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BRAINSTORM

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

**PRAGMATIC
HEALTH ETHICS
RESEARCH UNIT**



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Profile of the month

Jennifer A. H. Bell, Ph.D.

Dr. Jennifer A.H. Bell is a bioethicist and clinician investigator at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, Toronto, Canada. She is an Assistant Professor (status only) in the University of Toronto Department of Psychiatry and Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and Member of the Joint Centre for Bioethics. Jennifer received a bachelor's degree in philosophy specializing in bioethics from the University of Toronto, a master's degree in philosophy and biomedical ethics from McGill University, and a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies (bioethics and psychosocial oncology) from the University of British Columbia. She is an alumna of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Psychosocial Oncology Research Training and Ethics of Health Research and Policy Training Programs.



Ethics, equity and cancer care

Approximately 1 in 4 Canadians will die from cancer. Innovative discovery, precision medicine, and breakthrough therapies are fast emerging as sources of hope for people with cancer. An additional end-of-life care option is legal access to medical assistance in dying (MAID). These revolutionary advances in cancer care also pose significant ethical issues for professionals, patients and support persons, such as equitable access, safeguarding the vulnerable from known and potential harms, especially those facing limited treatment options, as well as the emergence of new ethical dilemmas that often accompany complex medical innovation. Given the increased prevalence of patients living with advanced cancer, there is an urgent need to develop, and rigorously evaluate, decisional support interventions and policies that address these pressing ethical issues in a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape.

As Research Director of the JustCan Ethics Lab, my program of research utilizes empirical and normative bioethics, critical and feminist methodologies, and qualitative and mixed-methods to address these and other urgent ethical issues at the frontier of cancer care within the specific

themes of novel therapeutics, clinical trials, and MAID. As a bioethicist I am actively involved in cancer ethics and policy development at the local and national level. I am a member of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Health Economics Advisory Committee, whose mandate includes enhancing equity in the cancer control system. I am also an ethics expert on the CADTH pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) Expert Review Committee (pERC), which assesses clinical evidence and cost-effectiveness of cancer drugs to make recommendations to guide provincial and territorial drug funding decisions. At the hospital level I provide bioethics consultation and education for clinical cases involving MAID requests, and the ethical issues associated with equitable patient access to experimental and emerging cancer therapies.

My research program is supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, Colorectal Cancer Canada, University of Toronto, and the Global Institute of Psychosocial, Palliative and End-of-Life Care.

Selected publications

Bell JAH. "Relational autonomy as a theoretical lens for qualitative health research" *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*, 2020; 13:2; 69-92.

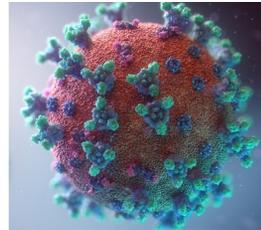
Bell JAH, Kelly MT, Gelmon K, Chi K, Ho A, Rodney P, Balneaves LG. "Gatekeeping in cancer clinical trials in Canada: The ethics of recruiting the 'ideal' patient" *Cancer Medicine* 2020; 00: 1-7.

Bell JAH, Schmilovich Z, Buchman DZ, Escaf M, Costello J, Messner HA. "First ready, first to go: Ethical priority-setting of allogeneic stem cell transplant at a major cancer centre" *Healthcare Policy* 2020, 15:3; 102-115.

Twitter: [@jahbellbell](https://twitter.com/jahbellbell)

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

Joignez-vous à la [prochaine conférence virtuelle](#) en éthique de la santé organisée par l'Unité de recherche en éthique pragmatique de l'Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal!

8
OCT.

12^H
P.M.

SÉRIE DE CONFÉRENCES DE MONTRÉAL
EN ÉTHIQUE DE LA SANTÉ

2019-2020

MONTREAL HEALTH ETHICS
CONFERENCE SERIES

Quelle place pour le dialogue dans les soins
et le système de santé ?

