



2024 – 2025 Ethics at Noon Timely Issues in Medical and Health Care Ethics

The Ethics at Noon sessions will include lectures focusing on timely issues in medical and health care ethics. All the lectures invite physicians, nurses, social workers, pastoral care professionals and other health care professionals to reflect on some of the ethical issues confronting American society today. Ethics is an interdisciplinary endeavor. Everyone is welcome.

**Please bring your lunch.
Bottled water will be provided.**

October 10, 2024 (Webex and SJUMC Auditoriums, Noon – 1:00 pm)

Oh Boy, Opioids: Dilemmas That Arise When Managing Chronic Pain

Presenter: Ryan Murphy, APN, Palliative Care

Chronic pain requires ongoing treatment to protect quality of life and function. But how do you balance the risks and benefits of treatment, particularly when using opioids chronically? Please join Ryan Murphy, Palliative APN in a case-based discussion that will consider pain management related conundrums, quagmires, and quandaries.

November 14, 2024 (Webex and SJUMC Auditoriums, Noon – 1:00 pm)

Catholic Social Teaching and the Ethical and Religious Directives

Presenter: Anthony Santamaria, PhD, SJH Ethicist

This presentation will examine the basic tenets of Catholic Social Teaching, (CST), which strive for justice, equity, and solidarity for all people, and how CST provides a foundation for the Ethical and Religious Directives governing Catholic Health Care. Seen through the lens of CST, the presentation will explore how the Ethical and Religious Directives are ultimately about compassion, empathy, and upholding and respecting the rights of all persons.

December 12, 2024 (Webex and SJUMC Auditoriums, Noon – 1:00 pm)

Three Generations of Imbeciles is Enough: The Role of Physicians in the American Eugenics Movement

Presenter: Alan Sori, MD

The established medical profession played a major role in the development, advancement and growth of the American Eugenics movement. Their actions and beliefs were emulated by the Nazi party. We will look at the role of American Medicine in the development and abuses of the eugenics movement in the United States.

January 9, 2025 (Webex and SJUMC Auditoriums, Noon – 1:00 pm)

Challenges of Pediatric and Adolescent Palliative Care

Presenters: Theresa Moran, Dr. Jill Menell and Dr. Jennifer Chuang

We will examine the difficulties facing parents, children, teens, and staff as they navigate choosing palliative care during chronic and life limiting illness.

We will explore assent vs consent, balancing treatment with quality of life, and conflict resolution between caregivers. We will also make recommendations for self-care for staff who are caring for these special patients.

February 13, 2025 (Webex and SJUMC Auditoriums, Noon – 1:00 pm)

Just Culture

Presenter: Dr. Padmaja Upadya

In a just culture, the focus shifts from assigning blame to understanding and addressing systemic issues that contribute to errors. By fostering an environment where staff feel safe to report mistakes without fear of retribution, we can learn from incidents and continuously improve patient safety. This approach promotes accountability, encourages open communication, and drives a culture of learning and improvement within the organization.

April 17, 2025 (Webex and SJUMC Auditoriums, Noon – 1:00 pm)

The Ethics of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices

Presenter: Alan Sori, MD

Pharmaceutical sales are a multibillion-dollar industry. Big Pharma uses a number of tactics to entice physicians and consumers to use their products, especially the high cost items. We will look at some of the less than ethical practices that Big Pharma uses in their advertising and direct to physician marketing.

May 15, 2025 (Webex and SJUMC Auditoriums, Noon – 1:00 pm)

Management of Patients with Behavioral Health Afflictions/Ethics of Involuntary Sedation

Presenters: Christiam Fajardo, Director of Nursing

The healthcare team plays a pivotal role in advocating for patient's rights. Involuntary sedation, especially in the context of nursing, raises complex ethical issues that touch on autonomy, consent, and the role of healthcare providers. This presentation will explore the challenges in management of patients with mental health issues, discuss the ethics of caring for mental health patients and the concept of involuntary sedation. We will discuss the ethics of involuntary sedation in healthcare and the delicate balance between respecting patient autonomy and ensuring their well-being. Lastly, we will review ethical practice, which requires careful consideration of the principles of autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice, along with adherence to legal and institutional guidelines.

June 19, 2025 (Webex and SJUMC Auditoriums, Noon – 1:00 pm)

Ethical and Moral Disagreements in Patient Care with Case Presentation

Presenter: Anthony Santamaria, PhD, SJH Ethicist

Ethical and Moral Disagreements seem to abound in patient care, and really, in all facets of life. What is the basis for such disagreements? What is the best way to understand them? And how can one seek common ground to resolve them? The presentation will examine these questions from both a theoretical and practical standpoint and apply its findings specifically to a case presentation involving care for transgender persons.

For additional information, please call Valerie Arrabito at 973-754-3016.