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The CENTERLINE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE PARK RIDGE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HEALTH, FAITH, AND ETHICS

From the President

Retrieving the riches of traditions



Laurence J. O'Connell,
President and CEO,
The Park Ridge Center

Tradition has always fascinated me. Rooted in the Latin word *tradere*, to hand over, it evokes rich images of personal, institutional, and social development and continuity. It helps us locate the past and understand how it flows into the present and ultimately moves toward the future. In the here and now we take the past, infuse it with the substance and energy of our own time and place, and eventually hand it over to the next generation. My grandfather brought music and poetry from Ireland, interpreted them with an ear to the American idiom, and left me with a unique mix. My son in turn will weave this Irish-American lineage into the fabric of his mother's German heritage. So it goes with tradition: mix and match, blend and shake, shatter and glue. Enduring traditions are lively; they read the signs of the times, adjust, and anticipate future movement. They strive for relevance today because they know something about the past that should be handed over.

A sense of tradition gave birth to the Park Ridge Center. Reading the signs of the times, the founders recognized the urgent need to reconnect

health care ethics with its traditional moorings in religion, spirituality, and a fuller sense of community. The Center initially set out to explore the impact of these ranges of human experience in the clinical setting. Today, the Center still devotes considerable time and energy to clinical concerns, but like health care itself, the Center now goes well beyond the clinic in pursuing its mission. As the Center has extended its reach, we have been heartened by the welcome we have received on all fronts. We have found that much in the evolving health care environment is in line with our distinctive emphasis on the interaction of health, faith, and ethics in the lives of individuals and communities.

I would like to think that the increasing recognition of our mission's centrality is somehow directly attributable to our early work. Yet our initial efforts were more a symptom than a cause. Traditions have a way of reasserting themselves. They may go underground for a while, but they often reemerge to "hand over" insights and practical wisdom when the conditions are right. The creation of the Park Ridge Center served as a sort of seismic signal that powerful undercurrents were about to erupt with new, invigorating force and relevance.

Traditional approaches to health and medicine are beginning to emerge from the technological, individualistic, and materialistic eclipse that overshadowed them. A fuller vision of health and healing is beginning to surface as people have begun retrieving

the riches of spiritual and religious traditions. The healthy communities movement, the immense interest in spirituality and health, the shift towards preventive care, and the rapid expansion of complementary medicine all give witness to reemerging traditions. Coupled with the laudatory and legitimate uses of contemporary biomedical technology, these traditional approaches offer great promise for a more fully human understanding of health and healing.

Many emerging models of health and healing lie astride the intersection of health, faith, and ethics. The Park Ridge Center will maintain its position at this critical crossroads, providing support and leadership for those traditions of health and healing that acknowledge and draw upon the spiritual energies and religious consciousness of individuals and communities seeking wholeness.

Traditions will go forward.

In this issue:

- New handbooks on religious traditions and health care now available
- *Organ Transplantation: Meanings and Realities* just published

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CLINICAL HEALTHCARE ETHICS SUPPORT SERVICES

Clinical ethics conference

What does it mean to be faith-based and culturally sensitive? And how does this concern relate to the ethical questions that cultural diversity raises, especially for health care organizations and professionals committed to respectful and ethical care of patients? This was the focus of the April '96 conference "Bridging Cultural Differences: Challenges to Faith-based Health Care," sponsored by Advocate Health Care and co-organized by members of the Center's Clinical Healthcare Ethics Support Services (CHESS) staff. The program tapped the expertise of seasoned professionals from around the country to discuss the significance of trust and identity when people of multiple cultures meet in the context of faith-based care.

Center staff and physicians follow up on SUPPORT study

The Park Ridge Center is convening a group of physicians from Advocate Health Care to assess the results of the SUPPORT study (Study to Understand Prognoses and Preferences for Outcomes and Risks for Treatment, reported in the November 22-29, 1995, *Journal of the American Medical Association*). The study, which has received widespread attention in medical and bioethical literature as well as in the popular press, found that patients often experience ethically deficient care at the end of life in large acute-care teaching hospitals. The researchers also found that informing physicians in a timely fashion about patients' advance directives and wishes about CPR did not improve the quality or outcome of end-of-life care in these hospitals, nor did it change physician behaviors. The study con-



Center hosts second annual Naples symposium

In February, the Park Ridge Center hosted its second annual Naples, Florida, symposium, "It's Your Health: Who Cares?" The program featured T. Patrick Hill, research scholar at the Park Ridge Center; Greg A. Sachs, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago; and George B. Caldwell, chairman of the Collier Company and chairman, National Healthcare Advisory Board of Arthur Andersen. The general themes of the program were the patient-physician relationship, challenges to successful aging, and the importance of planning and advocacy in older age. Hill conducted an advance medical directives workshop; Caldwell offered perspectives on the future of health care. Warren R. Rothwell, former chairman of General Binding Corporation, chaired the host committee.

sidered issues such as ICU admissions, do-not-resuscitate orders, and prescribing medications sufficient to manage pain during the last three days of patients' lives.

Physicians and Center staff members will review and assess the results of the SUPPORT study from the perspective of medical practitioners; determine the correlation between those results and the experience and management of end-of-life care at Advocate sites of care; and make suggestions for improving the ethical culture of end-of-life care for Advocate patients and their families, physicians, and hospital staff.

New ethics newsletter

This spring the CHESS staff began publishing a clinical ethics newsletter, to provide a forum in which health care professionals at Advocate Health Care can discuss ethical problems in patient care. This bimonthly publication, *Common Ground: An Advocate Forum for Clinical Ethics Issues Facing Health Care*, helps readers keep abreast of challenging ethics issues. It features ethics case stories, clinical case discussions, profiles of people and care teams as they develop educational and supportive responses to ethical concerns, and various articles designed to further conversation about health care ethics.

RESEARCH

Funding received to study spiritual traditions in long-term care of elderly

The two-year project "Retrieving Spiritual Traditions in Long-term Care for the Elderly" will study the devotional, pastoral, and liturgical practices of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism as they relate to the care of the elderly. It will also conduct a survey of three faith-based extended-care facilities to determine to what extent the facilities are sensitive to the religious and spiritual needs of their residents. Using the data from the survey as well as the study of the religious traditions, the project staff will design two educational models for use with health care professionals and lay ministers as they work with elderly who live in extended-care settings. The project was funded by the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the Mather Foundation, the Open Society Institute, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Pritzker.

Two scholars join research staff

As one of two scholars in residence in the 1995-96 "Ethics, Values, and the Meaning of Aging" (EVMA) project, Dr. John Shea is developing a program for the spiritual formation of the elderly. As part of this project funded by the Retirement Research Foundation and an anonymous contributor, Dr. Shea will research and evaluate current writings and thought on spirituality and aging in light of the classic traditions of spirituality and their distinctive emphases and procedures. Complementing this work, Dr. Shea will design and pilot a spiritual formation program for the elderly to be used by churches and other agencies.

Dr. Madelyn Iris, also a scholar in the "Ethics, Values, and the Meaning of Aging" project, is studying creative expression by nonprofessional older women artists. Her study focuses upon the ways in which the creative enterprise, as an imperative for late

life development, expresses and consolidates individual values while it integrates the life experience within a coherent meaning system. The study, based on the life histories of six women, will examine the role of creativity in their lives and the ways in which creative expression helps them define the aging experience, brings meaning to their individual life histories, and fosters personal spiritual development.

Center pursues project on religion and civil discourse

Can religions play a constructive role in public policy deliberations about such highly charged topics as global population stabilization, reproductive health, family planning, and the freedom and empowerment of women? On what terms should religious participants enter the public arena? On what terms should the public receive the religiously motivated onto the public square? What are the expectations? Through a grant from the Pew Global Stewardship Initiative, the Center is undertaking a multiyear project with a twofold purpose: (1) to help those engaged in public policy, especially in the area of global population stabilization and related issues, better understand what leads different religious participants to such divergent patterns of behavior and discourse in public deliberations; and (2) to provide the means for representatives of religious traditions to formulate a set of guidelines on civil discourse to which faith traditions would hold themselves accountable.

New handbooks published on religious traditions and health care

The Park Ridge Center has begun publishing a series of booklets for health care professionals. The booklets each examine a particular religious tradition and are designed to assist health care workers in understanding and addressing the needs of their patients as those needs relate to patients' religious beliefs. The information given in each of the handbooks includes (1) a brief history of the tradition; (2) the fundamental beliefs of the tradition as they relate to health care; (3) the tradition's positions on selected medical procedures and issues; and (4) a short discussion of religious observances and practices that may relate to the care of the sick. The booklets that are now available—on the Latter-day Saints, Methodist, Jehovah's Witness, Christian Science, and Jewish traditions—have been popular and well received. Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Seventh-day Adventist editions will be available this summer. The booklets are available for \$4.95 each; please contact the Center to place your order.



Center hosts evening conversation

The Center recently hosted an evening conversation entitled "Retrieving and Reweaving Faith into Health Care." The Reverend Robert G. Kemper, Dr. William J. Arnold, and Professor Martin E. Marty shared their perspectives from the congregation, the clinic, and the academy on the meaning of faith-based health care.

