Dear Fellows, Visiting Scholars, and Friends of the Center,

Welcome to Hastings Center Currents, a newsletter about you. There are now 195 Hastings Center Fellows, pre-eminent thinkers who are shaping national and global conceptions of health, health care, medicine, and the life sciences. In addition, dozens of national and international visiting scholars come to The Hastings Center for an extended stay at our beautiful facility along the Hudson River. They interact with our staff scholars, share ideas during our lively lunchtime talks, and use our library to enhance their research.

We think you should know about one another—and Currents is one of the ways we want to help you connect. In this issue, you’ll find profiles of Fellows as well as descriptions of their recent scholarship, projects, books, and honors. In coming issues, we plan to highlight visiting scholars and their research, as well.

We hope Currents will lead to evermore synergy, collaboration, and impact for your scholarship. At the same time, we want you to know about our work and impact. You’ll find some examples in “At the Center,” on page 6, but I’d like to share some early observations. I am a Hastings Center Fellow myself and have participated in eight Hastings Center projects over the years, yet in my first three months in my new role, I became re-acquainted with the Center’s scholarship and impact. For example, I had the pleasure of reviewing two books nearing completion by two of our staff scholars (Erik Parens on enhancement and Greg Kaebnick on the relationship of humans to the natural world). I also worked with Fellows Bruce Jennings and Susan M. Wolf and staff scholar Nancy Berlinger as they put the final touches on The Hastings Center Guidelines for Decisions on Life-Sustaining Treatment and Care Near the End of Life, which they co-authored with major input from a nationally distinguished Hastings task force. We will release the guidelines this winter and expect them to have international impact on advanced illness care, just as our predecessor guidelines did when they were released in 1987.

The Center is also doing many things to ensure that the knowledge we generate has the greatest impact possible. Last spring, we brought over 60 science journalists to Bioethics Bootcamp for Journalists. And, in March, on the day of its release, 3.5 million people viewed Cracking Your Genetic Code, a NOVA TV documentary, conceived and co-produced by The Hastings Center and WGBH Boston.

Over the summer, I launched a visioning process to identify Hastings Center research priorities for the coming five years. We are discussing major societal challenges, such as: the need to find fair and effective ways to improve population health and health care systems; the growing global burden of chronic illness, including the prevalence of dementia in our aging society; the implications of neuroscience and cognitive science on our conceptions of the self; and the health impacts of global warming. We are considering where and how normative analyses can contribute to addressing these problems, so that public policy and practice can take better account of the underlying ethical values at stake.

We are counting on our Fellows to help us with these explorations. I urge you to attend the Fellows Annual Meeting and the special tour we have arranged for Fellows at the Library of Congress. Details are in the box at right. If you can’t attend this important meeting, but want to be more engaged with the Center, please email me: solomonn@thehastingscenter.org

See you in October!

—Millie Solomon
According to Kevin Reinhart, “Islamic Law is the central domain of Islamic ethical thought” and “not merely law but also an ethical and epistemological system.” For most Muslims, Islamic Law is the domain of Muslim jurists rather than theologians and philosophers. Difficulties arise, however, in the ambiguous use of related but not identical terms Sharia Law/Islamic Law and Sharia. Whereas Sharia refers to the divinely appointed “path” Muslims must follow in life, Sharia Law is a human construct, jurists’ attempts to discern how God wishes humans to act. It is therefore not surprising that whereas jurists can arrive at a consensus on many issues, a diversity of opinions can exist even while employing classical jurisprudence sources.

Despite evidence to the contrary, there is an assumption among some Western writers and Muslim thinkers, including jurists, that Sharia Law is immutable and frozen in time, and its application temporally and spatially uniform. The reality is that whereas Muslims agree on matters of duties owed to God in the case of matters connected to the temporal world, historically and in current times, notable differences occur in the interpretation of Sharia influenced by geographical and historical differences, cultural and societal diversity, and political and administrative systems of a country.

