



Joint Centre for Bioethics
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

BIOETHICS SEMINAR

February 8, 2017, 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/>

Capacity Assessment: Searching for the Holy Grail

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Abstract: Capacity for medical decision making is the clinical condition required to allow any patient respect for his freedom of choice regarding medical treatment. It is so fundamentally relevant that by default we should consider everyone capable to decide, but when do we start doubting that a patient is capable? Why is this assessment a medical process? How sure are we regarding the procedure of the assessment? How can we improve this assessment? Should we be changing the way we apply this assessment under conditions like medical assistance in dying (MAiD)?

This seminar aims to review this controversial topic considering the appropriateness of actual practice at the medical scenario. We will comment on the role of uncertainty in medical practice and how it impacts in capacity assessment. Finally, we will suggest different actions that may improve the quality of our assessment to better reflect patient's wishes.

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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).