

2026

ETHICS IN HEALTHCARE

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2026

8 AM - 4 PM

Medical Education Research Facility (MERF)
375 Newton Road
Iowa City, Iowa



A one-day conference for learning,
collaborative dialogue, and
inter-professional exchange

SPONSORED BY

Program in Bioethics and Humanities
Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine

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GENERAL INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

With the steady introduction of more treatment options and biotechnologies, an increasing number and range of ethical challenges in health care are emerging. This conference is designed to help professionals meet these challenges through their work as clinicians, members of ethics committees or ethics consult teams, and administrators.

This one-day conference for collaborative learning, dialogue, and inter-professional exchange seeks to provide up-to-date information in healthcare ethics relevant to clinical practice; provide approaches to ethical reasoning that clarify ethical problems; and facilitate professional discussion of ethical challenges and decision making in healthcare.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

Administrators, Attorneys, Chaplains, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Social Workers, Students, Trainees, and Others

PARKING

The nearest accessible parking is directly north of MERF in the Newton Road Parking Ramp (NRP Ramp). Details, maps, and current rates can be found on the [Parking and Transportation website](#).

CONFERENCE DIRECTOR



Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD

Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Richard M. Caplan Chair in Biomedical Ethics
Director, Program in Bioethics and Humanities
Consultant, Ethics Consult Service
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

Suzanne Gurnett Streitz, BA
Conference Coordinator
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[Find additional information on our website.](#)

Disclosure Policy: University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine adheres to the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. Any individuals in a position to control the content of a CE activity, including faculty, planners, reviewers or others are required to disclose all financial relationships with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated prior to the commencement of the activity.

ACCREDITATION



In support of improving patient care, the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physician: The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Physician Assistant: The University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine has been authorized by the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for 6.0 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation.

Nurse: The University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine designates this activity for a maximum of 6.0 ANCC contact hours. Nurses should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Social Worker: As a Jointly Accredited Organization, the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved under this program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. Social workers completing this course receive 6.0 continuing education credit(s).

Other Health Care Providers: A certificate of participation will be available after successful completion of the course. (It is the responsibility of licensees to determine if this continuing education activity meets the requirements of their professional licensure board.)

The registration fee is \$100 for all attendees and includes refreshments during breaks and lunch. There is no additional cost for CME or CE credit.

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO 60 ATTENDEES,
PLEASE REGISTER EARLY.**

**CLICK TO
REGISTER**

Registration deadline is May 18, 2026.
A late fee of \$25 will be added to registrations received after May 18, 2026.

PRESENTERS



Aaron Kunz, DO, MA, MME

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Consultant, Ethics Consult Service
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Title: The Moral Calibration of Professional Duty: How Responsible Am I for My Patient's Wellbeing?

Objectives:

1. Illustrate the moral tension between the concepts of altruism and duty.
2. Describe health care professional character traits that influence fiduciary responsibility to patients.
3. Summarize strategies to assure appropriate responsibility in patient care.



Erica Salter, PhD, HEC-C

Associate Professor of Health Care Ethics
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Chair, Department of Health Care Ethics
Saint Louis University

Title: Between Patient, Parent, and Professional: A Framework for Ethical Pediatric Decision-Making

Objectives:

1. Identify ways in which the ethics of pediatric decision-making differs from adult decision-making.
2. Determine the roles played by parent, professional, and patient in the decision-making process.
3. Analyze a pediatric ethics case by applying a framework of 5 inter-related pediatric ethics principles.



Adam Cifu, MD

Professor of Medicine
The University of Chicago

Title: AI and the Patient-Clinician Relationship

Objectives:

1. Describe important aspects of the patient-clinician relationship.
2. Enumerate examples of how AI might enhance or threaten the traditional patient-clinician relationship.
3. Identify key components of patient care that should not be sacrificed by the use of AI.



Rebecca Benson, MD, PhD

Director, Ethics Consult Service
Medical Director, Pediatric Pain & Palliative Care
Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Title: Frequently Used Resources and References in Clinical Ethics Consultation

Objectives:

1. Describe the types of ethics resources and references used by clinical ethics consultants.
2. Compare references recommended by ASBH with references used by clinical ethics consultants.
3. Use clinical examples to demonstrate how different references can provide different ethical guidance.

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Each session includes a 1-hour interactive lecture and a 30-minute Q&A. All sessions will be held in the Medical Education Research Facility (MERF 1117).

7:30 – 8:00 AM	Registration and Coffee Atrium, MERF
8:00 - 8:15 AM	Welcome and Announcements Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD
8:15 – 9:45 AM	SESSION 1 The Moral Calibration of Professional Duty: How Responsible Am I for My Patient's Wellbeing? Aaron Kunz, DO, MA, MME
9:45 – 10:00 AM	Break and Refreshments Atrium, MERF
10:00 – 11:30 AM	SESSION 2 Between Patient, Parent, and Professional: A Framework for Ethical Pediatric Decision-Making Erica Salter, PhD, HEC-C
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Lunch Atrium, MERF
12:30 – 2:00 PM	SESSION 3 AI and the Patient-Clinician Relationship Adam Cifu, MD
2:00 – 2:15 PM	Break and Refreshments Atrium, MERF
2:15 – 3:45 PM	SESSION 4 Frequently Used Resources and References in Clinical Ethics Consultation Rebecca Benson, MD, PhD
3:45-4:00 PM	Wrap-Up Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD