

THE DANIEL W. FOSTER M.D.
VISITING LECTURESHIP IN MEDICAL ETHICS

(in Conjunction with Ethics Grand Rounds)

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 South Campus
D1.602, Noon–1:00 p.m., McDermott Plaza Lecture Hall

**Disorders of Consciousness and Neuroethics:
Why Rights Must Come to Mind**

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Over the past two decades neuroimaging has revealed the possibility of covert consciousness in patients once thought vegetative. This knowledge coupled with the ability of drugs, devices and neuroprosthetics to restore functional communication in patients with disorders of consciousness has the potential to reintegrate patients into the nexus of family and community. A worthy scientific pursuit, I will argue that this effort is a moral imperative which links respect for persons with the reemergence of voice out of covert consciousness. As I describe in my recently published book, “Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics and the Struggle for Consciousness” (Cambridge University Press, 2015), this is a human rights issue for a population too long marginalized. For rights to come to mind, patients will need greater access to medical care and research, the skilled engagement of the clinical community, and fuller protections under of the law.

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

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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.