A message from the Center’s DIRECTOR.....

I welcome you to this inaugural edition of the Center for Healthcare Ethics Newsletter with as warm a welcome as I received when I became the Center’s director last summer.

The aim of the Newsletter, which will be published three times a year, is to help keep members of the Cedars-Sinai community informed of the Center’s efforts and activities, as well as other opportunities for deepening your understanding of the multifaceted ethical dynamic present in the healthcare setting.

The Center’s mission is to provide leadership and be the institutional point of contact for all matters of ethical import associated with patient care and healthcare research.

I invite you to explore our Web sites (listed below) to learn more about the Center and its many programs. From our Clinical Ethics Consultation Service (see page 2) to our monthly Ethics Noon Conferences (see page 3) to the many other activities and efforts in which the Center and its personnel are involved, all are guided by a deep appreciation of, and respect for, the diversity of values and convictions present within the healthcare context. The Center is, accordingly, firmly committed to interdisciplinary collaboration and cooperation.

This is an exciting time to be part of the Cedars-Sinai family as we move toward becoming not just one of the nation’s premier hospitals, but a leading research institution as well. I hope this and subsequent Newsletters will be of assistance as we encounter new and challenging ethical issues in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Stuart G. Finder, Ph.D
Director

Our history: The Origin of C.H.E

In 1990, then-recently retired Chair of Surgery Leon Morgenstern, M.D., became a member of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Bioethics Committee. The committee, organized under the Medical Staff, was created in 1985 as a peer-review panel with the aim of addressing sensitive patient care situations and their related treatment decisions.

As the committee included physicians, nurses, administrators and lay representatives too, its aim quickly expanded to include assisting in the formation and revision of Medical Center ethics policies. It soon became obvious to Dr. Morgenstern that a more formal Bioethics Program was needed to meet the growing challenges of ethical issues at Cedars-Sinai. In 1992, he thus proposed the creation of such a Program to an enthusiastic committee, which soon endorsed its formation. It took several years, however, to move from good idea to firm reality.

The Bioethics Program formally launched in 1995 with Dr. Morgenstern as its inaugural director. Within a few years, the clinical ethics program had expanded dramatically. Others too were seeking advice in response to the various ethical issues arising within the daily workings of Cedars-Sinai.

Acknowledging this expanded focus, in 2000, the Bioethics Program became the Center for Healthcare Ethics, with Dr. Morgenstern as its director. In 2005, after another 5 years at the helm, Dr. Morgenstern retired again, this time to devote more energies to academic pursuits within the scope of ethics.

Kenneth Leeds, M.D., a longtime member and former chair of the Bioethics Committee, took on the role of Interim Director until 2007 when Stuart G. Finder, Ph.D., was recruited from Vanderbilt University Medical Center to become the new permanent Director.
A Glimpse Inside….

The Clinical Ethics Consultation Service

Countless critical decisions are made at Cedars-Sinai every day—by patients, by the health care professionals who take care of patients, and by the friends and family members of patients who care deeply about them. For all, their aim is to do what is best.

Unfortunately, there are times when the circumstances make it challenging to know what is best—or even to do what is best given the difficulties and complexities of the situation. In such cases, or at any time when those involved in a patient’s care believe an issue or concern of ethical import is present, clinical ethics consultation may be requested.

The Clinical Ethics Consultation Service, which is the clinical service arm of the Center for Healthcare Ethics, is a resource available to anyone involved in a patient’s care, including patients, their family, physicians, nurses, social workers and others. Its primary purpose is to promote and enable morally appropriate and effective decision-making.

The Clinical Ethics Consultation Service has four core objectives:

1. to discuss the relevant facets of each situation with all involved participants to promote good communication;
2. to enable clear understanding of various possible decisions and likely outcomes;
3. to assist in identifying the relevant ethical values and goals at stake in the situation and the decisions; and
4. to help resolve problems, conflicts or dilemmas related to those various values and goals.

To request ethics consultation, all one needs to do is to call the Center for Healthcare Ethics. Once your request is made, an ethics consultant will talk with you and gather basic information about the situation in order to develop an appropriate understanding of what’s going on and what is at stake. Additional conversations may also be required with the other participants in order best to understand what may be at stake for all involved as well as to ascertain the options that are most fitting.

Formal conferences bringing together all decision-makers may also be arranged if necessary. Throughout the process, efforts will be made to ensure that those primarily responsible for the patient’s care are engaged and working together in order to produce the best possible outcome for all involved.
New Health Law Policy;

POLST – What you Need to Know to Stay in the Know

POLST stands for Physician’s Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment.

On Aug. 4, 2008, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 3000 into law, ensuring patients with serious illness who complete a POLST form will have their end-of-life treatment preferences honored by health care professionals. The POLST is a form completed by a health care provider and the patient after discussing such treatments. The form must be signed by a physician for the patient’s wishes to be implemented.

