



Dear Friends,

I'm so pleased to share this newsletter honoring the many who give their time and talent to help accomplish our mission.

We are immensely fortunate to have so many stewards supporting our work—from committee memberships, teaching students and clinicians, conference planning, and many other important activities. Their compassion and dedication fuels our work and empowers our community. We truly could not do it without them.

In a new subsection of our newsletter highlighting those who have made a meaningful contribution to the Center's mission, I am grateful to spotlight Linda Cress, who shared her serious illness journey as a patient-teacher in the Living with Life Threatening Illness course.

There is a place here for everyone to contribute. Thank you to all our volunteers for your passion and dedication to compassionate and ethical health care.

With Appreciation,

Katie H. Stowers, DO  
Interim Director  
stowersk@ohsu.edu

### Highlights From the 33rd Annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference

The 2024 Annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference, titled Everyday Ethics: Reconnecting, Reimagining Our Roots, and Recovering Our Purpose, was co-chaired by **Dr. Tyler Tate, Director of the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care**, and Providence Health's Kayla Tabari, RN, MBE, of Providence Center for Health Care Ethics. The conference was attended by 170 people across Oregon. The virtual one-day event brought the exciting opportunity to host three nationally celebrated speakers: Denise Dudzinski, PhD, HEC-C, University of Washington Department of Bioethics and Palliative Care; Daphne Martschenko, PhD, MPhil, Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics; and Devan Stahl, PhD, Baylor University Department of Religion. Next year's Kinsman Conference will be a two-day in-person event in Bend, Oregon.

### Announcing the Inaugural OHSU Health Literacy Symposium

The Center for Ethics is pleased to announce that it will be co-sponsoring the first-ever OHSU Health Literacy Symposium, chaired by **Dr. Cliff Coleman, Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication**. The symposium will showcase clear communication strategies and campus projects that can help health care professionals and educators more effectively engage with patients, research participants, and community members across OHSU's many programs. The symposium will inspire faculty, staff, learners, and administrators to use innovative approaches to help OHSU reach the ambitious goal of becoming a model health literate organization, which will make it easier for people to navigate, understand, and use health information and services.

### Oregon POLST Coalition Launches Community Engagement Committee

Two years in the making, the Oregon POLST Coalition held its first Community Engagement Committee meeting in May. The Community Engagement Committee is intended to improve understanding of the full range of values and perspectives regarding end-of-life care planning related to POLST from Oregon's diverse regional and cultural communities. Members of the committee provide community-specific insights and feedback, including background information and key perspectives, to improve POLST understanding, utilization, education, and outreach efforts.

For help in making a gift to the Center for Ethics, please contact Liz Arrington at the OHSU Foundation at [arringt1@ohsu.edu](mailto:arringt1@ohsu.edu) or 503-552-0716.



# 2023—2024 Center for Ethics Volunteer List

We gratefully acknowledge the numerous community and professional hours contributed to the Center for Ethics Programs.

Annual Kinsman Bioethics Conference  
Companion Quilt Program  
Center for Ethics Advisory Council  
Center for Ethics Special Events  
Center for Ethics Steering Committee  
Daniel Labby Seminar in Medical Ethics  
Living with Life Threatening Illness Elective  
Madeline Brill Nelson Speaker Series in Ethics Education

Medical Student Intersessions  
Oregon Bioethics and Humanities Colloquium  
Oregon POLST Coalition  
Oregon Statewide Lecture Series  
Oregon VitalTalk Instructor Education  
Palliative Care Conferences  
Program in Compassionate Communication  
Serious Illness Education  
Transition to Residency

Nina Andersen, MD

Elizabeth Anderson

Liz Arrington, CSPG

Amanda Ashley

Katie Balske, LCSW

Ann Barden

Pamela Barry, LCSW

Steven Bedrick, MD

Phyllis Beemsterboer, EdD, MS

Melanie Berry, LCSW

Melanie Birnbach

Charles Boardman, NP

Mark Bonanno, JD, MPH

Madeline Boyd, MD

Betsy Boyd-Flynn, MA

Amy Brown

Asher Caldwell, NP

Michelle Calvert

Gary Chiodo, DDS

David Clarke, MD

Joyce Colling, PhD, RN

Sheldon Cowger, RN

Linda Cress

Sumathi Devarajan, MD, CMD

Kevin Dirksen, MDiv, MSc

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Abby Dotson, PhD

Katie Drago, MD

Lori Eckel, LCSW

Woody English, MD

Allison Enriquez, MA, JD

Mary Ferroggiaro

Sarah Frazzini

Heidi Funke, RN

Andrea Gepner, FNP-BC, ACHPN, RN

Ladawna Gievers, MD

Krisa Gigon, RN, BSN, MS-HCE

Walt Grebe, JD

*Linda Cress's life calling was teaching. For 25+ years, she taught elementary students and student teachers. This brought her immense joy and she was profoundly good at it. That calling didn't end when she was diagnosed with Stage 4 ovarian cancer in 2019. In fact, just the opposite.*

*Linda accepted the role of "patient-teacher" in OHSU's Living with Life Threatening Illness course in her final two years of life. Helping first-year medical students understand all facets of terminal patients' lives, she highlighted how meaningful it is to be treated as living vs. dying, and how small changes in healthcare can exponentially increase the quality of precious time remaining.*

*With her students she discussed her wins and struggles, hopes and fears, and critical moments along her medical journey. As her students go on to create care plans for their own patients, they will undoubtedly be developed through Linda's inspirational lens of "person before patient."*



Carolyn Green	Keren McCord, LCSW	Leen Saheb
Bill Hamilton	Daniel McGinty, EdD	Bob Samuels
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Eran Klein, MD, PhD	Annie Nagengast, MD	Frances Storrs, MD
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Modene Koch	Vic Nelson	Kayla Tabari House, RN
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Andrew Lasky, MD	Eriko Onishi, MD	Mike Tewfik, MD
Hong Lee, PhD	Molly Osborne, MD, PhD	Greg Thomas, MD
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Eugenia Liu, JD	Arianna Pennington	Deborah Unger, MD
Shelley Lowenstein, MD	Susan Pennock	Jeremy Van Tress, LCSW
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Riddhi Mahajan	Daniel Reti, MSW	Lilya Yevseeva
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Jean Masonek	Barbie Rice	Julia Zottola
Laura Mavity, MD	Berklee Robins, MD, MA	
Hannah McAtee, MD	Donna Routh, RN, MN	

