

# Center for Bioethics Urban Health & Policy

Fall 2014



## From the director.

### In this issue.

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The Center has had a very busy Fall – Enrollment in our MA Urban Bioethics courses is at an all time high; community partnerships are more diverse and robust than ever; we've welcomed two new employees into the CBUHP family; two of our staff and faculty have been honored with prestigious awards; and NIH funding has enabled us to launch new ground breaking research.

These achievements and developments are highlighted in our Fall CBUHP newsletter. Please enjoy and share with your colleagues.


Wishing everyone a great end to 2014, and we'll be in touch again in the New Year.

Kathy Reeves, MD

# Community Engagement Update

## ***In the Curriculum:***


The MAUB's community engagement course is in full swing. Students have been assigned to four community partnerships: Norris Square Community Alliance, Zion Baptist community ministry, Hope Partnership for Education, and R.W. Brown Community Center. Students are working with Diana Huang, Tariem Burroughs, and Drs. Norma Alvarez and Neil Pitts. At this point the students are completing their community mapping and needs assessments, and will soon conduct focus groups with their communities to work together to develop Spring projects.



*Tariem Burroughs  
teaching  
community  
mapping to our  
MA students*

## ***In the Community:***


In early September, the church Proyecto Nueva Jerusalem held a community festival with wonderful music and food and various community partners. The CBUHP handed out brochures and coloring books about asthma, nutrition, and physical activity.



*Pastor Naida  
Montes, Dr.  
Alvarez, and  
Naida Burgos*

TUSM medical students were also on hand at the Norris Square Community Alliance Head Start program conducting height, weight, vision, hearing screenings to 3-5 year old children, contributing to our growing presence in and collaboration with the NSCA community.

## ***In Research:***



*Norris Square  
Community  
Alliance*

Dr. Mary Segal, Director of Health Equity Research at the Center, was awarded an NIH grant September 1 to study "Community challenges in increasing physical activity in youth with disabilities." The two-year project will survey parents and children and connect them with community mentors to provide physical activities to promote health using Self-Determination Theory, focusing on autonomy, competence, and relationships for young people with developmental challenges. Too often this population is handed "top down" prescriptive programs that fail to account for their interests and preferences, leading to high attrition and low sustainability. Dr. Segal is now actively creating linkages in the North Philadelphia community to bring a strong local emphasis to this work, which has been centered with partnering agencies in the Harrisburg area. **Congratulations Mary!**

# CeaseFire Update



Philadelphia Ceasefire is an evidence-based violence intervention program that integrates community mobilization, youth outreach, public education, leadership involvement, and criminal justice participation. Marla Davis-Bellamy, JD, Ceasefire Director, and Robert Warner, Ceasefire Program Manager, manage a group of 'Interrupters' – community members trained in violence de-escalation – who work with and in communities to help stem violence.

Philadelphia CeaseFire's Mobile Office is a 33 ft. vehicle designed to serve as a resource to engage residents and participants in the program's public health effort to reduce shootings and homicides in the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> police districts in North Philadelphia. The RV displays the program's message, "Stop. Shooting. People." and will be used in high crime areas, community events, and at neighborhood shootings. The vehicle will also serve as a safe and quiet place to mediate conflicts that often escalate to gun violence.

# TUSM and Strawberry Mansion

This Fall, the CBUHP launched a new partnership with the staff and students of Strawberry Mansion High School. Strawberry Mansion is a high school full of smart and dedicated students, but with a lack of resources that can hinder students from achieving their full potential.

Marla Davis-Bellamy is leading a group of TUSM students who are serving as mentors to Strawberry Mansion seniors, assisting them with their senior research projects and helping with the complex navigation of college applications. Ms. Davis-Bellamy also worked with Temple University's Computer Recycling Center to outfit Strawberry Mansion's computer lab with 25 refurbished computers.



# Bioethics Education at the CBUHP

The MA Urban Bioethics program hit two new milestones this Fall semester. Our first accomplishment is that we now have over 50 students in the program, either taking classes or writing their theses. We also have achieved our ideal student balance, with 50% of our students pursuing a dual degree, 45% who are TUSM, TU, or TUH employees, and 5% post-baccalaureate students. Our late Summer outreach to TUH brought in a wonderful new mix of students, from transplant coordinators and patient navigators, to program managers, risk managers, and faculty affairs, and many more! The image below shows Dr. Reeves lecturing to our full house on day 1 of the Fall introduction to Urban Bioethics seminar.

We are also thrilled to announce a new partnership with Temple's Psychiatry residency program, and this Fall we welcomed our first two residents into the MA Urban Bioethics program! We look forward to this paving the way for partnerships with other residency programs in the coming year.



