Improving Value in the U.S. Health Care System

The theme for the 2018-2019 lecture series, co-sponsored by the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics and the Center for Health and the Social Sciences (directed by Dr. Mark Siegler and Dr. David Meltzer, respectively), is Improving Value in the U.S. Health Care System.

Patients, providers, and policymakers are all participants in health care decisions that involve tradeoffs of both costs and outcomes. Such tradeoffs frequently raise ethical dilemmas. Occasionally, the consequences of medical decisions are solely borne by patients. Far more often, policymakers and even providers are forced to make decisions in which the best interest of patients and other stakeholders are in conflict. Thoughtful approaches to decision-making in the health care delivery system are essential to defining and ultimately improving the quality, outcomes, and value of health care. This lecture series will examine these questions in the context of the current political climate and the uncertain future of the American health care system.

37 Years of MacLean Center Lecture Series

In 1981, under the auspices of the MacLean Center, Mark Siegler and Richard Epstein organized a yearlong interdisciplinary lecture series on Medical Innovation and Bad Outcomes: Legal, Social and Ethical Responses. The success of that initial lecture program demonstrated that there was great interest at the University of Chicago in creating a sustainable interdisciplinary forum to discuss health-related subjects with colleagues from across campus. Each year since 1981, the MacLean Center has organized an annual lecture series to examine the ethical aspects of one key health-related issue. Recent annual lecture series topics have included: Reproductive Ethics, Organ Transplantation, Pediatric Ethics, Global Health, Health Care Disparities, Medical Professionalism, Confidentiality, Pharmaceutical Innovation and Regulation, End of Life Care, Neuroethics, Reproductive Health, and most recently Ethical Issues in Trauma, Violence and Trauma Surgery. In 2018-2019, our topic is Improving Value in the U.S. Health Care System.

Accreditation and Credit

The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ per lecture. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

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CME credit will be offered to University of Chicago affiliates only.

This lecture series was organized at the University of Chicago by:

Mark Siegler, MD, MACP
Lindy Bergman Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine
Director, The MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics
Executive Director, Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence

David Meltzer, MD, PhD
Fanny L. Pritzker Professor of Medicine
Chief, Section of Hospital Medicine
Director, Center for Health and the Social Sciences (CHeSS)

For special assistance: contact Kimberly Conner at (773) 702-1453.
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