

# MEDICAL HUMANITIES REPORT

MEDICAL HUMANITIES PROGRAM MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 1982

## MHP WELCOMES ANDREW D. HUNT BACK

In September of this year, Dr. Andrew D. Hunt returned from his sabbatical year at Stanford as Visiting Professor in Adolescent Medicine to resume his post as Coordinator of MSU's Medical Humanities Program (MHP). We are all pleased that Andy is back with us once again, and participating actively in a busy round of fall activities in the MHP.

During this past year, Dr. Hunt also completed a one year term as President of the Society for Health and Human Values. He comments that the year was characterized by an unusual amount of activity incident to development of a faculty organization within the Society; necessitating bylaws changes and other organizational modification. Dr. Hunt is succeeded as president of the Society by Ronald A. Carson, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Medical Humanities, Medical Branch of the University of Texas in Galveston.

On October 21, 1982, Dr. Hunt presented a paper at the Society for Adolescent Medicine in New York summarizing research done during his sabbatical year at Stanford. The research was a comparative study concerning characteristics of medical care provided to white upper middle class adolescent girls and those from ethnic minority groups. The project was focused around the degree to which histories taken from adolescent girls in the emergency room suffering from acute abdominal pain were asked about their sexual activity. Whereas 44 percent of the white girls were asked about their sexual activities, 100 percent of the minority (Black and Mexican) girls were so questioned. Since the selective use of the sex question among white girls did not significantly affect diagnostic outcomes, one infers a sensitivity in the use of this privacy-related question which was not accorded the girls from the minority groups.

## MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

For the fourth year in a row the Medical Humanities Program was invited to give a presentation as one of the continuing medical education courses offered at the MSMS Annual Scientific Meeting. This year's presentation, titled "Medical Ethics: Clinical Determination of Mental Capacity", was well received, with about 80 participants in the audience. Dr. Andrew Hunt presided over the session, while Dr. Howard Brody presented an overview of the issues and Dr. Bruce Miller spoke on levels of autonomy and the capacity to choose. Other presenters included MHP Associate Faculty members Daniel Bronstein, J.D. (Psychiatry), who spoke on the legal aspects of competence, and Sumer Verma, M.D. (Psychiatry), who spoke on psychiatric consults on mental capacity. Barbara Stanley, Ph.D. (Department of Psychiatry, Wayne State University School of Medicine), also presented, speaking on clinical methods for assessing mental capacity.

## COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE MINI-COURSE ON MEDICAL ETHICS

The Medical Humanities Program once again presented the fall term CHM Phase I mini-course on medical ethics. Meeting at noon on Thursdays in a "brown bag" format, the series' five sessions ranged over such diverse topics as ethical aspects of medical decision making, alternative ethical theories as applied to the case of a suicidal patient, placebo deception and truth telling, the distinction between "killing" and "letting die" in a case of terminal cancer, and confidentiality in adolescent medicine. In addition to Drs. Hunt,

Brody, Miller, and Tomlinson of the MHP, presenters also included MHP Evaluator Ken Howe and MHP Associate Faculty members Joy Curtis (College of Nursing), Gerald Osborn, D.O. (Psychiatry), and Maureen Chojnacki (Clinical Center), along with Carol Rapson, M.D., (Medicine).

#### ETHICS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

The MHP staff was involved in the planning and presentation of a College of Veterinary Medicine first year course (CVM 517--Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine) that included a consideration of ethics and veterinary medicine. Dr. Howard Brody presented a lecture on ethical theories, Dr. Bruce Miller spoke on sceptical reactions to ethics, and Dr. Miller and Dr. Tom Tomlinson debated the question "Do animals have rights?"

A series of seminars for faculty and graduate students in Veterinary Medicine and biological sciences is being planned for Winter term. An impetus for these seminars is proposed legislation on animal welfare which would significantly alter research on animals, among other things. In March, Dr. Bernard Rollin, a philosopher who teaches in the Veterinary School at Colorado State, who is the author of a book on the ethics of animal experimentation and who is involved in proposed federal legislation, will be on our campus to present a MHP colloquium on the topic of animal experimentation.

