

Vita for Nancy Berlinger
(current as of February 2009)

Current position

Deputy Director and Research Scholar (since June 2002)
The Hastings Center, Garrison, NY

Research interests focus on clinical ethics and include end of life care; ethics in chaplaincy; cancer survivorship; conscientious objection and moral distress in health care; patient safety and the resolution of medical harm, and ethics education for pandemic planners. Broader interests include narrative ethics and medical humanities.

Director, *Hastings Center Guidelines on End of Life Care*, 2006-09
Co-Director, *Professional Chaplaincy and Health Care Quality Improvement*, 2007-08
Project Director, *Health Justice Consultation with Connecticut Health Foundation*, 2008
Co-Director, *Addressing Pandemic Planning in Clinical Ethics Education*, 2006-07
Staff Investigator, *Ethics of Improving Healthcare Quality and Safety*, 2004-06
Co-Director, *Promoting Patient Safety: An Ethical Basis for Policy Deliberation* 2001-03

As Deputy Director, responsible for strategic planning, and for management of organizational capacity-building initiative, *Bioethics and the Public Interest*, 2007-2009

Other professional activities

Adjunct Lecturer, Health Care Ethics, Yale School of Nursing (2008 -)
Member, Ethics Panel, Joint Commission (2006 -)
Editorial Board Member, *Medical Ethics Advisor* (2006 -)
Member, Bioethics Committee, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY (2005 -)
Member, Bioethics Committee, Richmond of New York, Yonkers, NY (2006 -)
Volunteer, Chaplaincy Service, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NYC (2005 -)
Ethics Faculty, American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (2005 -)
Bioethics columnist, *PlainViews*, www.plainviews.org (2007 -)
Commentator, *Bioethics Forum*, www.bioethicsforum.org (2006 -)
Consultant, "Best Precedents for IRB Review of Health Services Research," VA Ann Arbor (2005-06)

Peer-reviewed publications

Books, book chapters, and reports:

N Berlinger, *After Harm: Medical Error and the Ethics of Forgiveness*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005, pb 2007

"Can We Measure Good Chaplaincy?," essay set from *Professional Chaplaincy and Health Care Quality Improvement* project, published in *Hastings Center Report* 38, no. 6 (2008)

N Berlinger and J Moses, "The Five People You Meet in a Pandemic – and What They Need From You Today," *Hastings Center Bioethics Backgrounder*, November 2007; selected for inclusion in "Promising Practices: Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Tools," a peer-reviewed database maintained by CIDRAP and the Pew Center on the States;

www.pandemicpractices.org/practices/resource.do?resource-id=301&interest-id=6

N Berlinger, "Missing the Mark': Medical Error, Forgiveness, and Justice," in VA Sharpe, ed., *Accountability: Patient Safety and Policy Reform*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2004: 119-34

N Berlinger and A Jost, "Nonmedical Exemptions to Mandatory Vaccination: Personal Belief, Public Policy, and the Ethics of Refusal," in K Wailoo, R Aronowitz, J Livingston, and S Epstein, eds., *Locating Risk/Masking Uncertainty: The Cervical Cancer Vaccine Controversies* (in press)

Peer-reviewed articles:

N Berlinger, "Taking 'Existential' Suffering Seriously," Ethics Rounds, *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* 34 no. 1 (2007): 109-10.

J Lynn, MA Baily, M Bottrell, B Jennings, RJ Levine, F Davidoff, D Casarett, J Corrigan, E Fox, MK Wynia, G Agich, M O'Kane, T Speroff, P Schyve, P Batalden, S Tunis, **N Berlinger**, L Cronenwett, JM Fitzmaurice, NN Dubler, B James, "The Ethics of Using Quality Improvement Methods in Health Care," *Annals of Internal Medicine* 146, no. 9 (2007): 666-73

N Berlinger, "Parental Resistance to Childhood Immunizations: Clinical, Ethical and Policy Considerations," American Medical Association *Virtual Mentor*. October 2006. 8:681-684. www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/16860.html

N Berlinger and AW Wu, "Subtracting Insult from Injury: Addressing Cultural Expectations in the Disclosure of Medical Error," *Journal of Medical Ethics* 31 (2005): 106-08

N Berlinger, "Spirituality and Medicine: Idiot-Proofing the Discourse," *Journal of Philosophy and Medicine* 29, no. 6 (2004): 681-95

