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Reflections of a Bioethicist Not Your Average Medical Drama

Ryan Pferdehirt is proud to say that he was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. That he attended the University of Pittsburgh, as did his brother and many other members of his family. And that he's a lifelong Pittsburgh sports fan, especially the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Pitt grabbed Ryan's attention primarily because of its location. But it wasn't long into the first episode before the show impressed him with its realistic depiction of healthcare professionals doing their best to care for patients in a fast-paced urban core ED.

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Read Our Latest *Ethics Dispatch*



Bioethics of Dementia Care

This month in the *Ethics Dispatch*, we continue our exploration of the complex issue of difficult discharges, particularly in patients with dementia. The reality of hospital discharges for dementia patients brings to light not only the clinical challenges but also the ethical dilemmas surrounding the care and protection of these vulnerable individuals.

The authors discuss the balance between respecting autonomy and ensuring patient safety, the impact of racial disparities, and the implications of the ethical principle of obligatory beneficence and society responsibility.

Also included in this *Dispatch* is case study involving a legal guardian who insists on a medically inappropriate discharge location and ethical musings on the nature of burden when it comes to loved ones.

[READ THE DISPATCH](#)



[Click on the Video to Watch Now](#)

Clinical Ethics Corner

Personhood in the Age of Dementia

Have you ever wondered what it means to be a person, what it means to be you? And who really are you?

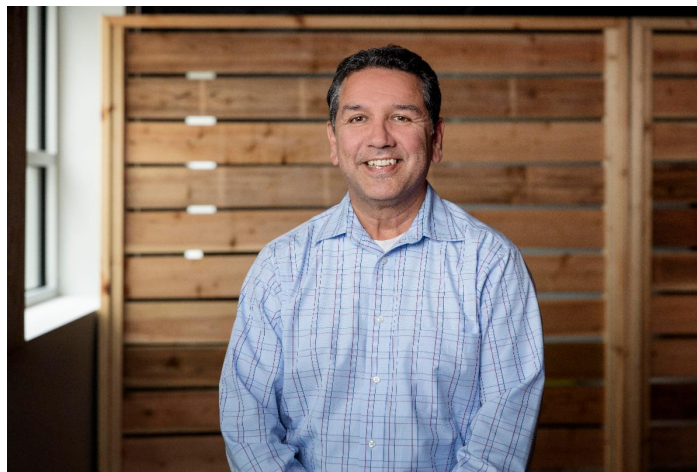
A cornerstone of modern medical ethics is the right to self-determination, the right to autonomy. **Patients** should be allowed to make their own medical decisions, which means a **person** should be allowed to make their own medical decisions. But how do you define what a person is?

This may seem overly philosophical and with no real application to the real world, but with situations such as cognitive decline in patients and dementia, this can have a real impact, as illustrated in the case study in this edition of Clinical Ethics Corner.

*Enjoyed the video case study?
Copy and paste the link to share with colleagues.*

<https://youtu.be/eApNQSfadZ8?si=DMuLC9kVoCwD-7aA>

EXPLORE ALL OUR CASE STUDIES HERE



Board Member Profile

Rob Flores Builds Cultural Bridges to the Hispanic Community

Norberto Ayala-Flores (aka Rob Flores) is the kind of guy who likes to change things up. Learn new stuff. Meet different kinds of people. That's what initially motivated him to join and chair Friends of Art and later become a member of the Society of Fellows at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

"I got involved with the Nelson at first because it was something different for me and my wife to do with our girls," he said. "It balanced out our life of school, soccer and volleyball."

Rob's volunteer work for the Nelson led Sue Seidler, a fellow volunteer, to

recommend him as her co-chair for Art of the Wish, an exhibition and fundraiser depicting older Americans wishes for the world presented by the Center for Practical Bioethics in 2022.

Read about how Rob, a first-generation Latino raised in northwestern Nebraska with 15 brothers and sisters and founder of Puente Marketing & Advertising is, as he says, “using his talents, skills, knowledge and treasure for something good” on the CPB Board of Directors.

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DEIB or DEIBust?

Advocating for Health Equity

The Center proudly announces Program Associate Odessa Sawyer’s recent acceptance as an affiliate member of the [Center for the Advancement of Health Equity \(CAHE\)](#) at The University of Kansas. CAHE is a resource for community and academic partners interested in health equity research, training and collaboration.

A fierce advocate for health equity, Odessa writes passionately for the CPB blog about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB), a movement born in the midst of COVID-19 that encouraged organizations and companies to look at how their social justice stance was perceived by consumers and employees.

Odessa writes, “My colleagues and I in social work came to detest DEIB not for the roots in which it was started but the twisted tree that grew from the phrase,” leading her to ask: What about the people behind the phrase? Do we have to go back to nursing the cuts from hurtful phrases, looks and attempts to break the glass ceiling?”

Odessa says no and has some suggestions how to respond.

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In Memoriam
Don F. Reynolds, JD

The Center is saddened to announce the death of Don F. Reynolds, JD, brother of Mary Beth Blake, a co-founder of the Center. Don worked at the Center as Director of Special Projects in the late 1990s and early 2000s and subsequently as a research assistant professor and Director of the Office for Responsible Research at the MU Center for Health Ethics at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Don will be remembered for his keen intellect and passion for justice.

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CPB Earns a Four-Star Rating
From Charity Navigator
Thank You!

We're excited to share some news! CPB has been evaluated by Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity evaluator, and earned a Four-Star Rating. This is the highest possible rating on Charity Navigator.

Charity Navigator's impartial, third-party evaluation validates our organization's effectiveness and reliability.

This milestone achievement for CPB couldn't have happened without you and your support. Thank you for being part of our family as contributors, funders, and volunteers. Your trust and support help us make a difference for the communities we serve.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission.

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