*Dr. Kathy Reeves and a full house!*

## **Lecturers Needed!**

If you are interested in trying out a new lecture topic or to add to your teaching experience, the CBUHP courses and the lunch and learn lecture series always need speakers.

For more information, please contact Dr. Nora Jones, Director of Education for the CBUHP, at [nora.jones@temple.edu](mailto:nora.jones@temple.edu)

## From our students:

Max Lucki,  
MD/MAUB,  
class of 2017

*Mr. Max Lucki, one of our MD/MAUB students, submitted this essay for the Spring Urban Bioethics Seminar. In addition to learning about different bioethics content areas, a focus of the course is to practice writing in different styles and for different audiences. This assignment was to write an issue brief that could be used to distribute to local media outlets. Here is Max's submission:*

In November 2013, Marlise Munoz died of an apparent pulmonary embolism, or blood clot in her lungs. However, controversy in the medical, legal, and ethical aspects of her case forced her to remain connected to life-support machines for over a month after her life-ending event. According to Mrs. Munoz's family, she wished not to be kept alive by machines. Nonetheless, John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas informed Mrs. Munoz's family that she would remain on life support because she was 14 weeks pregnant. In Texas, the law clearly prohibits the discontinuation of life support to pregnant patients. What was not so clear, in this case, was the proper action to take with Mrs. Munoz's particular life status. Although her family had been informed that she was brain-dead, John Peter Smith Hospital refused to take Mrs. Munoz off of life support, asserting that Texas law called for such an action. After months of fighting for Mrs. Munoz's rights, her husband took John Peter Smith Hospital to court. Erick Munoz argued that the hospital had misinterpreted Texas law and forced life support onto a dead woman (*Munoz v. John Peter Smith Hospital, 2014*). Finally, after months of stress and pain for Mrs. Munoz's family, the court ordered John Peter Smith Hospital to pronounce Mrs. Munoz dead and remove life support treatment from her body.

This case provides an opportunity to highlight a rare intersection of end-of-life ethics and beginning-of-life ethics. The Texas law was designed to protect the right to life for a fetus, based on the principle of nonmaleficence. In doing so, the law prioritizes the rights of the fetus over the autonomy of the mother. In fact, the advance directive form from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (1999) states, "I understand that under Texas law this directive has no effect if I have been diagnosed as pregnant," clearly favoring the rights of the fetus and disempowering the mother.

With an understanding of this legal and ethical landscape in Texas, it becomes clear how the decision by John Peter Smith Hospital violates laws as well as key bioethical principles. Mrs. Munoz was declared brain dead in the hospital, which meant her brain functions were irreversibly halted. According to the Texas Determination of Death Act (1995), "a person is dead when...there is irreversible cessation of all spontaneous brain function," therefore, Mrs. Munoz was legally dead in the hospital, and should not have been on life support. John Peter Smith Hospital's decision to keep the deceased Mrs. Munoz on life support goes beyond the legal boundaries of the Texas advance directives law.

*Continued next page...*

*From our students, continued...*

Furthermore, because Mrs. Munoz was deceased, the hospital should not have had power in deciding to keep her on life support against her will. Taking into account the transgressions against Mrs. Munoz, John Peter Smith Hospital's decision represents a misinterpretation of the law, a failure to defend a patient's autonomy, and a lack of respect for Mrs. Munoz as a human.

When attempting to understand this complicated case, ambiguity concerning brain death may cloud the ethical discussion. In Mrs. Munoz's case, the Hospital's decision was not only the wrong choice; it was a choice that the hospital had no business making since Mrs. Munoz was legally dead. However, it may be constructive to consider a hypothetical situation in which Mrs. Munoz is in a persistent vegetative state, which is not legally dead. In this case, if the hospital makes the same decision, no laws are broken; yet, Mrs. Munoz still loses her autonomy. From this angle, one may more clearly see the injustice in Texas advance directives law, whereby women's rights are specifically restricted upon becoming pregnant.

I described the case of Marlise Munoz to illustrate the highly complicated legal and ethical environment resulting from a clash between beginning-of-life ethics and end-of-life ethics. Importantly, new technology has played a pivotal role in creating an environment where pregnant mothers can be supported in a persistent vegetative state or through brain death for long enough to give birth. However, only a handful of such cases have been documented in literature. With this limitation, I contend that more research is necessary before creating laws to dictate who makes decisions in such a situation. By supporting Mrs. Munoz's autonomy, I do not intend to argue against the right of a fetus to life, nor do I intend to argue that the rights of a fetus are less valuable than the mother's. My evaluation of the situation is that the Texas advance directives law introduces a significant injustice to female patients. Despite the intention to protect life, the Texas advance directives law should be reconsidered based on its threat to patient autonomy and obvious injustice against women.

