRMED ICU PATIENTS?**

**Date:** Friday, 5 December 2014

**Time:** 12:00 – 13:00 MST/MDT

**Location:** Dvorkin Centre (2G2.07 WMC)

There are various ongoing discussions in North America considering various limitations on high-risk (to staff) treatments currently offered in standard ICU care, laboratory testing, transportation, etc. The justification for most, if not all, of the proposed limitations is based on the theoretical increased risk of harm of staff contracting the disease in the process of offering care to infected patients. I will discuss two issues: 1.) Is the Ebola outbreak unique in such a respect that the values of a patient's best-interest and staff safety conflict in previously unforeseen ways? 2.) Is there any ethical justification that would permit the limitation of standard of care treatment to patients infected with Ebola?

**Presented by: Dr. Brendan Leier**

Clinical Ethicist

University of Alberta and Stollery Children's Hospitals,  
Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute and  
John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

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