



Joint Centre for Bioethics  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## BIOETHICS SEMINAR

January 13, 2016, 4:10-5:30 pm

155 College St., Room 106 (main floor, to the right of the elevators)

This event will be webcast:

<https://jcb.adobeconnect.com/bioethicsseminars/>

# *Using the Informed Consent Framework to Create Guidelines for the Ethical Presentation of Scientific Research*

Andrew Schroeder, PhD

Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Claremont McKenna College

**Abstract:** Ethical guidelines for the presentation of scientific findings are largely silent when it comes to choosing between alternative ways to present the same data, so long as each alternative is honest, clear, and not grossly misleading. So, for example, there often aren't any norms that dictate whether researchers should highlight relative risk or absolute risk in a press release, whether they should represent uncertainty numerically or graphically, etc. I argue that these choices are morally significant, and so should be subject to ethical guidelines. I think that the informed consent framework familiar from the bioethical literature can help us to find appropriate ethical guidance. In the talk, I'll say a little about why, and I'll describe some of the problems such a view would face.

155 College Street, Ste. 754, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P8 Canada Tel.: [416] 978-2709 Fax: [416] 978-1911 [jcb.utoronto.ca](http://jcb.utoronto.ca)

A partnership among the University of Toronto; Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab; The Hospital for Sick Children; Humber River Hospital; Mount Sinai Hospital; Toronto Community Care Access Centre; Trillium Health Partners; and University Health Network (Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, and Toronto Western Hospital).