The Joseph and Rose Kennedy Institute of Ethics was established at Georgetown University in 1971 as a teaching and research center to offer moral and ethical perspectives on major policy issues. It is the largest university based group of scholars in the world devoted to research and teaching in biomedical ethics and other fields of applied ethics. Institute faculty members represent a variety of academic disciplines including Philosophy, religion, medicine, social science, and law. Bioethical issues such as in vitro fertilization, abortion, health resource allocation, use of life-sustaining technologies, organ transplantation, euthanasia, and gene therapy have always been a particular emphasis of research at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics. The Institute also houses the most extensive library of ethics in the world, the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature; produces BIOETHICSLINE, an online medical ethics database; and conducts regular seminars and courses in Bioethics.

Teaching

The Kennedy Institute of Ethics scholars and fellows teach a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses at Georgetown University where they hold faculty appointments in the philosophy or theology departments or in the schools of medicine, law, or foreign service. The Institute provides faculty for the masters and doctoral graduate degree program in philosophy/bioethics and teach at the Medical School.

Research and Publication

The research program is based on the scholarly interests of individual faculty members. Work is ongoing and has included gene therapy, nursing ethics, patient autonomy and physician beneficence, religious pluralism in medical ethics, informed consent, death and dying, and nuclear warfare. The disciplines of this research include philosophy, religion, medicine, law, journalism, international affairs, and business, as well as health issues providing faculty expertise in many fields in many fields encompassed in bioethics.

Lectures and Consultations

Programs

- Intensive Bioethics Course
- Advanced Bioethics Program
Services

Bioethicslines

The Bioethics Information Retrieval System prepares the online database, BIOETHICSLINE, which is part of the National Library of Medicine's MEDLARS system. The database and its print version, the annual Bibliography of Bioethics, provide worldwide access to the English language literature in the area of bioethics. Free bibliographic searches are available.

- Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal
- Bibliography of Bioethics
- Encyclopedia of Bioethics
- New Titles in Bioethics
- Scope Note Series

Membership Program

The Internet Bioethics Consortium Project

The Kennedy Institute of Ethics is presently developing an Internet consortium of Bioethics related sites and information. The consortium project seeks to provide a centralized source of Web and Internet information for academic and public use. This will also facilitate contact among researchers, scholars, and professionals in the field of Bioethics, giving them a subject ordered directory of colleagues with whom they can correspond. The Kennedy Institute welcomes and invites suggestions on sources of information for the consortium project. We would appreciate the suggestion of Bioethically related links to add to our site.