



Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

In Partnership

A newsletter from the Center for The Study of Disability Ethics at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2005

Upcoming Educational Seminars:

April 1, 11:45—12:45
Heyworth Annex East
“Ethical Issues Involving Conversion Disorder: A Rehabilitation Case Study”

April 21, 7:30-8:30 AM
Room 1654
“Ethical Considerations in Prosthetics and Orthotics:

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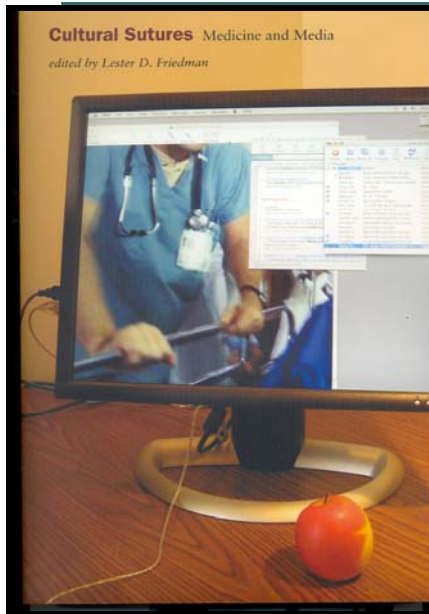
APPLICATIONS FOR 2005-2006 ETHICS SCHOLARS AVAILABLE:

ACCEPTED.
The Center for the Study of Disability Ethics will begin accepting applications for the Disability Ethics Scholars Program starting on February 1st. The program is open to anyone working within the RIC system of care.

The Scholars Program runs from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Scholars are expected to participate in weekly tutorials for 1.5 hours that will expose them to classic articles in ethics, methods for case consultation and discussions about pertinent topics. Applications should consist of:

- A personal statement describing how the applicant would benefit from the CSDE fellowship, including information about prior experience, interests and professional development goals.
- A description of the applicant’s “area of interest” along with a statement of how the applicant expects to apply their training or experience within RIC, professional organizations, or academia.
- A letter of support from the applicant’s immediate supervisor must accompany the application.

Additional information & applications are available via the CSDE page on RIC’s web site. Hard copies are available in room 1374. Applications should be submitted April 1, 2005■



NEW BOOKS KEEP ARRIVING: “Cultural Sutures: Medicine and Media”

edited by Lester D. Friedman

Health care consumers turn to media sources — from news reports to Web sites to TV shows — for information about diseases, treatments, pharmacology, and important health issues. And just as the media scour the medical terrain for news stories and plot lines, those in the health care industry use the media to publicize legitimate stories and advance particular agendas. This anthology of original essays scrutinizes a broad range of subtle and overt interconnections between medicine and the media in print journalism, advertisements, fiction films, television shows, documentaries, and computer technology■

JUNIOR ETHICS SCHOLARS & THEIR PROJECTS:



Melanie Swan, OTR/L
(on the left)
and
Michelle Muellner, MD
(on the right)
“Ethics in Chronic
Pain Management”



Colleen McClain, PT
“Quality of Life Outcomes
with Outpatient Physical
Therapy”

The core activity of the year long Disability Ethics Scholars Program is the 90 minute weekly tutorial. In addition to the tutorial, each scholar is asked to identify an area of personal interest and a focus project. Focus projects range from reviews of the literature and annotated bibliographies to human subjects research with Institutional Review Board approval. Scholars receive support and mentoring as they refine their topic ideas throughout the year.



Marianne Ring, MA
“Victimization of People
with Disabilities:
A Literature Review”



Elaine Sampson, RN, MS
“Assessing Hope in the
Rehabilitation Patient:
A Critical Role in Recovery”



Melanie Rak, MD
“Eugenics and
Euthanasia”

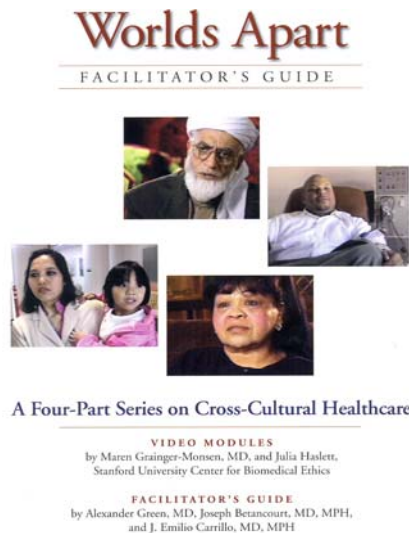


Linda Sassone, LSW
“The Effects of an Inpatient
Rehabilitation Stay on
Quality of Life”

NEW VIDEO AVAILABLE IN RESOURCE CENTER

“Worlds Apart”

These four videos, which range from 10 to 14 minutes, explore culturally diverse patients’ and families’ experiences with the American health care system. The documentary style of the videos captures live clinical interactions as they happened, as well as interviews with patients, family and medical staff. ■



Facilitator's Guide:

This video set comes with a guide for instructors who are interested in using them as part of a broader curriculum. The guide includes information on culturally sensitive concerns such as differences in communication styles, racial and ethnic disparities in health care, and non-adherence with medications. ■

THE CSDE SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL STUDY GROUP

Did you know that between 1939 – 45 over 250,000 people with disabilities were systematically murdered during the German T4 or “euthanasia” program ?

What relevance does this have for today? In the summer of 2004, the CSDE supported a summer institute on Disability Studies and the Legacies of Eugenics. The institute, sponsored by the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) and the University of Illinois Department of Disability and Human Development, was based in Potsdam, Germany. Co-Directors of the institute were Professors Sharon



Participants of DAAD Seminar in front of the Bernburg Memorial in Germany

Snyder and David Mitchell. The summer institute explored historical, social and cultural aspects of the euthanasia and eugenics programs of the Nazis. The eighteen scholars, including Debjani Mukherjee of the CSDE, came from a wide variety of academic disciplines, representing a diversity of disability experiences and interests. The group toured former-extermination sites, met with archivists, documentary filmmakers, German disability rights activists and academics, had access to archival materials and engaged in intense discussions. The ethical issues that this project highlighted include: protection of vulnerable populations, ethical responsibilities of healthcare providers, the role of the state in torture and extermination, and human dignity and respect for all persons. ■

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR ETHICS SURVEY IN FEBRUARY:

The Center for the Study of Disability Ethics Survey is now on-line. Your opinion matters:

WHAT: Ethics Survey 2005.

WHO: EVERYONE who works at RIC.

WHY: To help us serve you better.

WHEN: February 3rd through March 3rd

HOW: Visit this secure website to fill out the anonymous survey.

<http://fs7.formsite.com/rehabchicago/form738875840/inc>

If you don't have internet access, please contact us at 238-1885 for Assistance.

REWARD: Having your voice heard and a thank-you candy or granola bar

IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE OUR LAST SURVEY:



The previous RIC Ethics Survey results were published in the Archives of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. During our last survey 217 clinicians and admitting office personnel responded to the survey (53% of those eligible) and they generated a list of 547 ethical issues, including these top 3 concerns:

1. Pressures resulting from health care reimbursement (24%).
2. Conflicts among patients, physicians, team members or families around goal-setting (17%).
3. Difficulty assessing decisional-capacity (7%).

The results helped the CSDE structure educational seminars and other interventions to meet the needs of our staff. This year, by expanding to include all RIC employees including administrators, housekeeping, security and other non-clinical personnel, we hope the results will be even more beneficial ■

Kirschner, K.L., Stocking C, Brady Wagner, L., Jajesnica Foye, S., & Siegler, M. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 2001; 82:(12): S2-S8.