

ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 South Campus
D1.602, Noon–1:00, McDermott Plaza Lecture Hall

BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES AND HUMAN DIGNITY

INMACULADA DE MELO-MARTIN, PH.D., M.S.

*Professor of Medical Ethics
Weill Cornell Medical College
Cornell University*

Current biomedical advancements are presenting us with difficult moral and policy decisions. Indeed, from questions about the morality of cloning human embryos, to concerns about human genetic modifications, to worries about chimera research, biomedical science and technology is inextricably tied to moral responsibilities and public policy concerns. Scholars and institutions struggle to evaluate these technologies in ways that attend to both the moral difficulties they raise and the promises they offer. Despite criticism that the concept of human dignity is vague, several national and international bodies and a number of scholars have argued that human dignity is a useful criterion to determine the permissibility of particular biomedical technologies. Here, I explore the meanings of this concept, examine the ways in which biomedical technologies can be said to threaten human dignity, and evaluate whether and under which conditions this concept can serve as a meaningful criterion for public policy.

Ethics Grand Rounds Videos are available a few days after the lecture at:
<http://repositories.tdl.org/utswmed-ir/handle/2152.5/1292>

John Z. Sadler, M.D., Course Director
Program in Ethics in Science & Medicine
For Information Contact
Linda Muncy, 214-648-4959
Linda.Muncy@UTSouthwestern.edu
www.utsouthwestern.edu/ethics

Target Audience: Physicians, faculty, residents, fellows, trainees, students, health care professionals. **Educational Objectives:** At the conclusion of this activity, the participant should be able to: 1) Recognize perennial and emerging bioethical problems in clinical practice, research, public health, and health policy arenas. 2) Describe competing/contrasting viewpoints concerning these bioethical problems. 3) Demonstrate increased skills in analyzing and practically handling bioethical problems in the clinical, research, public health, and health policy arenas. **Educational Method:** Lecture and question-and-answer period. **Accreditation:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. **Credit Designation:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center designates this activity for 1 hour(s) in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility. **Conflict of Interest:** All persons in the position to control the content of an education activity are required to disclose all relevant financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months with any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on patients. A primary mechanism to resolve identified conflicts of interest is a content review that is prior to the activity. **Off-Label Uses:** Because this course is meant to educate physicians with what is currently in use and what may be available in the future, there may be “off-label” use discussed in the presentation. Speakers have been requested to inform the audience when off-label use is discussed.