A recent challenge for jurists has been to address moral issues that surface with advances in biomedical science and technology. As the locus for moral guidance by lay and professional Muslims alike, jurists are being questioned about the permissibility of clinical practices including human organ donation and transplantation and brain death criteria. The moral and legal dimensions of these practices have been a subject of juristic debate for a number of years, a fact little known to the international bioethics community. Although a majority of jurists from the Middle East, influenced by Muslim physicians as “experts,” consider these to be permissible, some influential South Asian jurists have arrived at different conclusions. Juristic debates offer an approach that differs in significant ways from the resolutely secular orientation of the dominant contemporary bioethics model which is characterized by analytic, philosophical traditions and the search for universals and a common morality.

Read the full article in Asian Bioethics Review, December 2011, Volume 3, Issue 4:316-332.
Among the Jews who survived the Nazi horror of Auschwitz was Gisella Perl, a gynecologist. In interviews and in an unsparing memoir, Perl described her efforts to care for her fellow inmates when pregnancy among Jews was punishable by death. The doctor knew that the execution of pregnant women was often preceded by grisly torture. To save lives, Perl, whom the Jerusalem Post dubbed “the Angel of Auschwitz,” made choices that haunted her until her death in 1988.

Perl’s is one of 40 first-person accounts written by Jewish medical workers in concentration camps and ghettos and collected in an anthology-in-progress by Hastings Fellow Michael Grodin. Grodin is founder of Boston University’s Project on Medicine & the Holocaust. His texts shed light on a compelling facet of Holocaust studies—the ethical dilemmas faced by Jewish healers who struggled to save their own lives and those of fellow Jews. Grodin describes the material as overwhelming.

“I worked on rescuers of Jews, on the righteous Gentiles, and I did some work on the perpetrators, the Nazi doctors,” says Grodin, who has been studying medicine in the Holocaust for three decades and has written or coauthored five books, including The Nazi Doctors and The Nuremberg Code: Human Rights in Human Experimentation, written with Hastings Center Fellow George Annas. About seven years ago Grodin asked himself, “Where are the Jewish doctors?”

A psychiatrist and bioethicist, he says the project goes beyond simply bearing witness. “It’s Sophie’s Choice, again and again.”

The working title of Grodin’s book is Jewish Medical Resistance in the Ghettos and Camps During the Holocaust which he hopes to publish in summer 2013 as part of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies Book Series.
Recent Books by Hastings Center Fellows


• **Creation Ethics: Reproduction, Genetics, and Quality of Life**, David DeGrazia, Oxford University Press, 2012. The ethics of creating—or declining to create—human beings has been addressed in several contexts. This scholarly analysis of the issues involved combines the breadth of topics with philosophical depth, imagination with current scientific understanding and argumentative rigor.

• **Death, Dying, and Organ Transplantation: Reconstructing Medical Ethics at the End of Life**, Franklin G. Miller and Robert D. Truog, Oxford University Press, 2011. The authors argue that donors of vital organs for transplantation are not dead at the time that organs are removed and provide an alternative ethical justification for transplantation practices.


• **Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century**, Dorothy E. Roberts, The New Press, 2011. A decade after the Human Genome Project proved that human beings are not naturally divided by race, the emerging fields of personalized medicine, reproductive technologies, genetic genealogy, and DNA databanks are attempting to resuscitate race as a biological category written in our genes.


• **Malignant: Medical Ethicists Confront Cancer**, Rebecca Dresser, ed., Oxford University Press, 2012. For the bioethicists writing this book, cancer was not only a personal crisis, it was also an education. Personal experience with cancer showed them how little they understood of the real world of serious illness.

• **Medical Ethics in China: A Transcultural Interpretation**, Jing-Bao Nie, Routledge, 2011. Foreword by Robert Veatch. Presents medical ethics in China from a Chinese-Western comparative perspective, and in doing so it provides a fascinating exploration of cultural differences and commonalities exhibited by China and the West in medicine and medical ethics.

