



CENTER OF CHRISTIAN BIOETHICS
SUMMER EDITION, 2020

INSIDE LOOK

Gender Ethics Documentary

This year, the Center for Christian Bioethics (CCB) and its faculty scholars advanced thought in gender ethics. Whitney Braun, PhD, assistant professor of ethical studies in Loma Linda University's School of Religion and one of the Center's Faculty Scholars, served as a producer for a documentary about an individual born with both male and female genitalia as result of having the XXY genetic profile.

The documentary explores this individual's life, from growing up being treated as a male all the while also being biologically female. The film portrays a journey of transition from living as a male to living as a female. This unique account about nontraditional gender roles reveals how gender shapes family and intimate relationships and illuminates the nature of gender in regards to individual choice and God's choice. At the heart of the documentary lies the question, "Why would someone choose this?"

Dr. Braun says, "My greatest goal is that people who work in healthcare will see the documentary and go, 'Let me be more empathetic to the fact that biology and gender identity, and spiritual understandings of both, are far more complex and nuanced issues than the limited archetypes we find in textbooks,'" This documentary will be released in the near future.

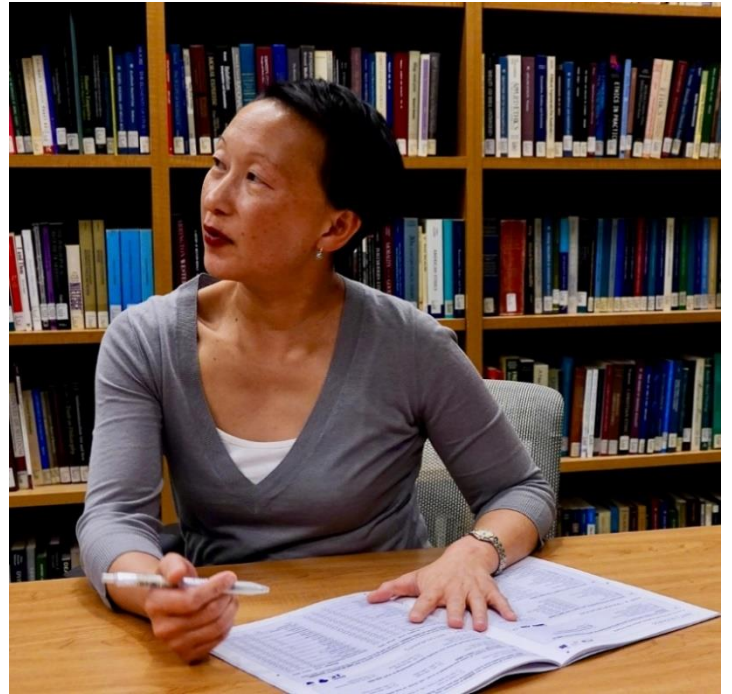
Earlier in 2019, at the request of the Adventist Health Policy Association, the CCB collaborated with the Adventist Bioethics Consortium to draft guidelines titled, "Principles for Treatment of Transgender Persons." These principles were written to encourage hospitals and health care professionals in the Adventist health systems to provide compassionate, whole-person care for transgender persons, in keeping with the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and respectful of the biblical convictions of Adventist faith.

Faculty Scholar Spotlight: Grace Oei, MD, MA, HEC-C

Dr. Grace Oei is a busy professional. In addition to working as a pediatric intensivist and certified clinical ethics consultant at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, she also is the Director of Clinical Ethics for Loma Linda University Health and the Associate Director of the Center for Christian Bioethics. Recently, Dr. Oei contributed to two documents published by the Hastings Center on ethical issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Click below to view the documents.

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS &
GUIDELINES FOR INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS SERVICES
RESPONDING TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

RESPONDING TO COVID-19 AS A REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH
CHALLENGE: PRELIMINARY GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL
COLLABORATION INVOLVING HOSPITALS



We found some time to ask Dr. Oei about her involvement in these projects.

Thank you for taking the time to answer some of our questions Dr. Oei.

Of course! I'm happy to do so.

Tell us a little bit about how you came to be involved in the Hasting Center's projects?

We were fortunate to have Nancy Berlinger from the Hastings Center present the Jack W. Provonsha lecture this year in early March. If you recall, this was around the time when hospitals in Washington and New York states discovered they were caring for patients who had tested positive for COVID-19. I had already started thinking that COVID-19 could be a big deal. During Dr. Berlinger's visit, we talked about the potential of a pandemic and how ethicists, clinicians, and administrators would likely need tools to deal with the shift from clinical ethics to public health ethics. Dr. Berlinger invited me to be part of the writing group that she had already put together.

Why are ethical frameworks necessary for healthcare institutions during a pandemic?

When a crisis occurs, events move at such a quick pace that individuals rarely have time to stop and think. For example, in my clinical work, a patient going into cardiopulmonary arrest is a crisis. Effective treatment for a patient who has arrested requires the intricate coordination of numerous of decisions by multiple people. Without a pre-practiced game plan, poor decision making can and does occur. Decision making in a pandemic is like this, multiplied by ten thousand. When consequential decisions need to be made, it is important to know that they are based on sound ethical principles. An ethical framework provides the guidance on how to make decisions and a broadly available framework enhances coordinated decision making by multiple people. It is a game plan.