Max Lucki, MD/MAUB candidate, class of 2017



# The CBUHP Welcomes Matthew Lucas and Tareim Burroughs!



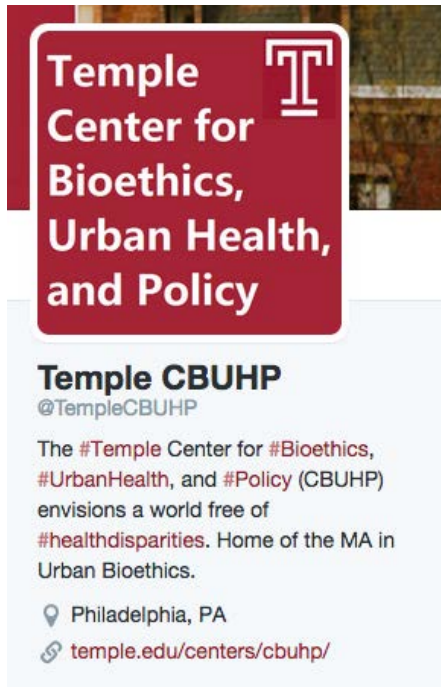
Matthew Lucas joins CBUHP as the program coordinator for the expanding MAUB and is excited about the Center's community-centered approach to bioethics. He brings with him a rich background, including graduate work in religious studies and bioethics, and having just finished a PhD from Penn Nursing. Matthew's clinical and research training and experience involves childhood cancer, from diagnosis to survivorship, with a keen interest in the approaches to children and their families after a childhood brain injury. He hopes to cultivate these interests by exploring the possibility of expanding the scope of brain injury studies to include effects of such social factors as safety and economic disparities.

Matthew teaches Ethics in Medicine in Temple's Department of Philosophy and keeps up his nursing practice by working about once a month in the Emergency Department at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Originally from Cincinnati, Matthew lived in New York City for about a decade after college and currently resides in West Philadelphia with his wife, Sarah, and aging dog, Gigi.

Tareim Burroughs has dedicated both his education and work to empowering organizations that work towards improving the lives of young people and the well-being of their communities. He holds a BS in Education from the University of Scranton, an MS in Organizational Development and Leadership from PCOM, and earned his Bachelors of Science in Education from the University of Scranton. He also completed the National Afterschool Matters Initiative Practitioner Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently enrolled in the Masters of Education Entrepreneurship Program.

Tareim is bringing his knowledge and wealth of expertise to the Center as a consultant and academic advisor for the MAUB core course on Community Engagement. He will be supervising 5 MAUB students as they work with members of the R.W. Brown Community Center as they focus on the healthcare needs of that community. He also will be giving lectures to the course as a whole on community mapping and strategies for successful engagement.





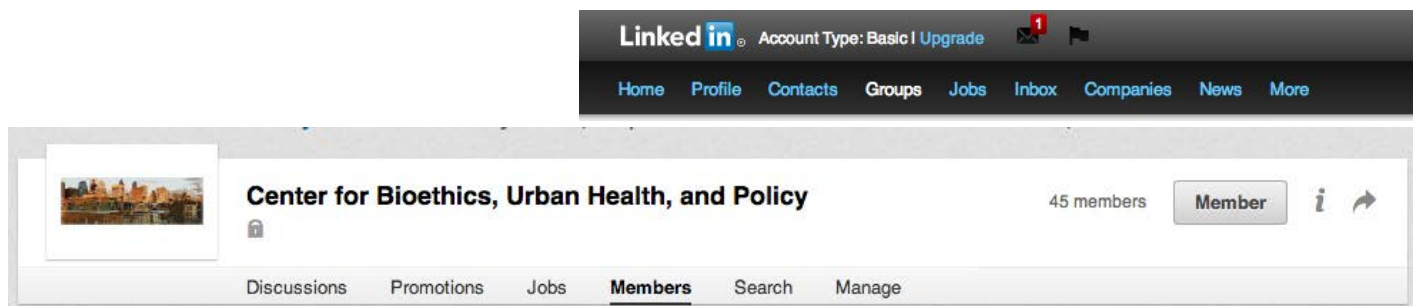
**The CBUHP is now on Twitter!** Thanks to Diana Huang, MD/MA class of 2017 for taking the initiative to establish our account and for the diligence in maintaining it with wonderful links, re-tweets, and commentary.

We'll be hosting a #BioethxChat on November 3 at 8:30 PM on how to make Bioethics relevant to and for an urban population. BioethxChat is a live tweetchat account that brings together students, professionals, and members of the general public together in conversation. See <http://bioethxchat.wix.com/bioethx> for more information about these weekly events.

Please give @TempleCBUHP a follow!