N Berlinger, "Patient Safety: Ethical Considerations in Policy Development," *Patient Safety & Quality Healthcare* 1, no. 2 (2004): 22-4

N Berlinger, "Fair Compensation without Litigation: Addressing Patients' Financial Needs in Disclosure," *Journal of Healthcare Risk Management* 24, no. 1 (2004): 7-11

N Berlinger, "Promoting Patient Safety: Implications for Pastoral Care," *Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling* 58, nos. 1-2 (2004): 55-61

N Berlinger, "Avoiding Cheap Grace: Medical Harm, Patient Safety, and the Culture(s) of Forgiveness," *Hastings Center Report* 33, no. 6 (2003): 28-36

N Berlinger, "Broken Stories: Patients, Families, and Clinicians after Medical Error," *Literature and Medicine* 22, no. 2 (2003): 230-40

N Berlinger, "What Is Meant by Telling the Truth: Bonhoeffer on the Ethics of Disclosure," *Studies in Christian Ethics* 16, no. 2 (2003): 80-92

Other publications (selected)

Print:

N Berlinger, "Helping People Out," *Hastings Center Report* 39, no. 1 (2009).

N Berlinger, "The Nature of Chaplaincy and the Goals of QI: Patient-Centered Care as Professional Responsibility," *Hastings Center Report* 38, no. 6 (2008): 30-33.

R de Vries, **N Berlinger**, and W Cadge, "Lost in Translation: The Chaplain's Role in Health Care," *Hastings Center Report* 38, no. 6 (2008): 23-27.

N Berlinger and J Moses, "Pandemic Flu Planning in the Community: What Can Clinical Ethicists Bring to the Public Health Table?" *CQHE* 17, no. 4 Fall 2008: 468-70

N Berlinger and T Borneman, "Who's on 'Our' Team? Moral Distress Across Professional Cultures: Implications for Pain Management," *The Pain Practitioner* 17, no. 2 (2007): 36-9

N Berlinger, "Villains and Saints: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Ethics*," *Atrium: The Report of the Northwestern Medical Humanities & Bioethics Program* (2007): 7-8

N Berlinger, "The Sitting-in-Silence Thing: The Souls of Professionals in End-of-Life Care," *Medical Humanities Review* 19, nos. 1 and 2 (2005): 16-9 [n.b.: this issue of MHR appeared in 2007]

N Berlinger, "Martin Luther at the Bedside," *Hastings Center Report* 37, no. 2 (2007):49

N Berlinger, "Flu Pandemic and the Fair Allocation of Scarce Life-Saving Resources: How Do We Make the Hardest of Choices?" *Hastings Center Bioethics Backgrounder*, September 2006, included in J. Parks and V. Wilke, *Bioethics for the New Millennium* (Prentice Hall, in press)

N Berlinger, "Just Act Normally": How Culture Gives Birth to Policy," *Hastings Center Report* 36, no. 4 (July-August 2006): 46-7

N Berlinger, Review of Kenneth R. Feinberg, *What Is Life Worth? The Unprecedented Effort to Compensate the Victims of 9/11*, in *Journal of Healthcare Risk Management* 26, no. 1 (2006): 7-8

N Berlinger, "Doing Ethics in an Unintentional Christian Community: *Shantung Compound* Revisited," *Contemporary Justice Review* 8, no. 1 (2005): 39-44

N Berlinger, "Genetic Testing after Breast Cancer Diagnosis: Implications for Physician-Patient Communications," *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 13, no. 4 (2004): 417-9

N Berlinger, "The Six Sigma Sleuth: *Poka Yoke* in Genre Fiction," *Medical Humanities Review* 18, no. 1 (2004): 87-92

N Berlinger, Review of John Banja, *Medical Errors and Medical Narcissism*, in *Journal of Healthcare Risk Management* 25, no. 2 (2004): 6-7

N Berlinger, "Beyond 'Playing God': Episcopalian Ethicists on the Promise and Perils of Genetics," *Medical Humanities Review* 17, no. 2 (2003): 29-33

N Berlinger, "Genetic Competency in Pastoral Care: Crafting Policy to Guide Practice," white paper for Human Genetics Policy Development Committee, National Council of Churches, July 2004

