

ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 South Campus
D1.602, Noon–1:00, McDermott Plaza Lecture Hall

IS TRANSHUMANISM A HELPFUL ANSWER TO CONTEMPORARY BIOETHICAL CHALLENGES?

ANDREA VICINI, S.J., M.D.

*Associate Professor of Moral Theology
School of Theology and Ministry
Boston College*

Transhumanism is proposed by its advocates as the ultimate solution to struggles and limitations that affect personal and social health and well-being. Such a proposal could appear merely a philosophical exercise. Three current developments, however, make the transhumanist aspirations more realistic: first, the influence of transhumanist ideas and projects in successful leading global companies like Google; second, the rapidly developing robotic technologies and their implementation; third, the forthcoming studies on brain functioning.

Both medicine and bioethics have addressed personal and social challenges, locally and globally, by aiming at further humanization, i.e., by focusing on the “human,” not on the “transhuman.” Should physicians and bioethicists revise their human-centered focus by replacing it with the proposed “transhuman”? Does “transhumanism” promote health and address health-related bioethical challenges?

This lecture will respond to these questions proposing an alternative way to consider how we can assure worthy contemporary developments.

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 and 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.