## Center for Bioethics, Urban Health and Policy LinkedIn Group

If you are on LinkedIn, please consider joining the Center's Group.



## CBUHP Facebook page

If you are on Facebook, 'like' the CBUHP Facebook page to keep up with stories about health, health care, and health inequities in our city of brotherly love, as well as hear about public events of interest to our community.

[www.facebook.com/CBUHP](http://www.facebook.com/CBUHP)

Please like it and encourage your friends and TU colleagues to like it as well!

AND,

Even more importantly, post stories that you find that relate to the themes of bioethics, urban health and policy, broadly defined, and comment on stories that are posted. Our goal is to make this a vibrant active page with academic and community participation.





## The American Journal of **BIOETHICS**

### **CBUHP in the News:**

**Cara Smith, MD/MA student**, had her commentary paper, 'Shifting the Balance: Equalizing Protection for Both Participants and Beneficiaries of Research' accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *The American Journal of Bioethics*, the nation's top bioethics journal.



**CeaseFire Philadelphia** is being honored by the North Central Victim Services with their Community Advocate Recognition Award, an award given to groups who are dedicated and devoted to making our neighborhoods safer. Congratulations to Marla Davis-Bellamy and all of the CeaseFire team.



The Hispanic Choice Awards honored **Dr. Norma Alvarez** with the Education Champion of the Year 'Futuro' Award on October 11th at the Merriam Theater during a televised event. This prestigious award is presented to the individual, organization, or institution that has demonstrated a relentless commitment to advancing education in the Latino community. The Latino community of North Philadelphia nominated Dr. Alvarez for her work in creating partnerships to target the reduction of health care disparities. Dr. Alvarez conducts educational workshops in the community on health and healthcare and provides health screenings. In addition, she educates graduate and medical students through her community engagement course on how to best identify the health care needs of community members to develop strategies, workshops, and initiatives to mitigate disparate care.

### **Principles of Bioethics: A Primer**

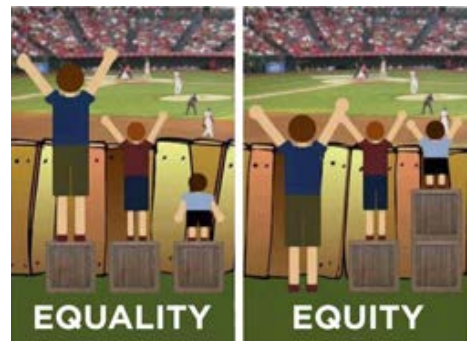
**autonomy** – autonomy refers to the right of an individual to decide, without coercion, what happens to his or her own body. In a clinical or research setting, this means our job is to provide information in a way that our patients/subjects understand so that they can make an informed choice.

**beneficence/non-maleficence** – these two principles refer, in essence, to the duty to strive to always 'do good' for patients and to 'first, do no harm.'

**justice** – justice refers to the requirement that resources be distributed in fair and just ways. Those who can afford 'it,' get 'it,' is a distribution system, but at least in the realm of medicine, not a *just* system.

#### **An Urban Bioethics also highlights:**

**social justice** – social justice refers to the movement to advocate not (only) for equality, but for equity. Equality refers to giving everyone a standard baseline minimum; Equity refers to the practice of giving those who may need more, more.





## Mark your Calendars!

### Upcoming Events

- 11/3/14 Temple CBUHP takes over hosting duties for the weekly BioethxChat from 8:30-9:30 pm. Join the chat by using the hashtag #bioethx!
- 11/15-11/19 Mary Segal, PhD, is an author on the oral presentation, "**Establishing a Research Network Agenda for Promoting Healthy Weight among Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Developmental Disabilities (ASD/DD)**" to be delivered during the 142nd American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition in New Orleans.
- 12/18/14 Last day of Fall classes for the MAUB program
- 12/24/14 Temple closes for the holiday season
- 1/2/15 Temple re-opens for another year

### Spring Course Offering

The CBUHP is offering the **UBTH 5102: Urban Bioethics II** course in the Spring semester. This 3-credit graduate level course is open to staff and faculty of Temple University, TUSM, and the Health Systems.

Taking a course is a great way to add to your skill set and ease back into school if it's been a while. Our certificate and MA program can provide a set of conceptual tools that can help you be better at what you're already doing, or can help propel a career shift.

Classes are low stress, conducted in a small seminar setting, with a mix of other working professionals and graduate students.

And our courses are covered by Temple's employee tuition remission program.

Please email [cbuhp@temple.edu](mailto:cbuhp@temple.edu) for more information!

To submit an event announcement or other contribution to upcoming CBUHP newsletters, please email:

[CBUHP@temple.edu](mailto:CBUHP@temple.edu)