If you have a comment or suggestion or if your address has changed, we'd like to hear from you. Please write or call James E. Mueller, Editor, *The CenterLine*, c/o The Park Ridge Center, 211 East Ontario, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Our phone number is 312-266-2222; our fax number is 312/266-6086.



The CenterLine

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We apologize if you receive duplicate copies of *The CenterLine*. Please pass your extra copy on to a friend.

Senior vice president leaves

During his tenure as senior vice president, Jack Taylor transformed and streamlined many of the internal processes and procedures at the Park Ridge Center. Few people realize that in addition to his doctorate in ministry, he is also an electrical engineer and skilled business manager. One of the many ways in which he employed his expertise was through the creation of efficient and completely computerized accounting, communication, and subscription management systems. Jack's ability to anticipate need and attend to detail were appreciated especially when we moved our offices in 1993, a surprisingly smooth transition. Though he leaves us and Chicago for the Southwest, his legacy of improved operations, good humor, remarkably practical wisdom, and utter dedication to the Center's mission and his colleagues will remain. He has promised to stay in touch, so it's adios rather than good-bye.

Financial and gift planning

The future promises to be exciting and challenging for all. Whether you are single, married, raising a family, or planning for retirement, your future and the future of those you care about are reflected in the plans you make today. To help you consider your personal goals, the Center offers a booklet entitled *Reflecting on Tomorrow*, which outlines nine different ideas to help you enhance your future financial well being while providing for a meaningful charitable gift. For a free copy, call or write the Development and Public Affairs staff. This information is provided without obligation.

PUBLICATIONS

Readers respond to *Making the Rounds*

The perfect antidote to "journal overload," *Making the Rounds* is designed for people "in the trenches" who want in-depth discussion of important issues in health, faith, and ethics but don't have time to read one more journal. Issued every 14 days, it is a reliable source for clear, concise commentary on religious and ethical issues in medical science; spirituality and health; sexuality; aging; and ethical decisions related to both the beginning and the end of life. Following is a sampling of responses from our readers:

"... The editor and the staff are to be highly commended for such a great resource. Be assured that I will be sharing it with the two hospital ethics committees I chair."

—George D. Hanzel, M.D., Johnstown, Pennsylvania

"... *Making the Rounds* is a publication that our ethics committee members can easily bring to the table. It keeps us informed on current issues, provides background information, and brings expertise to us on a variety of topics. In short, it makes an excellent contribution to our work in case consultation and policy development."

—Claire Call, R.N., B.S.N., M.S., Chair, Medical Moral Committee,
St. John's Hospital, Springfield, Illinois

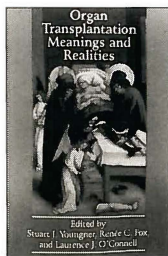
"... 'Attending to Transitions' (vol. 1, no. 4) is an outstanding exposition of strong, often seemingly contradictory, powerful forces with which a developing physician must deal. ... I help teach in the Medicine in Contemporary Society course at Stony Brook and will share the article with the students in our section. We are now examining what it means to be a medical student on the way to being a doctor, so the article was very timely. ... The format, size, and timing of *Making the Rounds* are very welcome."

—J. Richard Durnan, D.D.S., Project Manager for HIV/AIDS and Ethics Education,
Department of Veteran Affairs, Northport, New York

"... I am the director of education for Hospice Incorporated, which has a daily patient census of around 200. Since we also provide extensive support to the families of these patients, you can well imagine that we run into sticky situations on a daily basis. Your publication will be a valuable resource for me to continue to provide guidance in resolving these ethical dilemmas."

—Thomas A. Welk, Director of Education, Hospice Incorporated, Wichita, Kansas

To subscribe at the introductory rate of \$29.95 per year (22 issues; subscription rates outside the U.S. are higher), call or write the Park Ridge Center.



***Organ Transplantation* published**

In March, the newest book sponsored by the Park Ridge Center was published by the University of Wisconsin Press. *Organ Transplantation: Meanings and Realities*, edited by physician Stuart J. Youngner, medical sociologist Renée C. Fox, and Center president Laurence J. O'Connell, is the result of extended discussions among a group of scholars convened by the Park Ridge Center. The participant-authors represent many religious and cultural traditions and many fields of expertise: philosophy, art, religion, folklore, psychiatry, anthropology, literature, history, social psychology, and surgery. Contributors to the volume are Leonard Barkan, Wendy Doniger, Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff, Leslie A. Fiedler, Renée C. Fox, Dr. Barry D. Kahan, Margaret Lock, Thomas H. Murray, Laurence J. O'Connell, Ruth Richardson, and Dr. Stuart J. Youngner.

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her husband Reverend Charles
Richter
In memory of Joanna Cook, by Mr.
Nils Axelson

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