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HEALTH CARE ETHICS AN ANATHEMA TO HOLIDAY CHEER?

As we prepare for the holiday cheer soon to permeate most sectors of society worldwide, readers are reminded to remember Dachau, described by Gunn and Gunn as the unforgettable. Authors caution that it is only in remembering the past that we protect the future. Dr. Yi-Sheng Chao's article, "Unfair Contribution and Consumption in Medicare," challenges the current Medicare tax collection, in favor of what the author proposes as a more equitable Medicare enrollment based on population characteristics related to longevity, etc.

This proposal is sure to evoke a lively discussion on the Journal's Facebook site. Come on and weigh in on the discussion. Boy loves girl... boy hits girl... boy and girl are supposed to work it out, right? Chapin, Coleman, and Varner, in their article, "Domestic Violence: Not my Job, Not my Problem," posit that medical professionals view domestic violence as a law enforcement issue, while police view it as a health issue. Hence, the victim is often left to suffer in silence and referred to multiple systems with opposing beliefs and attitudes about their respective roles. Further, each agency remains obdurate that the 'passing' of this responsibility is appropriate. Perhaps like none other, the 'secret sin' of family abuse leaves countless individuals disabled for life. Learn appropriate responses to this plague of society. Less talk and more action is the essence of Parker and McMillan's interactive approach for ethical decision making in their article.

They posit that nurses and health care providers need a practical, relevant approach or tool which can be universally applied to various practice areas and patient care situations. Read it and determine if the SBAR model can apply to your next ethical situation. Regarding your own body, are organ donors autonomous within collective networks? Michele Battle-Fisher purports that we do care about what our 'network' thinks about our personally held norms of living donation and the sanctity of the body. As such, Battle-Fisher presents that understanding the norms of living organ donation requires an examination of the personal social 'network' surrounding the potential donor. The cliché, you can't take your organs with you, appears inadequate to elicit an organ donation gift.

Once more, we are challenged to move into the realm of authentic relationships that exude health care. Applying a different twist on caring, Dr. Kaye Wilson-Anderson's article "Informed Consent: Elective Abortion" explores the most current scientific reports of risks and benefits of elective abortions. Presented is essential information that the author argues must be included in an informed consent document for those choosing to have an elective abortion. Health care providers are admonished to care that women are fully informed of the risks and benefits of elective abortions. Dr. Khan's study, "A Study on Legal and Ethical Issues Surrounding Health Care Practitioner Pro Bono Services," explores the legal and ethical implications of pro bono

health care services in the United States and abroad. Khan concludes that pro bono health services are one method of addressing the health care accessibility and socioeconomic factors surrounding health disparities in the health care system. Can we afford to give health care services? Perhaps Clare Stride from Australia can help us grapple with the distribution of health care services. Stride's article, "Preventing Preventive Health," emphatically states that, "greater responsibility for one's individual health and consumption are essential and should be supported and encouraged by national governance that in turn has a responsibility to provide the environment in which healthy sustainable lifestyles are achievable and affordable." There you have it; health care is a joint venture with shared responsibilities between the individual, the healthcare agency, and the governing authorities.

Is Health Care Ethics an anathema to holiday cheer? We say not. In fact, the commitments to embrace, endorse, inform, and reward ethical health care practices represents a hearty resolution for the New Year. Hence, we, the editorial and reviewer staff of the Online Journal of Health Ethics wish for you a very merry holiday period that is replete with peace, health, and joy in abundance.

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