Is there a place for dialogue in healthcare and health
systems?

INSCRIVEZ-VOUS / REGISTER



MICHEL CLAIR



JEAN ROCHON

Panel de discussion sur l'avenir du système de santé québécois et de ses valeurs

Discussion panel on the future of
the Quebec healthcare system and
its values

INVITÉS :

**MICHEL CLAIR, AVOCAT ET ANCIEN MINISTRE
QUÉBÉCOIS**

**JEAN ROCHON, MÉDECIN, PROFESSEUR ET
ANCIEN MINISTRE QUÉBÉCOIS**

À VENIR DANS CETTE SÉRIE NEXT IN THIS SERIE

Albert Christiaan Molewijk (Nov. 9 2020, 11:30 / 11h 30)

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Pour assister à la conférence, veuillez vous inscrire en cliquant [ici](#)!

[Call for registration: 2020 INS annual meeting \(virtual conference\)](#)

October 22nd (12-6pm EDT) and 23rd (11am-5pm EDT),

International Neuroethics Society, Bethesda, MD, United States

This year's meeting theme is *Our Digital Future: Building Networks Across Neuroscience, Technology and Ethics*. Sessions will address the many areas in which brain technologies and data concerning the brain are developed, deployed, utilized and regulated. Registration provides admittance to the full 2-day schedule of events for this year's virtual annual meeting. All meeting activities will be conducted online and held synchronously during the timezones listed in the tables below. Session times listed throughout the agenda are U.S. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). For your reference, meeting times by various timezones are listed on the program page. Attendees must register in advance to participate. To register, [click here](#).

[Free webinar: Indigenization, reconciliation, and decolonization in science \(Kim TallBear\)](#)

October 8th, 12-1pm MST

Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) symposium and health ethics seminar

University of Alberta, Canada

This year this EDI symposium will take the form of a longitudinal series of events. In collaboration with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre and the Office of EDI FoMD lunchtime talks on racism and anti-racism are, and will be, continuously scheduled. The inaugural event for Fall 2020 takes place on October 8th, with a presentation by Kim TallBear on Indigenous People and Systemic Racism. Scientific research, technology, and related policy is usually structured by colonial worldviews. This is because such worldviews structure our entire society, and no one is exempt from that. This talk defines "indigenization," "reconciliation," and "decolonization" - the differences in meaning and where they overlap. The talk also discusses efforts to transform scientific research, technology development, and training in order to increase the benefit of science and technology for Indigenous peoples and other marginalized people. Kim TallBear, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Technoscience & Environment, is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Native Studies of the University of Alberta; as well as a Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation Fellow. For more information, e-mail dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca, or visit the websites of [JDHEC](#) or [EDI](#). The Zoom link is: <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/95637579908>.

[Free webinar: When breath becomes air: A conversation with Lucy Kalanithi](#)

October 6th at 5:30 pm PDT

Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics, Stanford University, CA, United States

Dr. Kalanithi is Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine and an advocate for culture change around healthcare value with focus on end-of-life care, caregiving and clinician wellness. She is the widow of Dr. Paul Kalanithi, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir *When Breath Becomes Air*, for which she wrote the epilogue. The Jonathan J. King Lectureship was established in 1991 to encourage the compassionate and humane care of all patients. It is part of Stanford Medicine's mission to enhance patient treatment and the art of caring. To submit your questions for Dr. Kalanithi ahead of time, [click here](#). For details and to join the webinar visit, [click here](#). No RSVP is required to attend this free lecture.

[Free webinar: The future of health during a global pandemic \(Zayna Khayat\)](#)

October 7th, 12-12:45pm EST

X Effervescence

Join this Facebook live event to hear Dr. Zayna Khayat, an "applied futurist" with home healthcare social enterprise SE Health, and faculty member at Singularity University, discuss the future of healthcare in Canada, and the next normal (or lack thereof) post COVID. With a long track record for healthcare innovation, Dr. Khayat brings powerful perspective, and insights into what citizens, employers, and policy-makers must do today to enable or even catalyze a positive change tomorrow. [Click here for the Facebook Live event](#).

