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# BRAINSTORM

**An interdisciplinary and bilingual newsletter about advances in health ethics theory and practice**



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## Profil du mois

### Marie-Eve Bouthillier, Ph.D.

Marie-Eve Bouthillier détient un PhD en sciences humaines appliquées option bioéthique de l'Université de Montréal. Sa formation de base est en psychologie et elle a complété un DESS en bioéthique (UdeM), ainsi qu'une maîtrise en «Medical Ethics and Law» au King's College de Londres en Angleterre. Dans ses travaux de recherche, elle s'intéresse à des sujets comme l'aide médicale à mourir, les soins de fin de vie, les structures de soutien en éthique, les processus de consultation ainsi que les niveaux de soins, les conversations difficiles, la futilité des soins et l'acharnement thérapeutique. Elle développe depuis plusieurs années une pratique en éthique clinique au CISSS de Laval, organisation au sein de laquelle elle a développé un Centre d'éthique. Le Centre d'éthique est le lieu de stage des étudiants des programmes d'éthique clinique de la Faculté de médecine de l'Université de Montréal. Elle est également membre du Bureau de l'éthique clinique de cette même faculté.



### Agir dans l'urgence avec pertinence

En mars 2020, elle a été mandatée par le comité directeur clinique COVID-19 du Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, présidé par la sous-ministre adjointe, Dre Lucie Opatry, pour aborder les enjeux éthiques liés aux travaux urgents en lien avec la

pandémie. En plus d'avoir dirigé plusieurs travaux, tels que le protocole de triage pour l'accès aux soins intensifs, elle a soutenu le développement d'un système de priorisation de l'accès à la chirurgie quand il y a une réduction importante de la capacité opératoire en raison du délestage.

Plus que jamais, pour être pertinents, elle estime que les éthiciens sur le terrain doivent travailler main dans la main avec les cliniciens, les patients et les décideurs, afin de co-construire avec eux des décisions éthiques qui sont à propos, justes et équitables. Il faut à tout prix abandonner les modèles déconnectés de la pratique adoptant une position « au-dessus de » et non « avec ». En temps de pandémie, une posture de « surplomb », qui ne fait que verbaliser des principes abstraits, fait malheureusement perdre de la crédibilité aux éthiciens et les éloignent des enjeux concrets des pratiques cliniques et organisationnelles. Elle reconnaît l'importance du regard critique qui permet d'améliorer les réponses, de les raffiner et de les humaniser davantage. Dans ce contexte, l'interdisciplinarité et le partenariat de soins deviennent des conditions essentielles pour réussir le test de la pertinence.

### **Publications sélectionnées**

Cousineau, J., Payot A. & **Bouthillier, M-E.** (2019). Éthique clinique et situations complexes: un guide pratique. Éditions Ste-Justine. Sous presse, publication prévue à l'automne 2020.

**Bouthillier, M. E.**, & Opatrny, L. (2019). A qualitative study of physicians' conscientious objections to medical aid in dying. *Palliative Medicine*, 33(9), 1212-1220.

Seller, L., **Bouthillier, M. E.**, & Fraser, V. (2019). Situating requests for medical aid in dying within the broader context of end-of-life care: ethical considerations. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45(2), 106-111.

Farmer, Y., **Bouthillier, M.-E.** et Roigt, D. (2013) La prise de décisions en éthique clinique : perspective micro, méso et macro. Québec: Presses de l'Université du Québec. 235 p.

### **Sites internet**

[Profil de Dre Marie-Eve Bouthillier - Bureau de l'éthique clinique de l'Université de Montréal](#)

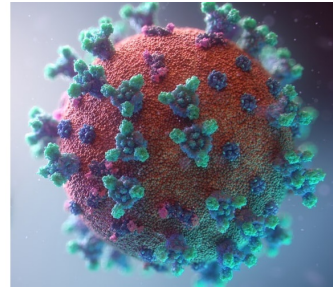
[Programme d'éthique clinique de l'Université de Montréal](#)

[Centre d'éthique du CISSS de Laval](#)

## **Health ethics and the COVID-19 pandemic**

### **Recent and relevant literature**

A list of the most recent and relevant health ethics scholarly publications relating to the COVID-19 response is available on [our website](#).



## Events and announcements

### [Call for submissions: Neuroethics Essay Contest \(2020\)](#)

#### **International Neuroethics Society (INS) and the International Youth Neuroscience Association (IYNA)**

Now in its seventh year, the Neuroethics Essay Contest aims to promote interest in neuroethics among students and trainees around the world. Participating authors can submit essays in one of three categories: (1) academic; (2) general audience; and (3) IYNA-INS High School neuroethics essay competition. One winner from each category will be selected in August and recognized at the 2020 INS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC — the premier gathering of professionals dedicated to neuroethics. All winners will receive a free 1-year INS student membership and a \$250 prize. Winners who attend the annual meeting will also have their meeting registration fee waived and will receive a Michael Patterson Travel Stipend to help with expenses.

