



Joint Centre for Bioethics
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BIOETHICS SEMINAR

September 28, 2016, 4:10-5:30 pm

155 College St., Room 108 (main floor, to the right of the elevators)

This event will be webcast:

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

Clinical Ethics at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne: How We Do It, Who We Do It With, Who We Do It For

Jill Sewell, MD, FRACP, D Med Sci (hon)
Associate Professor, Clinical Director, Children's Bioethics Centre,
Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne

Abstract: The RCH clinical ethics service was established in 2005, becoming the Children's Bioethics Centre (CBC) in 2008 with additional responsibilities in education and research. Ethical case consultation is initiated by referring clinicians, and deliberated in a collaborative partnership between the treating team and the Clinical Ethics Response Group (CERG). The CERG consists of about 40 individuals, including CBC philosophy ethicists, and others representing all clinical professional groups, pastoral care and legal services. The aim is to facilitate ethical decision making by clinicians through structured exploration of options and their ethical implications, with nonbinding advice to the referring clinician. The typology of referrals will be described. The CBC has recently published a book describing the 'Zone of Parental Discretion', used in ethical considerations when clinicians and parents disagree about medical treatment.

The CBC is active in staff and departmental education, with the aim of improving ethical literacy across RCH. The clinical ethics research program explores practical issues with early translation into clinical practice.

The CBC is also engaged in organizational ethical issues such as resource utilization, and advises government, most recently regarding proposed legislation for binding advance care directives, including young people under the age of 18 years.

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