



CENTER OF CHRISTIAN BIOETHICS

MARCH 23, 2020
SPRING EDITION

INSIDE LOOK

Bioethics Convocation: Dr. Kate Bowler

On February 9, Kate Bowler, a professor in Duke University's Divinity School and a best-selling author, spoke for the Center for Bioethics Contributors' Convocation at Loma Linda University. Professor Bowler specializes in the study of the prosperity gospel, a religious belief that financial and physical success are rewards from God, and that misfortune indicates God's disapproval. If humans have enough faith and act positively, while also donating to religious causes, God will reward them. At the age of thirty-five, Kate Bowler's life seemed "blessed" with her thriving her career, marriage to her high school sweetheart, and a newborn son. Then, she was diagnosed with stage-4 colon cancer. She shared her work on the prosperity gospel and her book *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved*, reflecting her experience of living with a serious diagnosis. She offered personal and theological insights on life after previous dreams disintegrate and the promises of the prosperity gospel fail. What might be better than being perfect? Being human.

Dr. Gerald Winslow, the Director of the Center for Christian Bioethics said, "Professor Bowler was masterful in weaving insights from her personal journey with a serious medical diagnosis and her insights from work as a religious studies scholar. Her lecture resulted in one of the most gratitude-filled audience responses I have experienced at our University." The presentation was preceded by a Contributors' Convocation Luncheon attended by faculty scholars and supporters of the Center. At the luncheon, Professor Bowler shared information about her work at Duke University, and she talked about her **podcasts** in which she has warm, humorous, and insightful conversations with people about dark times in their lives. Dr. Bowler has also recently released a new book titled **The Preacher's Wife: The Precarious Power of Evangelical Women Celebrities** – an account of contemporary women married to pastors of megachurches.

Provonsha Lecture: Dr. Nancy Berlinger

On March 6, Nancy Berlinger, PhD, Research Scholar at the Hastings Center, spoke at the 88th Annual Alumni Postgraduate Convention as the 2020 Jack W. Provonsha Lecturer. Her presentation, titled "After Harm," explored medical error, harm, truth-telling, and forgiveness from the perspective of healthcare ethics, theology, and personal narrative. The lecture reflected her previous work in medical error and forgiveness, most notably in her 2007 book, "After Harm: Medical Error and the Ethics of Forgiveness." The Provonsha lecture was followed by a responses from panel members Christopher Church, MD, Christian Johnston, JD, and Grace Oei, MD, MA. The three panelists are LLU faculty members with expertise in surgery, law, pediatrics, and clinical ethics. Click [here](#) to view this lecture.

Nancy Berlinger continues the long and prestigious tradition of Jack W. Provonsha Lecturers, which includes Joann Lynn, Robert Macauley, James Childress, Robert Orr, and Edmund Pellegrino. These lectures, including Nancy Berlinger's, can be accessed on the website of the Center for Christian Bioethics. Click [here](#) to access these lectures.



Image 1. Nancy Berlinger lecturing at Damazo Amphitheater

From left to right: Nancy Berlinger, PhD, Christopher Church, MD, Grace Oei, MD, MA, and Christian Johnston, JD, discuss ethical issues related to truth telling and forgiveness in the panel discussion following Dr. Berlinger's lecture.



Bioethics Grand Rounds

Dr. Jukes Namm (February 13, 2020)

On February 13, 2020, Dr. Jukes Namm, Loma Linda University's surgical oncologist and clinical ethicist, presented at Bioethics Grand Rounds. His lecture, *Medical Innovation or Human Experimentation? Primum Non Nocere*, explored the ethical issues that should be considered for innovative medical interventions and addressed our moral obligation to patients, contrasting differences in innovation and research. Click [here](#) to view the recording.

Dr. Scott Allen (October 3, 2019)

On October 3, 2019, Dr. Scott Allen, Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the University of California Riverside, presented at Bioethics Grand Rounds. His lecture, *Immigrant Family Detention: The Duty of the Medical Profession* highlighted his experience as a consultant for the United States government serving providing oversight role at immigrant family detention centers. Click [here](#) to view the recording.



Image 2. Dr. Namm lecturing at A-level Amphitheater

"What I want to close with, is to remind you that regardless of where you stand politically, partisan-wise...these are people. These are young vulnerable children." - Dr. Scott Allen



ASBH Conference

From October 24-27, a large group of ethical consultants, physicians, and CCB Faculty Scholars presented at the **American Society for Bioethics and Humanities' Annual Conference**.

- Adam Borecky, MD—*Reweighing the Ethical Tradeoffs in the Involuntary Hospitalization of Suicidal Patients*
- Grace Oei, MD, MA and Carissa Cianci, RN—*Attempted Suicide in Patients Who Request DNAR or Limitation of Treatment: What is the Clinician's Duty?*
- Amy Reese, PharmD, and Gina Mohr, MD—*Pharmacy and Ethics*.
- Alex (Oleksandr) Dubov, PhD—*Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Bioethics; Clinical Neuroethics; Choice Architecture in Pediatric Ethics; Decision Making: Empirical & Conceptual Approaches; Clinical Ethics & Psychiatry*
- Bates Moses, MD, MA—*Choice Architecture in Pediatric Ethics and Decision Making: Empirical & Conceptual Approaches*.
- Grace Oei, MD, MA, Whitney Braun, PhD, and David Chooljian, MD, JD—*Selective Disability: Development of a Guideline Regarding Selection of Aneuploid and Mosaic Embryos for Implantation*.

Quick Updates

New Podcast

In January, the Center of Christian Bioethics released a new podcast series entitled "A Scholarly Meeting." This podcast series will feature faculty from Loma Linda University discussing topics in ethics, religion, and philosophy. In addition, another podcast entitled "A Medical History in Color" on the history of African Americans in medicine was released. The **episodes** of the podcast are now available for listening on **Spotify** and **Apple**.

Recent Publications

Dr. Gerald Winslow, Director of the Center for Christian Bioethics and Professor of Ethical Studies at Loma Linda University Health, contributed a chapter to a multi-religious volume on NICU care titled ***Religion and Ethics in the Neonatal Care Unit*** in August 2019. Titled ***Religion and Ethics in the Neonatal Care Unit***, the book highlights what "major religious traditions teach about the care of the newborn or how these teachings may bear on parents' decisions." Dr. Winslow authored the chapter, "**Seventh-day Adventists and Care for the Newborn**" which highlights how Adventist convictions have shaped Adventist neonatal care practices.

Responding to COVID-19 The Center's leadership is collaborating with LLU Health and with ethics leaders in other health systems to respond to COVID-19. We are currently planning a webinar to address the difficult ethical issues that arise during a pandemic. Please [visit our Center's website](#) for upcoming announcements about the webinar and other Center programs.

Special thanks to Graduate Assistants Breana Chin and David Deemer for their work in the production of this edition.

The CCB currently employs six dual-degree graduate assistants currently pursuing their MA in Bioethics with the School of Religion: Breana Chin (MD/MA), David Deemer (MD/MA), Martha Duah (MD/MA), Matthew Hagele (MD/MA), Amanda Jacovani (DDS/MA), and Karl Wallenkampf (MD/MA).