N Berlinger, "The Burden of Theory: Nurses' Narratives of Illness and Care," *Medical Humanities Review* 17, no. 1 (2003): 61-63

N Berlinger, "No Patient Left Behind," *Hastings Center Report* 33, no. 5 (2003): 8-9

N Berlinger, "Listening to Aslan®," *Hastings Center Report* 33, no. 2 (2003): 17-8

Electronic:

Bioethics Forum (www.bioethicsforum.org), selected commentaries:

"Of Policy and Pancakes" (January 9, 2009)

"*Las Ofrendas*: Mourning After Medical Harm" (November 21, 2008)

"The Dog in the Manger: HHS's Continuing Conscience Crisis" (August 26, 2008)

"A Novel Remedy for Vaccination Refusal" (August 12, 2008)

"Rebuilding Health Care in the City That Care Forgot: Notes from New Orleans" (March 19, 2008)

"From Julius Varwig to Julie Dupree: Professionalizing Hospital Chaplains" (January 25, 2008)

"And I Am Marie of Romania: Genetics, Genealogy, and the Ethics of Storytelling" (December 7, 2007)

"What Color is Your Ribbon?" (August 31, 2007)

"14,000 Women" (December 18, 2006)

"First in the Nation: New Hampshire, HPV, and Public Health" (December 8, 2006)

"Americans Like Me" (October 27, 2006)

"You Give Me Fever: Pandemic, Passion, and Public Health in 1940s Gotham" (April 10, 2006)

PlainViews (www.plainviews.org, electronic newsletter for professional chaplains, circulation: 7000+)

Monthly column on bioethics, June 2007 – present

Review of Benedict M. Ashley, O.P., and Kevin D. O'Rourke, O.P., *Ethics of Health Care: An Introductory Textbook*, 3rd Edition, in *PlainViews* 3, no. 22 (2006)

Review of Lisa Sowle Cahill, *Theological Bioethics: Participation, Justice, Change*, in *PlainViews* 3, no. 5 (2005)

Recent scholarly and professional presentations

“Professional Chaplains and Health Care Quality Improvement,” national audioconference on pastoral theology produced by Catholic Health East, Atlanta, GA, February 5, 2009

“Medical Decisionmaking and Persons with Thought Disorders,” Pathways, Greenwich, CT, December 12, 2008

Keynote speaker, Eighth Annual Colorado Patient Safety Conference, Colorado Patient Safety Coalition, Denver, CO, November 14, 2008

Keynote speaker, Joshua Sasaki Patient Safety Symposium, Methodist Children’s Hospital of South Texas, San Antonio, TX, November 4, 2008

“Displaced Persons: Cancer Survivors and the Future of Cancer Care,” American Society for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, Cleveland, OH, October 26, 2008

“You Should Be So Lucky: Cultural Narratives of ‘Cancer Survivorship’,” Narrative Medicine Rounds, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, NYC, October 1, 2008

“What Good Can Guidelines Do?: The Role of Ethical Guidelines in Interdisciplinary Ethics Education,” Conference on Access to Palliative Care and Hospice, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, Minneapolis, MN, August 18, 2008

“Chaplaincy in Health Care: Ethical Questions for a Professionalizing Profession,” national audioconference produced by Teleconference Network of Texas, San Antonio, TX, June 13, 2008

“Nonmedical Exemptions to Mandatory Vaccination: Personal Belief, Public Policy, and the Ethics of Refusal,” Cancer Vaccines for Girls?: The Science, Ethics, and Cultural Politics of HPV Prevention, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ May 16, 2008

“Breast Cancer as a Twice-Told Tale: Narrative Ethics and Moral Luck,” Bioethics Symposium, Smith College, Northampton, MA, March 27, 2008

“Rationing, Access, and Equity: Practical Issues,” Access to Care Symposium, Louisiana State University Medical Center, New Orleans, LA, March 15, 2008

“Professional Chaplains and Health Care Quality Improvement: A Research Collaborative,” Association of Professional Chaplains, Pittsburgh, PA, March 10, 2008

“Forgiveness After Medical Harm: Cultural Values and Ethical Perils,” Jessie Stewart Richardson Lecture, University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, VA, February 27, 2008

“Nonmedical Exemptions and Conscientious Objections: Public Health, Private Belief, and the Ethics of Refusal,” Bioethics Society, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, February 26, 2008

“Improving End of Life Care: What Good Can Guidelines Do?,” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, San Antonio, TX, February 23, 2008.