POLST forms will carry the weight of a doctor’s order, which must be followed across all health care settings, and must be carried out by all health care providers including physicians, nurses and emergency medical personnel. For guidance concerning POLST, and more information on the California law, please visit www.finalchoices.org. The Ethics Noon Conference on April 15, 2009, will be devoted to exploring and learning more about POLST.

Fall 2008 Ethics Noon Conference (ENC)

This is a monthly conference that is open to all who work within, are affiliated with, or receive care at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. The primary aim is to raise the level of awareness and degree of understanding of emerging issues and concerns in healthcare ethics.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRF Category 1 Credit

September 17, 2008
Maurice B. Siegel MD, Lecture in Humanism and Medicine, “The Future of Bioethics: Power and Community Dialogue?”
HOWARD BRODY, M.D., is the John P. McGovern Centennial Chair in Family Medicine and Director for the Institute for the Medical Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

October 15, 2008
FELICIA COHN, Ph.D, is Associate Adjunct Professor of Medicine and Director of Medical Ethics at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) School of Medicine. Dr. Cohn develops the ethics curriculum for the UCI School of Medicine, conducts research on ethical issues, and teaches medical ethics to medical students, residents and faculty members. Previously, she directed and published a study for the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Cohn has also directed the Program in Medical Ethics at the George Washington University School of Medicine, Washington D.C.

November 19, 2008
Neal Halffon, M.D., M.P.H., is director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, and professor of Pediatrics, Public Health and Public Policy at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, the School of Public Health and the School of Public Policy, respectively. In addition to his nationally recognized work in health care reform and public policy, Dr. Halffon co-produced the 1994 documentary “Crumb,” which chronicled the legendary counterculture cartoonist R. Crumb and his family.

December 17, 2008
Alexander Capron, LLB, is the Scott H. Bice Chair in Healthcare Law, Policy and Ethics, professor of Law and Medicine, and co-director of the Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics at the University of Southern California. Professor Capron, a member of the Institute of Medicine, is a globally recognized expert in health policy and medical ethics. He recently returned to USC after a four-year sabbatical during which he served as director of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights and Health Law at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.
### CHE Meetings Schedule for 2008

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<td>Sep 16 - NICU</td>
<td>Oct 8 - BCEM</td>
<td>Nov 18 - NICU</td>
<td>Dec 10 - BCEM</td>
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<td>Sep 17 - ENC</td>
<td>Oct 15 - ENC</td>
<td>Nov 19 - ENC</td>
<td>Dec 16 - NICU</td>
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<td>Sep 24 - Ethics Forum</td>
<td>Oct 21 - NICU</td>
<td>Nov 26 - Ethics Forum</td>
<td>Dec 17 - ENC</td>
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<td><em>BCEM= Bioethics Committee Executive Meeting</em></td>
<td><em>ENC= Ethics Noon Conference</em></td>
<td><em>SICU= SIUC Fellows &amp; Residents Ethics Conference</em></td>
<td><em>NICU= Neonatology Ethics Meetings</em></td>
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For descriptions on Ethics Forums and Ethics Seminars, please visit either our Intranet or Internet website and go to the link “Educational Opportunities”.

For times and locations, please call the Center at 310-423-9636

### Good Reads…..

**The Ethics of Bioethics: Mapping the Moral Landscape.**
Edited by Felicia Cohn, Ph.D and Lisa Eckenwiler, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins University Press. 2007). This book begins with a critical and constructive discussion of the moral landscape of bioethics. Through 25 essays, the field of medical ethics is examined by its history and trends, shortcomings and strengths, and political and policy realm.

**Conversations on the Edge: Narratives of Ethics and Illness.**
Richard Zaner, Ph.D (Georgetown University Press. 2004). Drawing on his experience, Dr. Zaner tells six stories intermixed with reflections. These stories are filled with pain and joy, loneliness and hope. They are about life and death, about what happens in hospital rooms—and that place at the edge—when we confront mortality. It is the rarest of glimpses into the world of patients, their families, healers, and those who struggle.

**Complex Ethics Consultation: Cases that Haunt Us.**
Edited by Ford and Didzinski (Cambridge. 2008). This book bridges the gap between current texts and the continuing educational needs for those who face complex ethics consultations in hospital settings. Presenting 28 detailed cases, they explore the ethical reasoning, professional issues, and the emotional aspects of difficult consultations.

**The Healer’s Power.**
Howard Brody, MD.,PhD. (Yale University Press. 1993). Dr. Brody, family physician-philosopher, argues that medical ethicists should avoid using the principle of autonomy to whittle away at physicians’ power. He investigates the nature, sources, and implication of it, all awhile, acknowledging it’s positive and negative.

### Suggested Viewing:

If you’ve missed one of our Ethics Noon Conference Series and are interested in viewing them, the Medical Library has copies of the series dating back to Nov 2007. We invite you to check them out.

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**Note from the Editor…**
Thank you to Dr. Morgenstern and Marilyn Shirk, RN, for their insight into the history of the Bioethics Committee and the creation of the Bioethics Program and Center for Healthcare Ethics.