WHAT IS BIOETHICS? WHAT IS A BIOETHICS PROJECT?

Bioethics is a field of multidisciplinary scholarship and practice that investigates the ethical, societal, and policy implications of activities and technologies in health care and the life sciences. Bioethics projects, and bioethics components of projects in health care, the life sciences, and related fields, generally consider ethical issues and questions that arise in clinician-patient relationships, in health and public health policy, or in biomedical research involving human-directed interventions. Examples include many aspects of broad topic areas like genetics, genomics, and biobanks; death and dying; health disparities, prevention, and health care reform; decisionmaking and informed consent; reproduction and the beginning of life; research ethics and oversight; research with animals; novel biotechnologies and their implications for humans and the environment; and many others.

Projects that may be considered for funding support from the Center for Bioethics, Health, and Society include conceptual or empirical research, course development, community engagement, and more. Funding may also be sought for the bioethics component of a scientific project for which pilot funding is being sought from another source, including other Centers and Institutes in the University and Medical Center.

For a proposal to be regarded as a bioethics project or as containing a bioethics component, the applicant should clearly and specifically describe (1) what ethical questions or issues will be considered and how, and (2) a product or product component that will address the bioethics aspects of the project, whether normatively, descriptively, or empirically.

Applicants who are unsure about how best to describe the bioethics aspects of their proposals or who seek bioethics collaborators to help address them are invited to contact the Center for Bioethics, Health, and Society to arrange for further discussion.