“Making Ethical Decisions During a Pandemic: Three Duties and Five People You Need to Know,”

Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, San Antonio, TX, February 23, 2008

“Making Ethical Decisions During a Pandemic: Three Duties and Five People You Need to Know,” Public Health Preparedness Summit, Atlanta, GA, February 22, 2008

“Conscientious Objection in Public Health Ethics: The Case of Immunization Refusal,” University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT, January 14, 2008

“Planning Today for a Pandemic Tomorrow: Ethics” New Jersey Hospital Association, Princeton, NJ, January 7, 2008

“The Five People You Meet in a Pandemic,” Office of Health Management, Morris County, NJ, October 30, 2007

“What Makes a Health Care Organization Ethical?,” national audioconference produced by The Risk Management and Patient Safety Institute, Lansing, MI, August 9, 2007

“Making the Good Better: Defining and Doing QI in Professional Chaplaincy,” Association of Professional Chaplains, Burlingame, CA, April 30, 2007

“Conscience and Dissent in Medicine,” West Point-Hastings Center Seminar, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY April 4, 2007

“After Harm,” Ethics Seminar, South Carolina Society of Chaplains, Columbia, SC, March 30, 2007

“After Harm,” Ethics Seminar, Conway Medical Center, Conway, SC, March 29, 2007

“Apology and Liability after Medical Mistakes,” Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, March 27, 2007

“Apology and Liability after Medical Mistakes,” OB-GYN and Pediatric Combined Grand Rounds, St. Vincent’s Hospital, NYC, March 15, 2007

“Forgiveness after Medical Harm,” Medical Humanities Seminar Series, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT, January 29, 2007

“Conscientious Objection, Immunization Refusal, and Public Health Ethics,” Society for Christian Ethics, Dallas, TX, January 6, 2007

“Bonhoeffer’s Conscience Clauses: *Ethics* and the Ethics of Refusal,” Bonhoeffer: Theology and Social Analysis Group, American Academy of Religion, Washington, DC, November 18, 2006

“Resolving Medical Mistakes: The Role of Apology,” Patient Safety Forum and OB-GYN Grand Rounds, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, November 16, 2006

“The Chaplain’s Role in Patient Safety,” national teleconference produced by Catholic Healthcare West, San Francisco, CA, November 6, 2006

- “The Consequences of Medical Mistakes,” Medicine on Trial Conference, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY, October 22, 2006
- “Truth-Telling, Disclosure, and the Theology of Forgiveness,” Virginia Chaplains Association, Virginia Beach, VA, October 5, 2006
- “The Ethics of Withholding ‘Food and Water,’” Keynote Address, Bio-Medical Ethics Symposium, Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ, September 26, 2006
- “Bad Apples and Swiss Cheese: What Every Nurse Should Know (and Do) About Medical Mistakes,” Keynote Address, National Primary Care Conference, Nurse Practitioner Associates for Continuing Education, Chicago, IL, September 16, 2006
- “Apology and Liability after Medical Mistakes,” Keynote Address, Ethics at the Elliot Conference, Elliot Hospital, Manchester, NH, June 6, 2006
- “Improving Communications and Conflict Resolution Skills: Tools for Chaplains and Pastoral Care Programs,” Association of Professional Chaplains Pre-Conference Intensive Workshop, Atlanta, GA, May 4, 2006
- “Conscientious Objection and Immunization Refusal,” Institute for Ethics, American Medical Association, Chicago, IL, April 24, 2006
- “Ethics in Chaplaincy,” Pennsylvania Society of Chaplains, Carlisle, PA, April 3-4, 2006
- “Forgiveness after Medical Harm,” Zella Hall Bioethics Lecture, St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Cleveland, OH, March 17, 2006
- “The Chaplain’s Role on the Psycho-Oncology Team,” Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, NYC, March 10, 2006
- “Forgiveness after Medical Harm,” Medical Grand Rounds, Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown, PA, March 7, 2006
- “Near Misses and Harmless Hits: The Ethics of Reporting and Disclosure,” Surgical Grand Rounds, St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Medical Center, NYC, February 1, 2006
- “When the Subject is Torture(d): Torture, Terror, Religion, and Research Ethics,” American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, November 19, 2005
- “Conscientious Objection and Access to Reproductive Health Care Services: Gender, Justice, and Shame,” American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, November 19, 2005
- “Fair Compensation without Litigation: Addressing Patients' Financial Needs in Disclosure,” Utah Society for Healthcare Risk Management, Salt Lake City, UT November 18, 2005
- “QI: What Every Hospital Chaplain Should Know About Quality Improvement,” Association of Professional Chaplains/National Association of Catholic Chaplains Annual Meeting, Albuquerque,