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION AND THE HOUSE OF GOD

Kathryn Hunter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Humanities in Medicine at the School of Medicine, University of Rochester, was the first guest speaker in the MHP seminar series for the 1982-83 academic year. On Thursday, September 30, she spoke on "Use of Satire in Medical Education: Lessons from Literature". While she touched upon the history of satire as a literary form and the reasons why many people throughout the history of English literature had failed to understand satire in the way it was intended by the authors, she devoted most of her attention that evening to the recent popular novel, The House of God, by Samuel Shem. The group discussion that followed touched on issues of why many older physicians are scandalized or made very defensive by this novel and its very cynical account of the internship year in a major teaching hospital, while many medical students and younger physicians find the picture created by the model so true to life that they are unable to view it as parody at all.

Dr. Hunter addressed the same theme on Saturday morning, October 2, as part of a panel discussion on medical humanities for the College of Human Medicine Alumni reunion. The topic was "Humanities and Inhumanity at the Best Medical School: Lessons from The House of God". Dr. Hunter appeared on a panel which included Dean W. Donald Weston, College of Human Medicine, Dr. Dan English, Department of Surgery, and Dr. Howard Brody, Assistant Coordinator, Medical Humanities Program.

As part of her visit, Dr. Hunter also conferred with members of the MHP staff and its associate faculty, and renewed some old acquaintances in the department of English.

#### SIGN OF THE TIMES--OUT OF THE CLOSET FOR THE MEDICAL HUMANITIES PROGRAM

While the existence of the Medical Humanities Program is gradually becoming better known around the MSU campus, the structure of our program remains a mystery to many people. This is especially true of the importance of our associated faculty, who are involved in a variety of MHP related activities, but who have no formal appointment in the Program. Over this past summer, the Program's staff decided that we would try to make these facts better known to anyone wandering through Fee Hall by preparing the sort of directory sign that most departments have as a matter of course, but which, to date, the MHP has not possessed. The sign provided us with a good opportunity to review the contributions of a number of people who have made our program possible over the past several years. The complete list of faculty, staff, and research assistants as presented on our sign appears below. We have at this point tried to include all those "associate faculty" who have agreed to be designated as such in our MSU telephone listing. Generally these include humanities

faculty who have developed courses or engaged in other teaching programs with a medical orientation, and CHM, COM, CVM and Nursing faculty who have devoted special study to ethical or humanities issues, through mechanisms such as the NEH summer seminars on medical ethics. If, through some error, we have left out some person who fits this description and who would like to be listed, or if we have included people who would rather that their names not appear, please let us know so that we can make the appropriate changes.

### MEDICAL HUMANITIES PROGRAM, 1982-1983 DIRECTORY

#### Faculty and Staff

Andrew D. Hunt, M.D.	Coordinator
Howard Brody, M.D., Ph.D.	Assistant Coordinator
Bruce Miller, Ph.D.	Assistant Coordinator
Thomas Tomlinson, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Kenneth R. Howe, M.A.	Evaluator
Rose Goldner	Secretary

#### Research Assistants

Susan Cope Ekstrom, M.A.	Philosophy
Sheila Horn	COM
Megan Johnson	CHM
Martha Jones, M.A.	Education
Kathy Pera	CHM
Sandy Schwarcz	CHM
Judy Leatherwood Smith	Nursing

#### Associate Faculty

Etta Abrahams	American Thought and Language/UUD
Martin Benjamin	Philosophy
Daniel Bronstein	Psychiatry/Resource Development
Maureen Chojnacki	Nursing
Thomas Cinque	Medicine
Steve Crowe	Veterinary Medicine
Dan English	Surgery
Margaret Jones	Pathology
Jack Knott	Political Science
Ronald Means	Michigan Council for the Humanities
Karen Ogle	Family Practice
Gerald Osborn	COM/Psychiatry
Susan Reardon	Veterinary Medicine
Donald Rosenberg	English
Albert Sparrow	Pediatrics
Robert Stevens	Community Health Science
Sumer Verma	Psychiatry
Peter Vinten-Johansen	History
Richard Walshaw	Veterinary Medicine
Sally Walshaw	Veterinary Medicine
William Weil	Pediatrics
Arnold Werner	Psychiatry
Floyd Westendorp	Psychiatry

### HUMANITIES SEMINAR ADDRESSES HISTORY OF DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

Scott N. Swisher, M.D., Associate Dean for Research and formerly Chairman of Medicine in the College of Human Medicine, discussed "Herman Boerhaave and the Doctor-Patient Relationship" in a November 16 Medical Humanities Seminar. Drawing on his years of study of Boerhaave's (1668-1738) life and medical teaching, and his visit to Boerhaave's native town of Leyden in the Netherlands, Dr. Swisher advanced the thesis that Boerhaave represented a subtle but fundamental shift in the nature of the doctor-patient relationship, in which the physician gave up the older, arms-length position for the new role of patient advocate. Boerhaave is commonly credited with introducing bedside clinical teaching into medical education, and via his students, having a major influence on the curriculum of the medical school of Edinburgh, where many of the most prominent physicians of colonial and revolutionary America received their training.

