



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY

## CENTER *for* BIOETHICS, HEALTH & SOCIETY

### Upcoming Events

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**NEW**

**MARCH 8: BIOETHICS VIRTUAL VISITING SPEAKER**  
WITH LIVE Q&A:

#### **The Moral Duty to Learn: Uncertainty, Research and Novel Disease**

**Alex John London, PhD**, Clara L. West Professor of Ethics and Philosophy, Director, Center for Ethics and Policy, Carnegie Mellon University

The duty of medical professionals to act in the best interests of patients is a cornerstone of medical ethics. Although the refutation of medical paternalism altered the way this duty is understood, it has remained a pillar of medical ethics for centuries. However, this commitment rests on the presumption that providers possess the knowledge required to translate therapeutic intent into actual clinical benefit. In the context of novel disease, where reliable medical evidence is lacking and uncertainty is high, therapeutic intent unmoored from a duty to learn can produce self-defeating practices that harm patients and undermine the mission of medicine. This talk elaborates the moral arguments in support of a duty to learn and draws on early missteps in the response to SARS-CoV-2 to illustrate key points.

**5:00-6:00 PM**

**Live Q&A after speaker at approx. 5:40pm**

**Link for Zoom Registration [here](#).**

Thank you to our co-sponsors:

Wake Forest University Bioethics Graduate Program  
Wake Forest University Program for Leadership and Character

### Center News

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Dr. Larry Churchill's Lecture from the 29<sup>th</sup> September, "Ethics for the Anthropocene", is now available for viewing [here](#).

**Winter & Spring, faculty & student, publications and scholarly work include:**

**Christine Nero Coughlin, JD, Faculty:**

*"Exploring the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization"*, Exploring Ethics Series, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, February 18, 2021.

**Mark Hall, PhD, Faculty:**

*"Reaching agreement on COVID-19 immunity "passports" will be difficult"*, [USC-Brookings Schaeffer on Health Policy, blog, 27 January 2021](#)

**Michael Hyde, PhD, Faculty:**

*"The Importance of Being Open-Minded in Bioethical Controversies."* Invited Lectures. Department of Communication, University of North Carolina, Greensboro. February 9 and 16, 2021.

## Center News

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### **Ana Iltis, PhD, Faculty:**

Association for Practical and Professional Ethics - *Next 30 Years of Scholars: Mentors and Early Scholars in Dialogue*, Mentoring Panel, February 26, 2021.

*Inclusion of Older Adults in Clinical Research, Addressing Implicit Bias in Human Subject Protection*, Research Centers Collaborative Network and National Institute on Aging, Workshop, February 23-24, 2021.

*The Role of Religion in Health Care*, Western Michigan Health Care Ethics Conference, Grand Valley State University, Keynote Address, February 22, 2021.

### **Emily Lisi, WFU Bioethics Graduate Student:**

*“Expanding Insurance Coverage for In Vitro Fertilization with Preimplantation Genetic Testing: Putting the Cart Before the Horse”*. [Journal of Medical Ethics, Online First](#), doi: 10.1136/medethics-2020-106940

## Center News

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### **Maya Mehta, WFU Undergraduate student:**

*Improving Reproductive Care for Women with Kidney Disease*. Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, February 25-27, 2021

### **John Moskop, PhD, Faculty:**

*“Bioethics in a Distinctive Setting—The Emergency Department.”* Presentation at the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Clinical Ethics Committee Webex meeting, February 19, 2021.

### **Ana Worthington, WFU BS/MA Five Year Program student:**

*“Informal Caregivers”*: *Critically Examining the Language of Cancer Caregiving*. Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, February 25-27, 2021

## Bioethics Graduate Program

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**NEW**

**Kitchen Table Talks:** Informal conversations with Wake Forest bioethics scholars and professionals (including faculty, students, and alumni) – breaking down formal walls and getting a true look at their take on bioethics, their path to where they are now, and a bit about the person(s) themselves. Currently two talks are hosted on the Bioethics Graduate Program [website](#) with new talks in the pipeline.

**The Bioethics Graduate Program at Wake Forest University is now accepting applications for Summer and Fall 2021 admission.**

The Program provides an educational opportunity in bioethics for current and future professionals, including health care providers, researchers in biomedicine and the life sciences, lawyers, and professionals in health and research administration and the biotechnology industry.

The program is attractive to working professionals as well as students in pre-health, pre-law, and humanities programs who will continue onto professional schools and/or doctoral programs. The students in the Bioethics program bring a diversity of academic, employment, and life experiences to the classroom. The program faculty is nationally recognized in the field of bioethics.

The small class sizes and versatile curricular options enable students to tailor the program to their individual interests. The program emphasizes personal interaction, promotes scholarly and interpersonal communicative capabilities, and fosters close relationships among students, faculty and alumni.

The Graduate Program offers a Master of Arts degree and three Graduate Certificate options, as well as several dual degree options. The program is flexible for both full and part-time study.

For more information, including program philosophy, course and faculty listings, and application procedures, please contact [Vicky Zickmund](#), (336-716-1499) as well as visit the [website](#).

March 5, 2021

## Opportunities

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### Funding:

The **Center for Bioethics, Health & Society** is accepting, on a rolling basis, applications for small grants to support Bioethics activities.

For information and the application form for this [funding opportunity](#), please see the [CBHS Funding Application](#) on the Center's website.

### Donation Button:

There is now a donation button online on our website. This an opportunity to give to the [Center for Bioethics, Health and Society](#), or directly to the [Bioethics Graduate Program](#). Thank you for considering Wake Forest Bioethics in your annual giving campaign!

**We are happy to announce that the "Bioethics at WFU" websites have been completely updated. We hope these sites illustrate and share information about how Bioethics is being explored and studied at Wake Forest University.**

[Bioethics at WFU](#)  
[Center for Bioethics, Health & Society](#)  
[Bioethics Graduate Program](#)  
[Bioethics, Humanities & Medicine Minor](#)

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