• **Medicine, Ethics and the Law**, 2nd edition, Deirdre Madden, Bloomsbury Professional, 2011. Covers the numerous, complex issues that arise at the intersection between medical practice, medical ethics, medical law, end-of-life decision-making, and medical research.

• **Research Ethics Consultation: A Casebook**, Oxford University Press 2012. Authors include Marion Danis, Emily Largent, Dave Wendler, Sara Hull, Seema Shah, Joe Millum, Ben Berkman, and Christine Grady. Written in recognition of the many interesting, challenging, and heretofore unaddressed ethical questions that often confront researchers, IRBs, and research participants.

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**Thank You from Japan**

I want to thank all of my international colleagues for their warm words, including many Hastings Center Fellows, after Japan was hit by a large earthquake in 2011 and then suffered the severe nuclear power plant disaster at Fukushima.

I tried to keep up academic activity during that difficult time. Here are two of my papers:

- “Mandatory Evacuation of Residents during the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster: An Ethical Analysis,” *Journal of Public Health*.
- “Physician Obligation to Provide Care during Disasters: Should Physicians Have Been Required to Go to Fukushima?” *Journal of Medical Ethics*.

—Akira Akabayashi, MD, PhD.

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**Newsletter Submissions**

Tell us about your work! Please direct your questions and ideas to Michael Turton, communications associate, turtonm@thehastingscenter.org, or call him at 845 424 4040 ext. 242.
Improving Care for Seriously Ill Adolescents

Johns Hopkins researchers Gail Geller and Cynda Rushton codirect a series of initiatives designed to improve the quality of life and ethics of care for adolescents, young adults, and families affected by chronic life-threatening diseases. With support from an NIH challenge grant, “A Vision of Hope: Integration of Palliative Care in Chronic Pediatric Disease,” they developed, implemented, and evaluated palliative care training programs for interdisciplinary clinicians who care for children with two of the most common genetic diseases: Duchenne muscular dystrophy and sickle cell disease.

Both conditions are life-threatening and life-limiting and therefore amenable to palliative care. Geller and Rushton developed two models for training—a short “in-service” version and a longer “retreat” version. Both include short documentary videos to trigger conversation and integrate the voices of patients and families. They also highlight the unmet needs and ethical challenges experienced by patients and families living with these conditions. Several of their videos have won awards.

Recently, they received additional support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to widely disseminate curricula and videos to clinicians and health care organizations.

A New International “Collaboratory” for Genomics and Society Research

One of the recurrent themes at the 2011 Congress on Ethical, Legal and Social Implications (ELSI) of Human Genome Research in Chapel Hill, N.C., was the growing need for the ELSI research community to keep pace with the increasing globalization of large-scale human genome research. Genomic research is increasingly international in scope, relying on coordinated funding and common infrastructures to mount initiatives like the H3Africa survey of African genetic variation, the international Cancer Genome Atlas project, and the Human Microbiome Initiative.

While all these initiatives raise challenging transnational ELSI questions, the funding and coordination for ELSI research remains siloed across national and academic programs, leaving efforts to address these initiatives’ challenges at risk of being misled by parochial national priorities. As a result, a group of scholars interested in the globalization of genomic research have proposed the establishment of an online platform to encourage more robust transnational collaboration in ELSI research: the ELSI 2.0, an International “Collaboratory” for Genomics and Society Research. The idea was described in Science magazine in May 2012 (www.sciencemag.org/content/336/6082/673.summary). To learn more, visit the ELSI 2.0 website at http://www.elsi2.net/.