### NUCLEAR WAR: THIS FALL'S BIG ISSUE ON THE MEDICAL ETHICS CIRCUIT, Howard Brody, M.D.

As it is now becoming difficult to find an issue of a major medical journal that does not contain at least a letter to the editor about the responsibility of the physician vis-a-vis the nuclear arms race, it should be no surprise that the medical profession's "social responsibility" in regards to this issue has been one of the most popular topics in conferences devoted to medical ethics and medical humanities. For example, the major panel program at the annual meeting of the Society for Health and Human Values in Washington on Nov. 7 was entitled "Nuclear War: A Case Study in the Social Responsibility of Physicians" and included presentations from physicians, a philosopher, and a religious scholar.

This same topic was addressed locally at the medical ethics conference, "Do Physicians Have a Social Responsibility?" at St. Lawrence Hospital on May 17. Surgeons Dan English and Rao Kareti gave pro and con arguments, respectively, on the obligation of the physician to devote some professional effort to addressing social and political issues; philosopher Martin Benjamin sketched four possible positions ranging from extreme noninvolvement politically to an activist role. The conference was reported in the July issue of Michigan Medicine, giving rise to some controversy in the "Letters" column. One physician, assuming incorrectly that the conference merely provided a soap box for the anti-nuclear-arms faction, attacked the effort on that basis; but two other physicians wrote in to applaud the effort in addressing this topic.

The Medical Humanities Program also co-sponsored, along with the Lansing chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility and the MSU Nuclear War Study Group, a public lecture, "Can Humanity Survive? An Approach to Solutions." The speaker, Henry D. Abraham, M.D., a Boston psychiatrist and editor of the national newsletter for Physicians for Social Responsibility, discussed the medical and psychological consequences of nuclear holocaust as gleaned from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki data, reviewed the evidence to show that no medical response would be able to mitigate the disaster, and offered refutations of many of the arguments commonly raised against health professionals taking an active stand on such issues. The day before his on-campus seminar on October 20, Dr. Abraham had delivered a similar address to the Ingham County Medical Society.

A number of new twists have emerged from this flurry of attention (represented in the medical literature by articles such as one by Cassel and Jameton on the physician's responsibility for the nuclear issue in the September issue of Annals of Internal Medicine). To cite just one example, it has been commonplace for many proponents of a limited-responsibility view (such as editor Arnold Relman in the New England Journal of Medicine, Sept. 16, 1982) to urge that the responsibility be acknowledged, but also restricted to those aspects of the nuclear issue that reflect medical expertise. Birds of this feather can be recognized philosophically by their mating call, "Qua! qua!" That is, the physician, qua citizen, may have views on disarmament policy, national defense priorities, etc. but qua physician he/she is only entitled to speak out on the ways nuclear weapons mess up human bodies and the abilities of the medical community to patch up the damage afterward. This

distinction is attractive on its face, and the nuclear-arms issue has turned out to be a good test case to see how well it stands up. Many physicians who have adopted it as their moral point of departure in addressing nuclear concerns have soon found that, in responding to the questions their "medical facts" raise in the minds of audiences, they must either abandon this distinction as being overly simplistic or else fail to address matters that seem intimately bound up with their chosen topic. In possible support of such a view, many political commentators have looked at the issue the other way around, noting that it is illegitimate to cloak nuclear weapons policy in the garb of pseudo-expertise that it has assumed in our society, when common-sense questioning from reasonably educated lay people can often expose major gaps and inconsistencies in the scenarios of the inhabitants of the think-tanks. By this argument, the arrogance belongs not to physicians who would venture to raise questions about nuclear armament policies, but rather to the Pentagon "experts" who answer substantive charges against their position by claiming that these matters are too technical for the general public to understand. At any rate, the issue will continue to arise, since the value of disclosing the atrocious projections about the health consequences of nuclear weapons presupposes the assumption that realistic and practical policy alternatives are available, and this in turn demands that one address some issues of national military policy.

