

ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 South Campus
D1.602, Noon–1:00 p.m., McDermott Plaza Lecture Hall

CONCEPTUAL CONTROVERSIES IN DEATH DETERMINATION

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There is an intractable disagreement over whether the organ donor after the circulatory determination of death (DCDD) is dead at the time death is ordinarily declared. A rigorous analysis of death determination illuminates the cause of the controversy. Death determination can be conceptualized in two distinct ways: the biological approach in which cessation of vital functions must be irreversible and the medical approach in which cessation of vital functions must be permanent. The two noncongruent standards lead to determining death at different times and explain the current controversy over death determination in the DCDD donor. By the biological standard, the organ donor is not dead but by the medical standard, the organ donor is dead.

Ethics Grand Rounds Videos are available a few days after the lecture at:

<http://repositories.tdl.org/utswmed-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.