[Call for applications: QPHRN students competition](#)

The Quebec Population Health Research Network

These awards aim to acknowledge students' contribution to the field of population health research. The prize will be awarded to Master's and Ph. D. students registered in a Quebec university and who have been distinguished by the quality of their research. Value : 500\$ for Master's students; 1000\$ for Doctorate's students. Click here for more information. Master's and PhD theses must have been defended and accepted during the 2019-2020 academic year in Quebec (i.e., before August 31st, 2020).

Application deadline : December 1st, 2020.

Send your application to: rrspq.coordination@gmail.com

[Call for applications: Clinical ethics fellow](#)

Baylor College of Medicine

Houston, TX, United-States

The Center for Medical Ethics & Health Policy at Baylor College of Medicine and the Houston Methodist Hospital System Biomedical Ethics Program are seeking applicants for our full-time clinical ethics fellowship. This competitive 2-year program offers the opportunity to train with the

Center's nationally renowned faculty and staff who lead premier Clinical Ethics Consultation Services at adult private hospital systems in the Texas Medical Center. Upon completion of this program, fellows will have the skills, training, and experience to make them competitive for positions in clinical ethics and academic bioethics. Interested applicants should apply online through the link above. Please include in your submission a cover letter and your resume or CV. You may also attach a writing sample and the names of at least three professional or academic references. To submit your application, [click here](#). For more information and questions, visit www.bcm.edu/ethics or send an email to bioethics@bcm.edu.

Applications must be received by: October 30, 2020

Tentative start date: July 6, 2021

[Call for applications: Joint postdoctoral fellowship in ethics and infectious disease](#)

The **Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics** and the **Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities** at the **University of Oxford** have established a Collaborative Bioethics Research and Training Program with support from the Wellcome Trust. Through this partnership, they have created joint post-doctoral training opportunities. They are pleased to invite applications for two uniquely qualified fellows (one at each Institution) who are committed to interdisciplinary and transnational collaboration and who have a particular interest in exploring ethical issues at the intersection of global health and infectious disease. This two-year fellowship will begin in September 2021. For more information on the Berman-Oxford Joint Post-doctoral Fellowship Program, please contact the Director of Education Initiatives at the Berman Institute (Professor Gail Geller, at ggeller@jhu.edu) or the Director of the Wellcome Center at Oxford (Professor Michael Parker, at michael.parker@ethox.ox.ac.uk). Applications must be uploaded via [Interfolio](#).

To apply: The application window will open on October 19, 2020.

Deadline: Friday, December 18, 2020

[Call for applications: Postdoctoral fellowship in philosophy and mental disorder](#)

With Dr. Hanna Pickard, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Bioethics Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, Baltimore, MD, United States

The fellowship is an opportunity to pursue an independent research project while working alongside Professor Pickard and, simultaneously, to participate in the Berman Institute's Hecht-Levi Postdoctoral Fellowship in Bioethics. There is no specific requirement of research topic, but the proposed project must have an interdisciplinary orientation and align with Professor Pickard's own interests. These include but are not limited to: addiction, anorexia, personality disorders; questions of self-identity, agency, emotions, mental capacity, and responsibility in mental disorder; irrationality, mental health and social and criminal justice. Applicants must also have an interest in the opportunity afforded by the Berman Institute of Bioethics to connect philosophical and scientific research into mental disorder with issues in health ethics and policy. For general information about the nature of Postdoctoral Fellowships at the Berman Institute please contact the Director of Education Initiatives, Professor Gail Geller, at ggeller@jhu.edu. For questions specific to the Fellowship in Philosophy and Mental Disorder, please contact Professor Hanna Pickard, at h.pickard@jhu.edu.