#### NEH GRANT: MEDICAL ETHICS AND THE CORE CURRICULUM

The Medical Humanities Program completed its first year of work under the NEH Grant, "Medical Ethics and the Core Curriculum", on August 31, 1982. This grant involved collaboration of the MHP with the Colleges of Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, and Nursing.

The portion of the project involving the College of Human Medicine (CHM) was led by Dr. Bruce Miller, Department of Philosophy and Assistant Coordinator of the MHP, and Dr. Sumer Verma, Department of Psychiatry and Assistant Dean for the Lansing community. Dr. Howard Brody, Acting Project Director for this year of the grant and a faculty member both in Philosophy and in CHM, was also heavily involved in these efforts. Dr. Thomas Tomlinson, Assistant Professor in the MHP, divided his time between efforts in the College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM), working with Dr. Gerald Osborn, Department of Psychiatry and COM, and working with Associate Professor Joy Curtis in the College of Nursing.

The intent of the grant program is to develop within each college required material in medical or nursing ethics which will be taught as part of the existing course structure and which will be evaluated by techniques consistent with the grading currently in use in those colleges. The long-range goal is to develop a cadre of clinical faculty in each college who have been trained to introduce their students to ethical decision making and to lead fruitful group discussions on ethical issues as they arise in clinical settings. Kenneth Howe, Project Evaluator, is responsible both for developing the evaluation instruments to be used in each course or exercise, and also for evaluating the overall impact of the project on the curriculum and personnel of the three involved colleges. In the first year of the grant project, the MHP made progress on all these objectives.

CHM. The College of Human Medicine has the longest history of developments in ethics and has had the greatest involvement of its students and faculty in ethics programs offered before the grant began. It was therefore possible to begin implementation of some pilot projects almost immediately with a minimal need to acquaint students and faculty with the intent and purposes of the grant project.

The major effort of this year was the development during the Fall 1981 term and the teaching during the Winter 1982 term of a 10-week sequence within the Track I Focal Problems course entitled "Terminal Care and the Value of Life".

Another major teaching effort which occurred in all three terms of the 1981/82 academic year was the inclusion of a required medical ethics case writeup as part of the third-year required medicine clerkship for all students doing this clerkship in the community of Lansing (approximately 1/5 of the total third year class).

Dr. Miller engaged in several other activities during the year aimed at specific subgroups of the CHM student body: he lectured in Preventive Cardiology and in Phenomena of Human Development; he consulted with the instructor of Neuropathology, Dr. Margaret Jones, to identify ethical aspects of several of the case studies currently in use in Neuropathology.

NURSING. In his work with the Nursing faculty Dr. Tomlinson introduced ethics teaching into several courses in the nursing curriculum and developed a widening circle of faculty who are actively interested in participating in the project.

In the fall, Dr. Tomlinson directed most of his effort at two specific courses, NE 400 and NE 405. NE 400 includes a segment on suicide and suicide prevention, and after a series of discussions with the Nursing faculty coordinator for the course, Dr. Tomlinson developed a study guide dealing with the ethics of suicide and suicide intervention. In addition, Mr. Kenneth Howe, project evaluator, attended one of the discussion meetings on suicide intervention and took notes which became the basis for a fictionalized transcript, produced in consultation with the nursing faculty member who had led the discussion. The transcript was used in a workshop offered to all nursing faculty on September 17, 1982.

In NE 405, Dr. Tomlinson worked with the course coordinator, with an emphasis on two already existing sections of the course entitled "Values Clarification" and "Ethical Issues in Nursing". Dr. Tomlinson developed a draft of a detailed critique of ethical relativism to be used with the two-hour videotape lecture that the values clarification session centers around.

COM. In the College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Tomlinson and his clinical associate, Dr. Gerald Osborn, were able to make significant progress in identifying a core of sympathetic COM faculty.

The first group of faculty were those involved in the planning of OST 530, which is the first in a required series of courses for COM students and which teaches basic physical examination skills, osteopathic manipulation, and communication and patient interviewing skills. The faculty within the Department of Family Medicine had been awarded a grant from the Public Health Service to revise the physical exam and interviewing portions of this course series, and independently Drs. Tomlinson and Osborn had identified the interviewing portion of the course as a likely place for the integration of ethics teaching. The ethics related material which has been incorporated into the course includes two hours of lecture covering the ways in which the physician's values can affect patient care and on the sorts of ethical dilemmas which can arise within a doctor-patient relationship.