Why is regional collaboration important during a pandemic?

COVID-19 has impacted all of us. The virus doesn't respect the artificial boundaries we've set up to order our society. For example, it doesn't care if you have health insurance or know which hospital is in your insurance network or what state, county, or city you live in. The only way to respond to a virus that doesn't respect our customary boundaries is to work across these divisions to provide equitable healthcare to every person who needs it. Regional collaboration means agreeing to similar standards of care and conduct so that patients at a resource limited hospital are not being subjected to triage protocols when a well-resourced hospital is only 10 miles away. This is difficult but essential to the ethical distribution of healthcare resources.

This year's Adventist Bioethics Consortium conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be held at AdventHealth University in Orlando, Florida. Please check the [EVENTS](#) page on www.bioethics.llu.edu for future announcements pertaining to the dates and registration for the conference.



Goals for the Next Five Years

The Center has recently adopted a Strategic Plan which describes its aspirations in light of three strategic priorities: scholarship, integration, and growth.

Specific initiatives are designed to achieve mission aims arising from these priorities and will enhance the Center's ability to achieve its stated mission and significantly expand our services.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE PLAN](#)

Welcome to Two New Faculty Scholars

David Chooljian, MD, JD

Board-certified in Critical Care Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Internal Medicine, Dr. Chooljian brings expertise in clinical ethics, ethics law, and end-of-life ethics to the Center's Faculty Scholars Program.



He graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a BS in Anthropology. He then went on to acquire a MD and JD from the dual-degree program at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine & Law. He completed his residency and fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic and Stanford University, respectively. He is currently assistant professor of medicine in Loma Linda University's School of Medicine and an intensivist in the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System where he serves as the chair of the Ethics Consultation Service.

Jukes Namm, MD, HEC-C

Board-certified in Surgical Oncology and General Surgery, Dr. Namm brings expertise in clinical ethics, surgical ethics, and the ethics of innovation to the Faculty Scholars Program at the Center.



He graduated from the University of Michigan with a BS in Biochemistry. He then went on to acquire a MD from the Loma Linda University School of Medicine, before completing a residency, fellowship, and post-doctoral fellowship at Loma Linda University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Michigan respectively. Dr. Namm is currently assistant professor of surgery in the School of Medicine and is a surgical oncologist. He is the director of the general surgery residency program and serves on Loma Linda University Health's Clinical Ethics Consultation Service as a certified ethicist.

Graduate Assistants Help at Patton State Hospital

Under the tutelage of Dr. William McGhee and Dr. Gerald Winslow, CCB graduate assistants Martha Duah and Matthew Hagele explored unique aspects of clinical ethics at Patton State Hospital (PSH), a forensic psychiatric hospital in San Bernardino, California. They were able to support the PSH ethics committee by providing an educational lecture to staff, compiling resources into bibliographies, and drafting policies for the ethics consultation process.

Both Martha and Matthew are applying to psychiatry residency programs this year and hope to gain a better view of the ethical challenges within mental healthcare.

Currently, the Center for Christian Bioethics is not conducting in-person events because of precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we continue to produce content related to bioethics which is uploaded to the [RESOURCES](#) page on its website. Go to www.bioethics.llu.edu.

Listen to Our Podcasts

A Medical History in Color



Created by our graduate assistant, Martha Duah, this is a series discussing the past and current stories of African Americans in medicine. Martha Duah is a medical student who just graduated with an MA in Bioethics.

The first three episodes are:

1. Root Deep
2. Medicine Enslaved
3. To Pioneer, To Advance

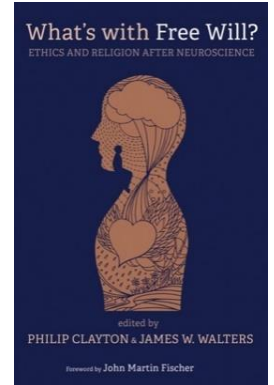
In all there will be 10 episodes in this series.

All episodes are available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#).

A Scholarly Meeting

Loma Linda University students discuss topics in ethics, religion, and philosophy with faculty and other guests.

In the most recent episode of this series Breana Chin, a medical student who just completed a MA in Bioethics, discusses free will with James Walters, PhD, one of the Center's faculty scholars. Their conversation references the book *What's with Free Will? Ethics and Religion after Neuroscience*.



Dr. Walters is co-editor of the volume which was recently published by Cascade Books. The book features chapters by specialists in medicine, psychology, ethics, theology, and philosophy, each presenting their views on profound challenges presented by today's brain science.

The episode can be viewed on [iTunes](#) and [Spotify](#) along with previous podcast episodes.

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

The Center for Christian Bioethics thanks its out-going Graduate Assistants for their work this year and wishes them the best in their future endeavors. Breana Chin, David Deemer, Martha Duah, Matthew Hagele, and Karl Wallenkampf recently graduated with a MA in Bioethics and are embarking on their final year in the study of medicine Class of 2021.

