

Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Meeting
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP
Hamilton Convention Centre June 11, 2009 8:00am - 4:00pm

**"PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN CLINICAL ETHICS:
WORKING CONDITIONS AND PROFESSIONALIZATION"**

Pre-Conference Description

Discussions about the professionalization of clinical ethics have generated increasing heat in the last two years. Recent research has described significant variance among clinical ethics practitioners in their practice and in their levels of education and training. In response to this research, calls for authoritative practice guidelines, uniform education and certification standards and a governing code of ethics have recently appeared in journal articles, popular media, health care and university settings and from within the community of clinical ethics itself.

While the issue of profession-building is back in the limelight once again, efforts to develop standards for clinical ethics practice and education have long been underway in both Canada and the US. In 1999, the Canadian Bioethics Society created a taskforce *on Working Conditions For Bioethics "to look at the issues of employment and working conditions for ethicists practicing in a non-tenured environment."* As part of that work, Chris MacDonald developed a *Draft Model Code of Ethics* (2002), and the Taskforce has since developed a *Model Role Description* (2008) and a plan for a national peer support network. A second group of clinical ethicists (*Practicing Healthcare Ethicists Exploring Professionalization*) came together in January 2009 with the goal of identifying new ways to advance the field in Canada. This pre-conference is being hosted by both Task Forces working in partnership.

Who Should Attend

The workshop theme was selected, and the agenda designed, to bring people with an interest in clinical ethics together at an important historical juncture. As a group we hope to share information and ideas, express hopes and fears, build on experience and expertise, and celebrate the contributions Canadians have made over the years to profession-building in the field.

Pre-Conference Objectives

The purpose of this pre-conference is to consider the past, present and future of clinical ethics as an emerging profession. Over the course of the day, we will look at the field's evolution and will seek to develop a vision for continuing the advancement of clinical ethics over the longer term. The pre-conference will call upon the active engagement of participants in building this vision. The objectives of the pre-conference are to:

1. promote and support continued profession-building in the field of clinical ethics;
2. showcase the important and innovative work that has been done by the *CBS Task Force on Working Conditions* in support of this goal over the last decade;
3. provide an update about recent developments in Canada and the US, including the formation of the *Practicing Healthcare Ethicists Exploring Professionalization* Task Force;
4. create a forum for community discussion and deliberation about where people would like to see the field go next.

Pre-Conference Organizers

Canadian Bioethics Society Task Force on Working Conditions for Bioethicists

Practicing Healthcare Ethicists Exploring Professionalization Task Force

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- 8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast**
Hamilton Convention Centre Room 314
- 8:45 Welcome and Introductions**
Michael Coughlin and Cheryl Cline
- 9:00 History of CBS Taskforce on Working Conditions**
Michael Coughlin
- 9:15 Canadian Bioethicists' Experience of Conflicts of Interest: A Qualitative Study**
Andrea Frolic and Paula Chidwick
- 10:00 Refreshment Break - Room 314**
- 10:15 Overview and Development of a Model Job/Role Description for Bioethicists**
Jennifer Bell and Paula Chidwick
- 11:15 Peer Support Network Proposal**
Laurie Hardingham and George Webster
- 12:00 Lunch - Room 314**
- 1:00 New Developments in Clinical Ethics Profession-Building**
Cheryl Cline and Andrea Frolic
- 1:30 Breakout Groups—Setting Priorities: Standards for Clinical Ethics Education**
Facilitators: *Ethicists Exploring Professionalization Task Force* Members
- 2:30 Break**
- 2:45 Breakout Groups—Setting Priorities: Standards for Clinical Ethics Practice**
Facilitators: *Ethicists Exploring Professionalization Task Force* Members
- 3:45 Summary of the Day and Plans for the Future**

NOTE: Registration is through the CBS Annual Meeting Registration Form
<http://www.bioethics.ca/>