

INTENSIVE BIOETHICS COURSE VIRTUAL AGENDA

April 7-11, 2025

PLEASE NOTE TIMES BELOW ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME (CST)

Monday, April 7, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks and Course Introduction**
Janet Malek, PhD
- 10:15 a.m. **Setting the Scene**
Janet Malek, PhD
A brief history of the field of bioethics and description of its current state.
- 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. **The Ethics Work-Up**
Janet Malek, PhD
The Ethics Work-Up, developed by Center faculty, is a structured tool that is intended to stimulate moral and self-reflection and to provide intellectual structure and practical guidance to the responsible management of ethical challenges in clinical care.
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**
- 1:30 p.m. **Informed Consent and Shared Decision Making**
Megan Kitts, PhD
This session will cover consent requirements and challenges, shared decision making, tools for assessing decision-making capacity in tough cases, and cognitive biases that can affect decision making.
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. **Small Group Case Discussions (Zoom breakout rooms)**
- 4:30 p.m. **End of Day**

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

- 10:00 a.m. **Surrogate Decision Making**
Joanna Smolenski, PhD
This session will cover the ethical importance of surrogates, the standards of surrogate decision making, and challenges related to making medical decisions for incapacitated patients.
- 11:15 a.m. **Break**
- 11:30 a.m. **Small Group Case Discussions (Zoom breakout rooms)**
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**
- 1:30 p.m. **End-of-Life Decision-Making: Medical Facts and Patient Preferences**
Holland Kaplan, MD
The session will cover several critical aspects of end-of-life decision making including withholding and withdrawing treatment, medically inappropriate treatment, DNAR orders, and advance directives.
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Small Group Case Discussions (Zoom breakout rooms)**
4:00 p.m. **End of Day**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

10:00 a.m. **How to Conduct a Clinical Ethics Consultation**
Trevor Bibler, PhD
Participants will learn the practical steps involved in conducting a clinical ethics consultation, with a focus on processes including information gathering and issue spotting.

11:00 a.m. **Break**

11:15 a.m. **How to Conduct a Clinical Ethics Consultation (continued)**

12:00 p.m. **Lunch Break**

1:00 p.m. **Mediation and Facilitating Family Meetings**
Claire Horner, JD, MA
Effectively leading or assisting with family meetings is a critical skill for clinical ethics consultants. When, why, and how to conduct a family meeting will be discussed in this session along with mediation skills and techniques.

2:15 p.m. **Break**

2:30 p.m. **How to Write an Ethics Consultation Note**
Adam Omelianchuk, PhD
Participants will learn how to write a high-quality ethics chart note. Using small groups, participants will deconstruct several exemplar ethics chart notes, identifying strong and weak ethics chart notes. Essential elements of the chart note, best practices, language to avoid, and how to write strong ethical analyses within chart notes will be discussed.

4:00 p.m. **End of Day**

Thursday, April 10, 2025

10:00 a.m. **Chart Notes Review**
Adam Omelianchuk, PhD
Discussion/review of chart notes written by course attendees.

10:45 a.m. **Quality Improvement**
Janet Malek, PhD
This session covers different types of quality improvement strategies that ethics consultants and ethics consultation services or ethics committees can use to describe and evaluate their consultations.

11:15 a.m. **Break**

11:30 a.m. **Database Discussion**
Trevor Bibler, PhD
Participants will see how the Houston Methodist ethics consultation service tracks their consults and how they use these data in conversations with administration.

12:15 p.m. **Lunch Break**

1:15 p.m. **Institutional Context: Developing Collaborations and Creating a Committee**
Janet Malek, PhD

This session will consider how an ethics committee can be created to align with institutional values, promote collaboration, and meet the needs of the institution.

1:45 p.m.

Policy Development

Claire Horner, JD, MA

This session will provide general guidance on drafting and implementing ethics policies, plus an opportunity to solicit specific feedback on your own policy challenges.

2:30 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m.

Case Conversation/Role Play

Janet Malek, PhD, Claire Horner, JD, MA

This session offers participants the opportunity to apply ethical concepts, consultation approaches, and facilitation techniques that have been covered thus far in the course in a realistic case scenario.

4:00 p.m.

End of Day

Friday, April 11, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Breakout Sessions I

Clinical Ethics Team

- Pediatrics
- Responding to Religious Reasoning
- Ethics of Discharge

11:00 a.m.

Breakout Sessions II

Clinical Ethics Team

- Potentially Inappropriate Treatment
- Reproductive Ethics
- Brain Death

12:00 p.m.

Break

12:15 p.m.

Question and Answer Session

Clinical Ethics Team

Participants will have the opportunity to ask a panel of course faculty questions about any of the course topics, including the HEC-C exam, consultative processes, and ethical foundations.

1:00 p.m.

Conclusion of Course