Pediatric Clinical Ethics: Research, Publication, and Funding Opportunities for Faculty, Students, and Residents

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Invitation to put on table:

- What pediatric clinical ethics questions are you mulling?
- What cases do you keep returning to with ethical reflection?
- What are your “fantasy” clinical ethics research projects?
Invitation to put heads together

College of Human Medicine
Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences

Easy Answers
General Topics and Types of Ethics Research

- **TOPICS**
  - Clinical ethics
  - Research ethics
  - “Professionalism”
  - Health policy: ethics of systems incentives, etc.
  - Medical humanities

- **TYPES**
  - Case studies
  - Quality improvement projects
  - Empirical bioethics; “ethics” experimental protocols
  - Use of literature, film, fiction, narrative, etc. to explore challenges of medicine
From low to high

- “hanging fruit” (I don’t like the phrase)
- time and money intensity

Want to spend significant time on avenues that residents and faculty who have never formally worked in ethics—even medical students—could pursue.
Low to High

- From case studies
- To pilot projects
- To new kinds of funding opportunities in a changing health care environment
- To “traditional” funding targets—large NIH grants
Case Studies

- We actually all learn a lot from Ns of 1
CASE STUDIES

A good case study raises particular challenges iconic of broader ones in the field.

--Medical complexity complicates risk/benefit analysis, informed consent, etc.

--Challenges of family or social dynamics.

--Challenges of working in medical teams.
Case Studies

- A good case study may
  - Conceptually explicate tensions or tradeoffs
  - Present an array of options
  - Defend or criticize actual course of action
  - Discuss relationship of case to policy or call for new policy responses to this type of case.
Case studies can be presented in

- Poster form.
  
  A poster for our Peds Research Day is a great place to start! Same poster can be submitted to other forums…..

- Narrative form.

- Case/commentary form. Hastings Center Report
Old Enough?

Commentaries by Robert D. Orr and Debra Craig

Joy is a thirteen-year-old Jehovah’s Witness with an infected knee that requires surgical intervention. She articulates the Jehovah’s Witness position on refusing blood products, and she clearly—but tearfully—states that she does not want to receive any of the forbidden blood products, even if it means she might die. The surgeon is not willing to operate without first giving her blood, and he requests that the pediatrician seek a court order for this. Should the pediatrician do so?

_Hastings Center Report_, Nov/Dec 2007
Case studies: WANTED

Journal of Clinical Ethics

Journal of Narrative Enquiry in Bioethics

Journal of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

RECRUITING NOW!

“I want YOUR case study!”
Professional Ethics 
Associations/Meetings

- Transition: for case studies AND presentations of other kinds of research

- American Society of Bioethics and Humanities
  - Has Pediatric Affinity Group
  - Annual conference (next year San Diego! 😊)

- Annual July Pediatric Ethics Conference at Seattle Children’s Hospital
Getting there…..

- For medical students, Research Office will pay $75 for poster production.
- If you are a first author of an accepted presentation or post, you can apply to CHM research office AND to MSU graduate school for conference travel funds.
- Residents have to apply through their sponsoring institution.
Quality Improvement Projects...

- .... which are often simultaneously pilot projects
- Baselines: Parental/child understanding of a proposed treatment after standard informed consent materials.
- And/or
- Intervention: Comparison of control group and those who get new informed consent materials.
Pediatrics ethics articles often relate to gaining baseline understandings:

- Are Research Ethics Standards Satisfied in Pediatric Journal Publications?
  - Eric Weil, Robert M. Nelson, and Lainie Friedman Ross
  - Pediatrics 2002; 110:2 364-370

- Ethics Consultation in Children's Hospitals: Results From a Survey of Pediatric Clinical Ethicists
  --Jennifer C. Kesselheim, Judith Johnson, and Steven Joffe
AAP “Community Pediatrics”

- “Funding Opportunities” page updated monthly

http://www2.aap.org/commpeds/funding.html
Other Community Funding Sources

- Sparrow Center for Innovation and Research
  - [http://www.thehollander集团.net/pos_desc_files/MSU-Sparrow%20CFIR%20Director%20(March%202013).pdf](http://www.thehollander集团.net/pos_desc_files/MSU-Sparrow%20CFIR%20Director%20(March%202013).pdf)

- MSU Outreach and Engagement

- MSU Extension
A department story....

- Going from “something is bugging me” to research questions, preliminary data, funding target......
New kinds of funding opportunities in a changing health care environment....

- Support shared decision-making
- Support good comparative effectiveness research
- Support effective coordination of care

- New funding mechanisms to support these.....
New funding mechanisms...PCORI

- PCORI

- The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is authorized by Congress to conduct research to provide information about the best available evidence to help patients and their health care providers make more informed decisions. PCORI’s research is intended to give patients a better understanding of the prevention, treatment and care options available, and the science that supports those options.

- Dec 13 awards: Asthma specific call
New funding mechanisms: broadening of AHRQ

- “Deliberative Approaches: Patient and Consumer Input for Implementing Evidence-Based Health Care (R21)”
- Current call
“Traditional” NIH…things to note

- K AWARDS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Post-doctoral and early career. Training as well as research opportunity!
- R21
- R01
- NIH history of funding RESEARCH ethics projects.
- NIH “Bioethics Resources on the Web” page
  - http://bioethics.od.nih.gov/
Changing NIH things to note: broadening of “ELSI” across NIH

- “Ethical, legal, and social implications…."
- History with genome project
- Now cross-NIH mission
- YOU CAN MAKE AN ELSI PROPOSAL IN ANY DIVISION
  - My current funding is ELSI work sponsored by NICHD
Get linked to new opportunities!

- This link will help you to learn how to be e-linked to new opportunity announcements, including designing custom-made alerts for new calls by funding agencies of interest or on topics of interest to you.

Big Messages

- The next time you find yourself mulling, steaming, wishing you had more stakeholder perspectives, facing a troubling tradeoff, feel ethically enabled or obstructed by policy, etc……

- Consider making pediatric ethics a focal point of your next research/writing.

- Talk to us about it.