—Eric T. Juengst, on behalf of the ELSI 2.0 Planning Committee

The Soul as Seen Though History

Karen Lebacqz, professor emerita, Pacific School of Religion, and Grant Gillett, professor of medical ethics at the University of Otago Medical School, Dunedin Hospital, and Otago Bioethics Centre in New Zealand, are working on an “interesting, even Quixotic, project,” a book entitled Oh My Soul Where Art Thou? about the soul as seen through the history of philosophical debates about it. The main character is a time-travelling female neurosurgeon called Dorothea from an undistinguished town called Middlemarch. She gets to meet some of the greats—Kant, Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Brentano, Freud, Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and Wittgenstein—and discuss with them her neuroscience-informed post-Darwinian ideas on the human soul, or psyche. The book turned into a play performed at the International Conference on Philosophy and Psychiatry in Dunedin in July.

A Framework Convention on Global Health

Lawrence Gostin, University Professor and O’Neill Professor of Global Health Law at Georgetown University, has joined with academic and civil society partners from around the world to found the Joint Learning Initiative on National and Global Responsibilities for Health (JALI), a global campaign for a Framework Convention on Global Health based on the human right to health.

In 2011 and 2012 the United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-moon and UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé endorsed Gostin’s proposal for a Framework Convention on Global Health. Contact info@jalihealth.org if you would like to become involved in JALI.

Gostin is also faculty director of the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, the world’s leading academic center on national and global health law. The Institute, which is a WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center on Public Health Law and Human Rights, is engaged in projects around the world, including: global tobacco litigation strategies, health reform in China, health and human rights projects with the WHO and the U.N. on the Right to Health, and AIDS treatment projects with UNAIDS.
Hastings Wins NEH Grant to Establish Humanities Chair

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded The Hastings Center a $425,000 challenge grant to launch The Hastings Center Humanities Research Initiative. The grant, which will be matched by at least $1.275 million raised from private sources, will support the endowment of a Senior Humanities Research Scholar Chair, who will pursue research in bioethics and the humanities while advancing work in the humanities by fellow Hastings scholars. The grant also supports a Humanities Scholar-in-Residence, a semester-long fellowship for an early-career scholar selected through an annual international competition.

Congratulations 2012 Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Physician Awards Recipients

The Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Physician Awards provide financial prizes to physicians whose care of their patients is exemplary, a model of good medicine for other physicians, and of great benefit in advancing end-of-life care as a basic part of the doctor-patient relationship.

The 2012 awardees are: Dr. Janet Bull, senior physician award; Dr. Michael Rabow, mid-career physician award; and Dr. Justin N. Baker, Dr. Jason Morrow and Dr. Theresa A. Soriano, early-career awards.

Learn more, including information about the 2013 awards at: www.thehastingscenter.org/PhysicianAwards/

Over 65: Blog Gives a New Voice to an Older Generation

The Hastings Center has launched “Over 65,” a blog by and for seniors seeking solutions for health care and security. Medicare, social security, and inter-generational equity are critical bioethics issues, yet what’s often missing from the debate are the voices of the senior citizens themselves. Daniel Callahan, Hastings Center co-founder and President Emeritus; Sherwin Nuland, Hastings Center Fellow and Professor of Surgery Emeritus at the Yale School of Medicine; and James Sabin, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, joined with the Hastings Public Affairs and Communication Department to create the blog, which you can visit at: www.over65.thehastingscenter.org

Undocumented Immigrants and Access to Health Care: Research and a New Online Tool

Who are the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.? What are their greatest health care needs? How do they get health care now, and what are the barriers to obtaining needed care? How will the health care reform law affect their access to care, given that it prohibits them from purchasing private insurance through insurance exchanges?

A new Hastings Center website (www.undocumentedpatients.org) addresses questions related to the undocumented immigrants in the U.S., their current ability to get health care, the impact of the health care reform law, and numerous related issues.

The site is geared to journalists, policymakers, advocates, and anyone who is interested in issues concerning undocumented patients and includes statistics, facts, and a wealth of resources.