The COM curriculum committee has created a subcommittee to draft guidelines for the teaching of ethical issues in COM. Members appointed to the subcommittee were: Dr. Tomlinson; Dr. Robert Ward, Department of Family Medicine; Dr. Terry Stein, Department of Psychiatry; Dr. Osborn; and Linda Loewenstein, COM student. After several meetings the subcommittee approved a set of guidelines for the teaching of ethical issues in COM which will be presented to the full committee for approval.

#### STAFF NEWS

Dr. Howard Brody, Assistant Coordinator of the MHP, presented papers in July of this year to two state conventions of physicians' speciality groups which met in Traverse City. The first, "Ethics of Cerebral Resuscitation Research", was presented for the Michigan Academy of Emergency Physicians; the second, "Ethical Issues in Family Medicine", was presented before the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Brody also presented a paper, "Teaching Clinical Ethics: Models for Consideration," at the August Conference on Clinical Medical Ethics held at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

On September 20, Dr. Brody delivered a talk entitled "Ethics of War, Nuclear War, and the Arms Race" at Western Michigan University as part of a conference on nuclear war sponsored by the Science for Citizens Center (Kalamazoo) and the Kalamazoo chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Dr. Brody is the author of recent papers, including: "The Lie that Heals: The Ethics of Giving Placebos" (in the July 1982 Annals of Internal Medicine) and "Nuclear War and the Family Physician" (in the August 1982 Journal of Family Practice).

And finally, as chairperson of the Committee on Humanities in Family Medicine Education of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, Dr. Brody was the principal author of a report, "Humanities in Family Medicine Education", which appeared in Family Medicine, September-October, 1982.

Dr. Bruce Miller, Assistant Coordinator of the MHP, presented a paper entitled "Ethical Issues in Geriatric Nursing" for a Conference on Issues Affecting the Geriatric Client, held at Mott Community College (Division of Nursing and Allied Health) in Flint.

On November 5, 1982, Dr. Miller also presented a paper, "Ethical Issues in Critical Care", for the Critical Care Seminar, Saginaw Cooperative Hospitals.

Dr. Tom Tomlinson, Assistant Professor in the MHP, led a discussion with Patty Peek of the College of Nursing on the ethical issues in nursing raised by a case involving an attempt to change a client's health behavior. The discussion was held at the Ethics Brown Bag on October 29, 1982.

Dr. Tomlinson and Professor Joy Curtis of the College of Nursing attended the Society for Health and Human Values meeting in Washington D.C. to begin organization of those interested in ethical issues in nursing.

In the College of Osteopathic Medicine, in OST 530, Dr. Tomlinson taught small group sessions and lectured on doctor/patient relationships. He has been meeting with the Department of Family Medicine faculty since last Spring to redesign course material on the doctor/patient relationship in the OST 530 series.

Dr. Tomlinson organized a very well-received workshop on "Teaching Ethics in Nursing" for faculty in the College of Nursing. Participating in presenting the September 17 workshop were MHP Associate Faculty members Joy Curtis (Nursing) and Martin Benjamin (Philosophy) and MHP Evaluator Kenneth Howe.

Kenneth R. Howe, MHP Evaluator, was an invited speaker on a panel discussion of evaluating philosophy teaching at the Fourth National Workshop-Conference on Teaching Philosophy at Appalachian State University in August 1982. At that conference, Mr. Howe, along with MHP Research Assistant Martha Jones, conducted a workshop entitled "Evaluating the Innovative Medical Ethics Curricula at MSU: The First of a Three Year Implementation Phase".

On October 15, Mr. Howe presented a paper entitled "Medical School Student and Faculty Reactions to a Required Course in Medical Ethics" at the Midwestern Educational Research Association Annual meeting in Chicago.

Dr. Martin Benjamin, MHP Associate Faculty member, co-led a workshop at the Tenth Conference on Ethics, Humanism, and Medicine sponsored by the Committee on Ethics, Humanism and Medicine, University of Michigan. The workshop, entitled "Are Living Wills a Viable Concept?" dealt with the question of whether personal authority for medical decisions can be transferred.

Leanne Toman We are pleased to announce that as of December 1, Leanne Toman joined the MHP staff as a half-time secretary, thus giving our secretary, Rose Goldner, some much-needed help. Leanne has worked on campus for over ten years: she has worked in the Registrars Office, Office of Personnel and Employee Relations, and Forestry.

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COMMENTS?

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