

UNC HOSPITAL ETHICS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

The UNC Hospitals Ethics Committee (HEC) met on a monthly basis during 2008, with leadership as follows: Dr. Watson A. Bowes Jr., Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics & Gynecology, as chair. Arlene Davis, RN, JD, Associate Professor of Social Medicine was the Director of the Ethics Education Service and the Director of the Ethics Consultation Service. A reorganization of the administration of the HEC occurred in October 2009 to improve services and efficiencies including the establishing the position of HEC Coordinator whose office is located in the Department of Social Medicine.

Membership: 3 regular members left the committee and 4 new regular members were appointed. Two ex officio members were appointed to the committee. The list of members is attached.

A. Policy Development and Review.

The HEC received 6 requests for review or development of policies affecting the UNC Health Care System:

- Triage plan for ECMO and ventilators in disaster planning
- HR 0313 (Refusal to Perform Assigned Duties) and HR 0503 (Objection to Performing or Assisting in Performance of an Aspect of Patient Care or Business Function)
- Transplantation in adolescent patients
- Organ donation after cardiac death (DCD)
- Scope of Care or Service, SICU

B. Consultation Service

The committee received 30 formal requests for specific patient consultation and offered an additional 40 informal consultations throughout UNC Hospitals. The formal consultations are conducted by teams comprised of several members of the HEC, led by a Team Leader who has experience in the ethics consultation process. All consultations are supervised by the Director of the Consultation Service and selected consultations are reviewed and discussed at the monthly meetings of the entire committee.

E. Ethics Education Service

The committee received 33 requests for ethics education, most of which contribute to the residency programs' needs for ethics training. Also the service provided ongoing education for 40 HEC members (including a library of over 90 volumes on biomedical topics) and 4 specific orientation sessions for its new members. For a second year a graduate student in biomedical ethics was accepted as an HEC intern. The HEC intern provides substantial assistance to the Committee, the intern requires specific mentoring and education throughout the year. All new members of the committee attend four orientation sessions given by Arlene Davis that cover the following topics: HEC Overview, Ethics Overview, Decision Making,

Privacy and Confidentiality. The textbook for the orientation sessions and recommended to all members of the HEC is *The Handbook for Health Care Ethics Committees* by Post, Blustein and Dubler. The HEC Library also added several new volumes to its library. The library is used by HEC members and UNC ethics faculty, as well as UNC graduate students in ethics courses in a range of disciplines.

The HEC co-sponsored an ethics presentation in the Transplant Ethics Series by John Moskop, PhD, Wake Forest University.

Deborah Love, began her internship on the committee in connection with her degree requirements of a Masters degree in Bioethics from Wake Forest University.

Attendance at the Association for Bioethics and the Humanities was co-sponsored by the Committee so that Arlene Davis could attend on behalf of the HEC.

Respectfully submitted,

Watson A. Bowes Jr, Chair

Attachment: List of members of the UNC Hospital Ethics Committee