In the coming months, new features will appear, including a special report on the arguments for providing health care to undocumented patients and offering an ethical framework for clinicians, health care organizations, and others who care for and advocate on behalf of this population. The website will also include updates on journal articles, presentations, and other project activities.

The website is part of a Hastings Center research project that explores ethical, legal, and policymaking challenges regarding medical care for undocumented immigrants. The project, funded by the

Winners of the 2012 Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Physician Award: (l. to r.) Janet Bull, Michael Rabow, Justin N. Baker, Jason Morrow, and Theresa A. Soriano.
Overbrook Foundation’s Human Rights Program, is co-directed by Hastings Center Research Scholars Nancy Berlinger and Michael Gusmano. Their letter-to-the editor dealing with immigrant health care was published in the New York Times on August 7, 2012.

**Synthetic Biology: Weighing Risks and Benefits**

The Hastings Center continues to explore the ethical questions surrounding synthetic biology, a technology which may design new forms of life by cutting and assembling genetic material from disparate species, work which could solve numerous problems—from using algae to produce inexpensive biofuels to creating vaccines from modified bacteria. But there are potential risks, including the threat of environmental damage and fundamentally altering the human relationship to nature. The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is funding a major Hastings Center project that examines the moral and social questions that synthetic biology raises. Greg Kaebnick, Tom Murray, Erik Parens, and Michael Gusmano are the co-investigators.

**Raising High School Students’ Critical Thinking Skills**

The Hastings Center has teamed up with the Ethics Institute at Kent Place School in Summit, N.J., on a pilot project in which high school students will engage in a dynamic, in-depth exploration of the use of medicine for human enhancement.

Selected students are researching this controversial topic using a modified version of The Hastings Center’s research methodology, which involves bringing together a diverse group of people with a range of perspectives for a careful and respectful investigation of a multifaceted dilemma in bioethics.

For the pilot project, Kent Place students will research cases related to human enhancement under the mentorship of Hastings Center scholars. Students will present on and discuss topics such as cosmetic surgery and performance-enhancing drugs. The results of the project will be presented to parents and community members at a public forum and published on a public website.

The project will also explore how The Hastings Center’s methodology can be applied more generally as an educational tool in high schools. The Hastings Center and the Ethics Institute aim to create resources that would allow teachers and students in the United States and elsewhere to use this methodology to investigate a series of bioethics issues.

**Hastings Partners with PBS and NOVA**

Will genetic testing and personalized medicine change the way you think about your life? Should it? What can you really learn about your future from direct-to-consumer genetic tests—or from whole genome scanning, which is becoming increasingly affordable? Will the privacy of your genetic information be protected?

These and other bioethics questions were raised as part of a March 28, 2012, broadcast of a one-hour NOVA TV special produced in association with The Hastings Center, entitled **Cracking Your Genetic Code**.

**Cracking Your Genetic Code** also includes educational resources and interactive scenarios at NOVA’s website, such as expert Q&As with Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health and a leader of the Human Genome Project; Ronald Green, the Eunice & Julian Cohen Professor for the Study of Ethics and Human Values at Dartmouth College and Hastings Center Fellow; Eric S. Lander, professor of biology at MIT, director of the Broad Institute, and a leader of the Human Genome Project; and Thomas Murray, president emeritus of The Hastings Center and a Fellow, who was a presidential appointee to the National Bioethics Advisory Committee where he was chair of the genetics subcommittee from 1996 to 2001.

On August 30, 2012, Mary Crowley, Hastings Center director of public affairs and communications, and Rachel Connolly, NOVA’s director of education, participated in an America Medical Association webinar on personalized genomics.

**Back to Back**

The Hastings Center won the 2012 American Inhouse Design Award for its 2010 Annual Report. This was the second year in a row that the report, designed by Center art director Nora Porter, received this honor.
**Appointments**

- **Alastair Campbell** has been appointed for another two years as director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics, National University of Singapore.
- **Arthur L. Caplan** has been appointed Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor and head of the Division of Bioethics at New York University Langone Medical Center in New York City.
- **Ezekiel J. Emanuel** joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania as the 13th Penn Integrates Knowledge University Professor, and also became an op-ed contributor for the New York Times.
- **Mark A. Rothstein** has been appointed department editor for public health ethics of the American Journal of Public Health.

