Fall is in the air!

Dear BHS students,

October brings us cooler weather, falling leaves, and midterms, but also some exciting bioethics events. It is an important month for the bioethics community; the XVI Annual [ASBH conference](https://www.asbh.org) will be held October 16-19 in San Diego, CA. But, there are also plenty of bioethics events and opportunities right here at MSU. Read ahead to find out more!

Also, remember that we welcome contributions from our students; if you would like to advertise a relevant event, or share some of your bioethical musings with the BHS community, please contact Monica List at [bhs@msu.edu](mailto:bhs@msu.edu).
This month at the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences

The Brownbag Speaker Series: October and November talks

In October, our Brown Bag Series will feature Dr. Jason Scott Robert, Lincoln Chair in Ethics and Director of the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics at Arizona State University, who will address the topic of translational research. While translational research “seems important to almost everyone,” Woolf (2008) has aptly observed that “it means different things to different people.” What is crystal clear, though, is that everybody wants ‘results’. Treatments and cures for diseases top the list of desired results, as do public and population health strategies for disease prevention. Accordingly, the past two decades, especially, have evidenced some fascinating new dynamics in the relationship between science and society, and between scientists and citizens: a new social contract is emerging for how biomedical science works in the contemporary world. Please join us for this talk on Friday, October 10 from 12-1 p.m. in E4 East Fee Hall.

In November we will have two Brownbag Speaker seminars. The first will host Dr. Richard Meakin, who will talk about recent reforms to the UK’s National Health System that give family physicians the authority to commission health care for their patients. This talk will be held on Tuesday, November 4 from 12-1 p.m. in 102 East Fee Hall (Patenge Room). More information on our second November Brownbag will be included in the November newsletter.

Remember that if you are unable to attend the lectures in person, you can access them virtually in real time through our webinar platform. You can also listen to a recording of this and all previous BB Series talks by going to our Webinar Archives.

Bioethics in the News: disparities in liver donations raise ethical questions

Did you know that in the US, donated livers don't always go to the person closest to death? According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), geography is also a factor in determining distribution of donated livers. In this month's blogpost, Hannah Giunta, a DO/PhD student in the Department of Philosophy, explores some of the ethical tensions between individual and public benefit in liver donation. To read the full post, click here. We also encourage you to engage with the author by submitting comments!
Course substitutions: what you need to know

Course substitutions are courses that are not listed on the BHS list of requirements, but that have been approved to count as either an A or B category requirement for the BHS Specialization. Some courses, for example "Ethics and Empathy in Medicine and the Humanities" (IAH 231B-740), and "Introduction to Medical Anthropology" (ANP 204) have been approved for all students (a full list of approved substitutions can be found at the bottom of this page). Other courses can be approved for individual students on a case by case basis. Students wishing to have a course considered for substitution must submit a syllabus and a short explanation covering the following points:

- Does the course establish connections between the humanities and science, medicine, or health topics? If so, how?
- How does this course fit with your other specialization courses and the overall goals of the BHS program?

Here are some important things to keep in mind when requesting or using a course substitution:

- Even if a course is on the list of approved substitutions on the requirements page, you must email the BHS advisor to let them know that you plan on using the course. Otherwise, Degree Navigator will not register the course as a requirement, and it will not be counted.
- Courses most likely to be approved for substitution are those that closely resemble a course from the requirements list, or those that clearly establish connections between the humanities, the social sciences, and topics in health and healthcare.
- Practicum based courses and internships are very rarely approved for substitution.

Reminder: Changes to advising appointments

We no longer require students to make an advising appointment when adding the Specialization. The process is now completely online; for further details, please visit our website. If you have friends who are thinking about adding the Specialization, please share this important update with them.

For students wishing to discuss matters other than enrollment or graduation, we will continue to offer advising appointments. For appointment availability and instructions on how to make an appointment, click here.
Medical Ethics and Health Policy in London: Study Abroad Information Meetings

Dr. Len Fleck will offer two information sessions for this program in October:

Tuesday, October 21, 7 - 8 pm in 112 Bessey  
Wednesday, October 29, 7 - 8 pm in 107 Bessey

For a full list of study abroad programs pre-approved for BHS credit, see the Study Abroad section of our website.

Bioethics Community

Have you already attended an Undergraduate Bioethics Specialization meeting?

The Undergraduate Bioethics Society has been very active this semester, hosting meetings twice a month, and growing their member base. Meetings feature guest speakers, discussion of publications, and yes, pizza! Here are the dates and topics for the next two meetings:

Tuesday, October 21  
6:30 pm, 112 Bessey  

Tuesday, November 4  
6:30 pm, 112 Bessey  
Presentation by Libby Bogdan-Lovis: "US Childbirth Options: Manufactured Choice."

Meetings are open to all. Future times and locations are advertised on the UBS webpage. Want to learn more about UBS? send an email to ubs@msu.edu.
Around Campus

Medical and Dental School Application Preparation Seminars

The College of Natural Science preprofessional advisors will be giving two different seminars about medical and dental school applications. The Part 1 session (Tests, Applications, and Budgets) will be on Wednesday, October 15th at 4pm in 105 Natural Science Building. The Part 2 session (Letters of Evaluation, Personal Statements and Choosing Your Schools) will be on Wednesday, October 22nd, at 4pm in 105 Natural Science Building. For more information, contact preprofessional advisor Janae Currington at: curringt@cns.msu.edu

Lectures and Presentations

Evolution and Brain Optimization
Dr. Christopher Cherniak, member of the Committee for Philosophy and the Sciences, University of Maryland, will talk about his book "Minimal Rationality", which focuses on resource-bound models of mind. In other words, does evolution aim to optimize or simply satisfice? If you too are intrigued by these questions, join Dr. Cherniak on Friday, October 10, at 3p.m. in 1455A Biomedical and Physical Sciences (BEACON Center Seminar Room).

Are You What You Eat?
Dr. Rachel Ankeny, professor of History and Politics at the University of Adelaide explores our decisions about ethical food. This talk will be held on October 31st at 3 p.m. in 101 North Kedzie Hall. Light refreshments will be served at 4 p.m.

Do you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter? Please share this link with them!
You are receiving this email because you are a Bioethics, Humanities, and Society Specialization student at Michigan State University.

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