**Deadline:** July 10, 2020

### [Call for submissions: Special issue on V. R. Potter's bioethics, 50 years later](#)

#### **Canadian Journal of Bioethics**

In the context of a special issue to be published in 2021 to mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of Potter's book *Bioethics: Bridge to the Future*, the *Canadian Journal of Bioethics* is launching a call for papers that discuss the potential of Potter's vision for contemporary bioethics. Contributions could answer, amongst others, one of these questions:

- What are the tools, concepts and principles that Potter's vision can offer to inspire contemporary bioethics?
- How can we operationalize Potter's bioethics in the teaching, research and practice of bioethics?
- How can we apply Potter's bioethics to the current COVID-19 pandemic?
- Is Potter's bioethics confined to environmental ethics?
- How can we explain the marginal influence of Potter's bioethics?

Contributions are welcome in different formats: articles; reviews; "response to" commentaries; case studies; art, culture and creative works. Your contribution may be in English or French. It must be an original contribution (i.e., not previously published elsewhere), and it may be the product of either a conceptual or empirical study.

**Deadline for submissions:** August 30, 2020

**Publication of the special issue:** April 22, 2021

**[Call for registration: 15th World Congress of Bioethics \(Virtual Format\)](#)**

**June 19-21, 2020**

The 15th World Congress of Bioethics, organized by the International Association of Bioethics, will cover the theme of *Autonomy and Solidarity: Bridging the Tensions*. Reflection on the nature of autonomy and solidarity is critical in bioethics and has also recently become of increasing political importance around the world. Recognizing these developments, the conference planning group has a two-fold aim for this Congress. First, as all previous Congresses, the conference will showcase the best in bioethics research from both established and new scholars. Second, the conference will facilitate networking and the unique exchange of ideas that emerge when people from different disciplines, cultures, mindsets, and methodological approaches engage with one another. To register for the conference, [click here](#).

**Deadline for registration:** June 16, 2020.

**[Call for registration: The ELSI Virtual Forum 2020](#)**

**June 15-16, 2020**

The Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics of Columbia University will be hosting the ELSI Virtual Forum on June 15 and 16, 2020. This forum includes a total of eight sessions over two days. Each session will include a half-hour audience Q&A with the speakers. Here is the program:

- Integrating ELSI and genomics: Past, present and future
- Polygenic risk scores & behavioral traits: Interrogating the science & ethics
- CRISPR and human identity: Governing germline gene editing
- Ethical frameworks for research collaboration with indigenous communities
- Studying America's eugenics era through an ELSI lens: Data, context, and relevance
- New models for ethical AI in precision medicine: Empirical and normative ELSI inquiry
- Engaging participants as partners: ELSI considerations in large-scale precision medicine research
- To catch a killer: Law enforcement uses of DNA databases

The Forum is free, but registration is required. [Please click here to register](#).

**Deadline for registration:** June 10, 2020

**[Call for proposals: Science, technology, and literature during plagues and pandemics](#)**

**Configurations special issue**

In *The Parasite*, Michel Serres argues that “the parasite intervenes, enters the system as an element of fluctuation. It excites it or incites it; it puts into motion, or it paralyzes.” Throughout the world, COVID-19 continues to interrupt and alter daily life while it simultaneously compels governments to rely on technology and science to combat its

spread. [Configurations](#) is seeking articles that examine intersections of science, technology, and literature with myriad contemporary and historical contexts relevant to COVID-19. Here are examples of suggested topics:

- Industry and disease
- Disease narratives in social media, mass media, and science
- Response and control during times of outbreak
- Human connection, screen technologies, and social distancing
- Misinformation and science skepticism
- Experimentalism, cures, and vaccines

**Deadline for abstract submission:** July 31, 2020. Abstracts should be 100-200 words and submitted to [configurations@smu.edu](mailto:configurations@smu.edu). Notifications will be emailed by August 31, 2020.

**Deadline for article submission:** January 15, 2021. Articles should not exceed 5,000 words.

**[Call for applications: Assistant professor \(non-tenure track\) and clinical ethicist](#)**

**Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health,  
Institute for the Medical Humanities**

**The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston**

The successful candidate will join an interdisciplinary faculty group with training in ethics, the humanities, and the social sciences. The successful applicant will play an active role in the Institutional Ethics Program by providing clinical ethics consultations, rounding and acting as a consultant on ethical issues, contributing to programmatic development of consultation service, and participating as an active member of institutional committees. They will also provide ethics education for faculty and staff. In addition, the individual will participate in teaching and mentoring graduate and medical students, and engage in and publish original research, including results from collaborative activities. Applicants must have a doctoral degree (PhD) in philosophy, ethics, medical humanities, theology or bioethics; and/or a medical degree (MD) with graduate-level training at the master or fellowship level; or relevant terminal degree. Preferred qualifications include significant clinical experience as an ethics consultant in a health care organization, preferably in an academic health center, and a record of both scholarly publication and graduate-level teaching. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest with a description of experience, research and teaching interests, and career goals, along with their CV to [beclauss@utmb.edu](mailto:beclauss@utmb.edu). Review of applications will begin immediately.