**Awards and other Accomplishments**

- **Alastair Campbell** was inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Fellows have included Adam Smith, Charles Darwin, Sir Walter Scott, Francis Crick, and Niels Bohr.
- **Arthur L. Caplan** presented the keynote address at the NYU School of Medicine’s 170th annual graduation at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.
- **Lawrence Gostin** received his fourth honorary degree, a doctorate of laws from the University of Sydney.
- **Sheldon Krimsky** and Tania Simoncelli, authors of Genetic Justice: DNA Databanks, Criminal Investigations and Civil Liberties (Columbia University Press, 2011), received the Gold Medal Book Award from Independent Publishers.
- **Farhat Moazam** received an honorary doctorate from the Department of Medicine, University of Zurich.
- The New York Times featured op-eds by Fellow Jonathan Moreno (August 31, 2012) and Board Member Michael Roth (date), as well as a Sunday Dialogue section built around a letter to the editor by Rebecca Dresser.
- **Sherwin Nuland** was awarded the 2011 Jonathan Rhoads Medal of the American Philosophical Society, given annually “for distinguished contributions to medicine.”
- **Paul Root Wolpe**, director of Emory University’s Center for Ethics, was awarded the World Technology Award in Ethics presented by the World Technology Network.

**Welcome New Fellows**

The Hastings Center has strengthened its international network of Fellows by electing ten new members from four countries. Hastings Center Fellows now number 195, including members in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Fellows chair **Joseph J. Fins**, M.D., F.A.C.P., and vice chair **Rebecca Dresser**, J.D., also serve on The Hastings Center Board of Directors.

**UNITED STATES**

- **Paul Appelbaum**  
  Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons
- **Gail Geller**  
  Johns Hopkins University
- **Susan Lederer**  
  University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
- **Alex London**  
  Carnegie Mellon University
- **Patricia Marshall**  
  Case Western Reserve University
- **Dorothy Roberts**  
  Northwestern University School of Law

**INTERNATIONAL**

- **Florence Luna**  
  Director, Bioethics Program at FLACSO (Latin American University of Social Sciences in Argentina) and at the University of Buenos Aires
- **Jing-Bao Nie**  
  University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand
- **Jan Payne**  
  Charles University, Prague
- **Xiaomei Zhai**  
  Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College

**Passages: In Memoriam**

- **James E. Bowman**, 88, professor emeritus in pathology and medicine at the University of Chicago. An internationally recognized expert on pathology, inherited blood diseases, and population genetics, Bowman was the first tenured African-American professor in the university’s biological sciences division. He also was a powerful advocate for minority scholars seeking access to academic medical careers.
- **Bernard Gert**, 77, one the greatest moral philosophers of the 20th century. He taught at Dartmouth College from 1959 to 2009, making him the longest serving faculty member in the school’s history. He was also a giant in the fields of Hobbes scholarship and bioethics. A founding member of the ethics committee at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, he continued as a consultant to the ethics committee at the University of North Carolina.
- **Ruth S. Hanft**, 82, an adjunct associate in the Center for Bioethics at the University of Virginia and at Dartmouth Medical School and a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences. She specialized in health service administration and public finance.

**HASTINGS CENTER CURRENTS**

FALL 2012

Director of Public Affairs and Communications: Mary Crowley  
Managing Editor: Michael Turton  
Designer: Nora Porter  
Copy Editor: Susan Gilbert  
Contact: turtonm@thehastingscenter.org; 845-424-4040, x242

*Hastings Center Currents* is a triannual publication of The Hastings Center, a nonpartisan research institution dedicated to bioethics and the public interest since 1969.