To apply: The application window will open on October 19, 2020 on [Interfolio](#).

Deadline: December 18, 2020.

Start date: September 1, 2021.

Literature

Interdisciplinary foundations of health ethics

[Disability, ethics, and health care in the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

Sabatello M, Burke TB, McDonald KE, Appelbaum PS. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2020 Oct(0):e1-5.

[An ethical framework for global vaccine allocation.](#)

Emanuel EJ, Persad G, Kern A, Buchanan A, Fabre C, Halliday D, Heath J, Herzog L, Leland RJ, Lemango ET, Luna F. *Science*. 2020 Sep 3:eabe2803.

[**A black and white history of psychiatry in the United States.**](#)

Conrad JA. *Journal of Medical Humanities*. 2020 Aug 28:1-20.

[**Global bioethics and respect for cultural diversity: how do we avoid moral relativism and moral imperialism?**](#)

Tosam MJ. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*. 2020 Aug 28:1-0.

[**The enhanced danger of physicians' off-label prescribing during a public health emergency.**](#)

Coleman DL, Rosoff PM. *Journal of Law and the Biosciences*. 2020 May 27.

Methodologies and practices in health ethics

[**Engaging ALS patients and caregivers \(the ALS research ambassadors\) to help design the REFINE-ALS biomarker study.**](#)

Berry JD, Bedlack R, Mathews D, Agnese W, Apple S. *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration*. 2020 Aug 21:1-4.

[**Combining the best interest standard with shared decision-making in paediatrics—introducing the shared optimum approach based on a qualitative study.**](#)

Streuli JC, Anderson J, Alef-Defoe S, Bergsträsser E, Jucker J, Meyer S, Chaksad-Weiland S, Vayena E. *European Journal of Pediatrics*. 2020 Aug 18:1-8.

[**An overview of critical decision-points in the medical product lifecycle: Where to include patient preference information in the decision-making process?**](#)

Whichello C, Bywall KS, Mauer MJ, Stephen W, Cleemput I, Pinto CA, van Overbeeke E, Huys I, de Bekker-Grob EW, Hermann R, Veldwijk J. *Health Policy*. 2020 Jul 30.

[**A modified communication and optimal resolution program for intersystem medical error discovery: Protocol for an implementation study.**](#)

Dossett L, Miller J, Jaggi R, Sales A, Feters MD, Boothman RC, Dimick JB. *JMIR Research Protocols*. 2019 Jul 2;8(7):e13396.

[**The development and psychometric testing of three instruments that measure person-centred caring as three concepts – Personalization, participation and responsiveness.**](#)

Strachan H, Williamson L, Elders A, Sutherland B, Hibberd C, Williams B. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. 2020 Jun 26.

News and social media

[**Un membre du Groupe de travail sur les vaccins contre la COVID-19 démissionne.**](#)

Gravel P. *Le Devoir*. September 19, 2020.

[**Éthique, santé publique et éducation.**](#)

Ringuette L. *Le Devoir*. September 19, 2020.

[**Your coronavirus test is positive. Maybe it shouldn't be.**](#)

Mandavilli A. *The New York Times*. September 9, 2020.

[**Personnel en santé: Une vague de départ qui fait peur.**](#)

Lévesque F, Lacoursière A. *La Presse*. September 8, 2020.

[**Les données de la RAMQ pour appâter les pharmaceutiques.**](#)

Barbeau B. *Radio-Canada*. August 21, 2020.

[**COVID-19: Pertinence clinique des tests sérologiques.**](#)

Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux du Québec. August 5, 2020.

[Can telemental health help achieve equity during the COVID-19 pandemic?](#)

Senghor AS, Racine E. *The Neuroethics Blog*. June 30, 2020.

Other resources

For more resources on pragmatic health ethics theory and practice, visit our website at

<http://www.pragmatichealthethics.ca>.