**[Call for applications: Postdoctoral Fellow in ELSI / behavioral science](#)**

**Geisinger Health System, PA, United States**

Professors Michelle Meyer and Christopher Chabris are seeking an outstanding researcher for a position as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Geisinger Health System. The position is fully funded by a three-year grant to Professor Meyer to investigate the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of social/behavioral genetics as well as certain kinds of clinical genetic information (i.e., polygenic scores). The postdoc will primarily carry out collaborative behavioral science research aimed at investigating these and related questions and will be encouraged to propose studies within the broad scope of the

grant. The postdoc will assist in planning and carrying out web-based surveys, field studies, and archival research, and in analyzing general patterns of responses as well as individual differences. They will be expected to employ a combination of approaches, from the identification and analysis of existing real-world data sets, to the design and analysis of field or lab intervention studies. There will also be opportunities to collaborate on relevant bioethics, law, and policy articles. This is a one-year position with the expectation of renewal for one or more additional years conditional on performance. Please send a brief cover letter, C.V., and two representative publications or manuscripts in a single email to meyerchabrispostdoc@gmail.com. Please include names, titles, and contact information for two references. Questions about the position may also be sent to the same address. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

## Literature

### Interdisciplinary foundations of health ethics

#### [Implications for telehealth in a postpandemic future: Regulatory and privacy issues.](#)

Shachar C, Engel J, Elwyn G. *JAMA*. 2020 May 18. [Epub ahead of print]

#### [Experiences with legally mandated treatment in patients with schizophrenia: A systematic review of qualitative studies.](#)

Plahouras JE, Mehta S, Buchman DZ, Foussias G, Daskalakis ZJ, Blumberger DM. *Eur Psychiatry*. 2020 May 14;63(1):e39.

#### [Should extremely premature babies get ventilators during the COVID-19 crisis?](#)

Haward MF, Janvier A, Moore GP, Laventhal N, Fry JT, Lantos J. *Am J Bioeth*. 2020 May 13:1-7. [Epub ahead of print]

#### [Artificial intelligence and health technology assessment: Anticipating a new level of complexity.](#)

Alami H, Lehoux P, Auclair Y, de Guise M, Gagnon MP, Shaw J, Roy D, Fleet R, Ag Ahmed MA, Fortin JP.

*J Med Internet Res*. 2020 May 13. [Epub ahead of print]

#### [Allocating scarce resources and triaging patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

Kirkpatrick JN, Hull SC, Fedson S, Mullen B, Goodlin SJ. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2020 May 8. [Epub ahead of print]

### Methodologies and practices in health ethics

#### [IRB policies for obtaining informed consent from non-English-speaking people.](#)

McMillan G. *Ethics Hum Res*. 2020 May;42(3):21-29.

#### [Hilariously bad news: Medical improv as a novel approach to teach communication skills for bad news disclosure.](#)

Kukora S, Batell B, Umoren R, Gray MM, Ravi N, Thompson C, Zikmund-Fisher BJ. *Acad Pediatr*. 2020 May 7. [Epub ahead of print]

[Ethical recommendations for a difficult decision-making in intensive care units due to the exceptional situation of crisis by the COVID-19 pandemia: A rapid review & consensus of experts.](#)

Rubio O, Estella A, Cabre L, Saralegui-Reta I, Martin MC, Zapata L, Esquerda M, Ferrer R, Castellanos A, Trenado J, Amblas J. *Med Intensiva*. 2020 Apr 15. [Epub ahead of print]

[Adult ICU triage during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic: Who will live and who will die? Recommendations to improve survival.](#)

Sprung CL, Joynt GM, Christian MD, Truog RD, Rello J, Nates JL. *Crit Care Med*. 2020 May 6. [Epub ahead of print]

[Chapitre 2. L'art biotechnologique : une anticipation d'un au-delà de l'humain ?](#)

Voison C. *J Int Bioethique Ethique Sci*. 2020 Jan 8;Vol. 30(4):51-68.

## News and social media

[The pandemic is exposing the limits of science](#)

Giugliano F. Bloomberg Opinion. May 25, 2020.

[Ten reasons why immunity passports are a bad idea](#)

Kofler N, Baylis F. *Nature*. May 21, 2020.

[Women's research plummets during lockdown - but articles from men increase](#)

Fazackerley A. *The Guardian*. May 12, 2020.

[Coronavirus contact tracing poses serious threats to our privacy.](#)

Mauro A. *The Conversation*. May 10, 2020.

[Coronavirus : en Afrique, la défiance contre les vaccins nourrie par le souvenir des scandales médicaux](#)

*Le Monde avec l'Agence France Presse*. May 8, 2020.

[Happiness and the COVID pandemic: The science of happiness can inform our lockdown policies.](#)

Barrington-Leigh C. *Psychology Today*. May 4, 2020.

## Other resources

For more resources on pragmatic health ethics theory and practice, visit our website at <http://www.pragmatichealthethics.ca>.

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