NM, April 11, 2005

“Truth Telling After Adverse Events: Understanding the Chaplain’s Role,” Association of Professional Chaplains/National Association of Catholic Chaplains Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, April 10, 2005

“Conscientious Objection in the Military and in Health Care,” Philosophy Forum, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, April 4, 2005

“The Ethics of Shared Decision Making,” Grand Rounds, New York Medical College, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Valhalla, NY, March 14, 2005

“Quality Improvement and Research Ethics: Implications for Clinicians,” Grand Rounds, New York Medical College, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Valhalla, NY, January 31, 2005

“Toward Genetic Competency in Pastoral Care: Pedagogy, Practice, Ethics,” Society of Christian Ethics, Miami, FL, January 7, 2005

“Genetic Competency as a Pastoral Care Challenge,” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Philadelphia, PA, October 29, 2004

“The Ethics of Patient Safety and Quality Improvement: The Nurse’s Roles and Responsibilities,” Department of Nursing, SUNY-New Paltz, October 21, 2004

“Patient Safety: Ethical Considerations in Policy Development,” The Quality Colloquium, Cambridge, MA, August 22, 2004

“Genetic Competency in Pastoral Care: Crafting Policy to Guide Practice,” Human Genetics Policy Development Committee, National Council of Churches, NYC, June 3, 2004

“Erratography: Ethics and Form in Narratives of Medical Mistakes,” Narrative: An International Conference, Burlington, VT, April 23, 2004

“Medical Mistakes: Perspectives from Patients and Families,” Grand Rounds, New York Medical College, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Valhalla, NY, March 15, 2004

“Medical Mistakes: Perspectives from Physicians and Healthcare Institutions,” Grand Rounds, New York Medical College, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Valhalla, NY, January 26, 2004

“Sacred Fools and Heroic Crips: Science and the Myth of Religious Consciousness,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 23, 2003

“Pastoral Care Contributions to Medical Error Prevention and Response” (presenter), Connecticut Hospital Association, October 29, 2003

“*Idiot*-Proofing the Discourse of Spirituality and Medicine: A Religious Studies Critique,” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Montreal, Canada, October 25, 2003

“Broken Stories: Patients, Families, and Clinicians After Medical Error,” Narrative Medicine Rounds, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, NYC, June 5, 2003

“Medical Error and the Culture(s) of Forgiveness,” American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada, November 24, 2002

“Bonhoeffer on Truth Telling: Relevance for Reconciliation after Harm,” American Academy of Religion, Toronto, Canada, November 24, 2002

“Medical Error in the Cultural Context,” David Rodgers Health Policy Colloquium, New York Weill-Cornell Medical Center, NYC, October 23, 2002

Education

Union Theological Seminary 1999-2002 MDiv in Christian Ethics
Thesis: “What is Meant by Telling the Truth: Disclosure After Harm as Ethic of Responsibility”

University of Glasgow 1984-1988 PhD in English
Dissertation: “*Corpus hominis, organum Dei*: George Herbert and the Protestant Meditative Experience”

Smith College 1980-1984 BA in English and History

Selected academic honors

Traveling Fellow, Union Theological Seminary, 2002-2003

Union Scholar, Union Theological Seminary, 1999-2002

University Scholar, University of Glasgow, 1984-1987

Previous positions

2000-2002 Consultant, The Hastings Center

2000-2002 Special Projects Consultant, Creative Capital Foundation, NYC

1999-2000 Director of Development, Creative Capital Foundation, NYC

1998-2001 Consultant, Theatre Program, New York State Council on the Arts

1993-1999 Director of Development, Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, NYC

1992-1993 Director of Development, Center for Constitutional Rights, NYC

1988-1992 Director of Development, Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, New Brunswick, NJ