M-2 PHILOSOPHY AND MEDICINE SCHEDULE
FALL 1992

[Page numbers in brackets refer to pages in this booklet].

(Faculty member's name in parentheses will present lecture or introduce speakers for that session).

1. August 12/W
   Health Care Down East
   Panel Discussion:
   Arthur Kopelman, M.D., Department of Pediatrics
   (NICU)
   Edwin Sumpter, M.D., Department of Pediatrics
   Richard Rumley, M.D., Department of Medicine

   meet in room 2S-04
   11-12:20

Readings:


Discussion Questions:

What are some of the major health care concerns of eastern North Carolina? Are eastern North Carolina's health problems worse than elsewhere in the state? in the region? in the nation? What are the special health problems facing rural areas? What has been the impact of the presence of migrant workers on eastern North Carolina's health situation? What are the unique problems of neonatal intensive care in eastern North Carolina?

2. August 19,20/W, TH
   Is There a Right to Health Care?
   (Dr. Moskop)

   11-12:20

Readings:

Discussion Questions:

What is a right? Is there a right to health care? What constitutes a just health care system? What is the best way to provide health care to members of a society? Must physicians provide health care to all who request it? Do you agree with Ruddick's or Sade's position?

3. August 26, 27/W, TH Cost-Containment in Health Care
11-12:20 (Dr. Moskop)

Readings:


b. John C. Moskop, "Looking For Ways to Control the Cost of Health Care," Medical Ethics for the Pediatrician 6 (April 1991), 12-10. [pp. 32-34]


Discussion Questions:

Why has the cost of health care become a serious problem in recent years? What are society's responsibilities in maintaining a health care system for its members and providing equitable care to all? What are some advantages and drawbacks to health care rationing systems? How should society balance the cost of medical care against the claims of its citizens for such care? Is it necessary to ration health care?

4. August 31, M/Sept. 3, TH National Plans
11-12:20 (Dr. De Ville)

Readings:


Discussion Questions:

What does the Bush plan explicitly and implicitly assume is the source of the current health care crisis? What assumptions underlie the Clinton plan? What features do the Bush and Clinton plans have in common? How do they differ? How will the plans, if instituted, affect day-to-day medical practice? Which plan is most likely to win public support? Which plan will best achieve its goals?
5. September 2,10/W , TH 
11-12:20
When are Treatments Medically Futile?
(Dr. Loretta Kopelman)

Reading:


Discussion Questions:

Who decides when medical treatments are futile? Is this a medical or moral decision? Can patients or their advocates demand care their doctors regard to be futile? Do doctors agree when treatments are futile?

6. September 16,17 /W , TH 
11-12:20
Euthanasia & Physician Assisted Suicide
(Dr. Moskop)

Readings:


Discussion Questions:

Is there a difference between active and passive euthanasia? Should people have the right to control their deaths? What role should physicians play in helping patients die? Should physicians be permitted to administer euthanasia or assist patients in committing suicide?

7. September 23,24/W ,TH 
11-12:20
The AMA and Health Policy
(Dr. Savitt)

Readings:

Discussion Questions:

Should the AMA serve as the voice of American medicine? Do you agree with the AMA positions on the issues stated in the readings? Should physicians support the AMA even when they disagree with AMA positions on issues such as euthanasia, domestic violence, and gifts from industry?

FIRST PAPER DUE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 5 PM

8. September 30, Oct. 1 W/TH
   11:00-12:20 pm  The Role of Ethics Committees
   (Dr. Savitt)

Readings:


Discussion Questions:

What is the role of ethics committees in medical care? Who should serve on hospital ethics committees? Do such committees threaten the physician's autonomy? Should ethics committee decisions be binding on patients and physicians?

9. October 7, 8/W, TH
   11-12:20 Animal Rights
   (Dr. De Ville)

Readings:


Discussion Questions:

Should animals be used in experimentation? What limitations would you place on animal experimentation? On what basis do animal rights activists argue against the use of animals in experimentation? Are their arguments sound?
Readings:


Discussion Questions:

Why do some view germ-line gene therapy as a "usurpation of God's prerogatives"? Do you agree? What are the major arguments for and against developing human germ-line gene therapy techniques? Why is germ-line gene therapy considered more "efficient" than somatic cell gene therapy? Some have criticized germ-line gene therapy by comparing it to the Nazi eugenics program. Are the two similar? Is there a morally significant difference between somatic cell and germ-line gene therapy? If so, what is that difference?

Readings:


Readings:

b. Correspondence dated November 2, 1989, from Louis W. Sullivan, M.D. to Dr. William F. Raub, Acting Director of National Institutes of Health. [pp. 111-112]
Discussion Questions:

Does the use of fetal tissue for transplantation research encourage or promote abortion? Are there ways to restrict how the tissue is obtained so it will not do so? Why is RU 684 being kept out of U.S. markets?

13. November 11, 12/W, TH Maternal-Fetal Issues
11-12:20 (Dr. De Ville)

Readings:

b. Cases
   2. C-Section Case. [p. 130]

Discussion Questions:

Should physicians always honor a parent's decision regarding the medical care of their child? When treating a pregnant woman, who is the physician's "patient(s)?" Does the right to abort a fetus give a woman the right to mistreat the fetus? What individual is best suited to speak for the interests of a fetus? Can the interests of mother and fetus ever really be in "conflict?" Does society ever force medical treatment one individual in order to benefit another? If yes, under what conditions is forced treatment legitimate?

14. November 18, 19/W, TH FDA/HHS: Science, Politics & Policy
11-12:20 (Dr. Savitt)

Readings:

b. Marcia Angell, "Breast Implants--Protection or Paternalism?" NEJM, 326 (June 18, 1992), 1695-1696. [pp.134-135]
Discussion questions:

What is the reason that researchers and drug companies give for excluding many women from drug trials? What are the consequences of this policy? Was the FDA right to restrict breast implants for women or is this paternalistic? How can the FDA combat bias in diagnosis, treatment or research?

15. November 24/TU, 3:30-4:30 AIDS
November 25/WED, 11-12:20 (Dr. Loretta Kopelman)

Readings:


Discussion questions:

What changes have occurred in the FDA testing of drugs as a result of AIDS activists? Do you think these changes are an improvement? Do they offer as much protection? Do they offer more freedom of choice for patients who are subjects? Have AIDS activists made us more aware of the association of disease with punishment from God or other sources? Is this a rational view? Why is it a ubiquitous view?

11-12:20

Readings:

a. Maya Angelou, excerpt from I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, 1970, pp. 156-164. [pp.155-159]

Discussion questions:

Maya Angelou's story describes barriers to health care faced by African-Americans. How do those barriers manifest themselves today? What are some causes of the extremely high mortality rates in Harlem? How should the nation respond to this situation? Dr. Shaffner chronicles the struggles of African-American physicians to integrate the North Carolina Medical Society. What obstacles had to be overcome to achieve this goal? What is the status of race relations within the medical profession today?
Readings:


SECOND PAPER DUE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 5 PM