Congratulations to Our Staff for the Following Achievements:

Richard Sharp, PhD, has been appointed to the Committee on Societal, Ethical and Legal Issues of the American College of Physicians. Sharp is an associate professor in the Department of Bioethics at the Cleveland Clinic and has published on various topics in health policy, mental health policy and bioethics.

Noreen H. Kelly, PhD, has received the 19th Annual Wilhelm S. Albrink Memorial Lecture at Western Reserve University. This enabled her to attend the Harvard Kenneth B. Clark Young Scholar Program (2001-2011). She also held competitive fellowships and received research funding from the National Cancer Institute through the Edmund J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard. Before her training at Harvard, she earned a master’s degree in bioethics from Union College/Albany Medical College and a master’s degree in social work from 1999 to 2006. Dr. Kelly received her bachelor’s degree in philosophy. Her interests include international clinical trials ethics, the ethical implications of twists on this year’s program, including keynote speaker Dr. Carol Gilligan, PhD. Dr. Gilligan is a moral development theorist, psychologist and professor. "Having Dr. Gilligan speak was a little out-of-the-box for us," Dr. Sharp says. "We wanted to have someone who could provide perspective, someone who was not in our field but who could see our strengths and also where we could do better.”

Dr. Gilligan challenged participants to look at the sources of their personal beliefs, how men and women develop moral beliefs, and how these beliefs are embedded into the culture. Exploring these things "encourages us to be more self-reflective about some of the preconceived assumptions that inform our work," according to Dr. Sharp.

Research Day 2011 is a first-ever poster session to accommodate the larger number of studies being done in Cleveland Clinic’s Bioethics Department. Fourteen bioethics research-related posters were displayed. Authors of the posters included researchers from members from the Department of Bioethics at Cleveland Clinic along with collaborators from Cleveland Clinic, Case Western Reserve University, CHRIU, and University Hospitals, and students from the OHIOU/Cleveland Clinic Summer Research Program.

This year was the first that the Research Day was affiliated with Cleveland Clinic’s Center for Ethics, Humanities and the Arts (CEHSC), a collaborative center for bioethics, spiritual care, medical humanities and neuroethics. The affiliates with OHIOU brought new focus to the event, particularly from the clinical departments.

“Those, intellectually, are still a really big year this because of OHIOU, and our dynamic speaker and the poster session,” Dr. Sharp says. “It looks toward to a fourth annual event next year. Each Bioethics Research Day seems to have a different flavor.”

Research Day | Ethics and the Maternal-Fetal Dilem | Staff Announcements and Former Fellows | Cleveland Clinic | Fall 2011

Bioethics Reflections | Fall 2011

Congratulations to Our Fellowship Class of 2009–2011:

Valerie Bier, JD, MA, has joined the American Medical Association in Chicago as a Senior Research Associate in Ethics Standards. Laura Bzostek, PhD, MPH, is working as a Health Sciences Specialist/Program Director in the Host Susceptibility Factors branch of the Division of Intramural Research, Research Program, Center of Global Health and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD. Charlotte Cogliano, JD, is a Hebrew in the Center for Genetics, Research Ethics & Law at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. There she will focus on research ethics and genomic genetics research. She continues her reflexive legal research while also engaging in national research projects, legal writing and policy formulation.

Dr. Rose received her doctorate in health policy and ethics from Harvard University in 2003. While studying at Har- vard, she worked as a project officer at the Institute for International Law and Human Rights in Padua, Italy. She also presented as part of the 2009-2010 Medical Education Fellowship program and was involved in educational research.

Dr. Rose also has been reappointed to the Committee on Ethics, Medical Genetics.

Dr. Farrell also has been reappointed to the Committee on Pediatric Ethics and the Maternal-Fetal Dyad.
Dr. Gatliff also lectured on medical ethics, including a session on faith and medical ethics. He has continued to develop interests in ethical concerns during the past three decades related to medical ethics, the military, and national security. He is currently a professor of ethics at the United States Military Academy and a professor of moral and military ethics at the Academy of Security Assistance and Strategic Studies. He also serves on the Military Ethics Advisory Panel of the U.S. Defense Health Agency, which advises the Department of Defense on military ethics and human rights issues. Dr. Gatliff is a member of the Military Ethics Association, an organization made up of military ethicists who share a commitment to promoting ethical behavior in the military.
The ethical challenges that arise in the field of obstetrics are unique because this field is so different from other areas of medical practice. Obstetrics is different in that it exists in the realm of both medical and legal decisions. Medical professionals are responsible for two patients at the same time: the pregnant woman and the developing fetus. In many instances, there is agreement between what a physician or ethicist recommends for a pregnant woman and what is best for the developing fetus. However, sometimes there is no or scant evidence-based data to demonstrate positive outcomes of a treatment on the fetus. When the well-being of both mother and baby are directly connected, decision-making can be very difficult in such situations.

One example is the EXIT (Ex-utero Intrapartum Treatment) procedure, which is performed in a number of serious obstetrical emergencies to maintain uteroplacental gas exchange. The procedure allows the newborn to be born alive and then undergo full resuscitation. When the well-being of the mother and fetus are at risk in the same gestational time period, the procedure is necessary to prevent the mother’s death or serious complications.

When a patient’s choices appear to be at odds with the clinical course or recommendations, the provider may encounter the need to make difficult decisions and get the patient to agree on the plan. “Timing is everything in pregnancy. Each time a patient is involved in a decision, you must learn something about the patient to make an effective decision,” says Dr. Farrell. In many instances, there is no decision that is right or wrong, but the decision must be tailored to fit the patient’s needs and values. In some instances, there is the risk that information could be framed in a way that places undue burden on the pregnant women to go ahead with the procedure, the EXIT Procedure has a direct impact on a woman’s reproductive rights, she says. “You’ve got to spend time talking with the patient, especially when explaining complicated details about the procedure to the patient and detailed information and allow for her choice.”

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The ethical challenges that arise in the field of obstetrics are unique because this field is so different from other areas of medicine. Obstetrician-gynecologists are not only medical professionals; they are also part of the maternal-fetal dyad. This dyad brings together the interests of the mother and the fetus, and the guiding principle in obstetrics is to do no harm to either the mother or fetus. Medical professionals are responsible for two patients at the same time, the woman and the fetus. They have to make decisions that affect both patients simultaneously, and the decision-making process often involves complex ethical considerations.

In many instances, there is a discussion between the physician and the pregnant woman about whether to continue the pregnancy. For example, if there is a developmental abnormality in the fetus, the decision may involve weighing the potential benefits and risks to the mother and fetus. In other cases, the decision may involve choosing whether to continue the pregnancy when there is a high risk of complications for the mother or fetus. In all of these situations, medical professionals have to balance the interests of the mother and fetus and make decisions that are in the best interest of each patient.

When a patient’s choices appear to not be in agreement with the civic circle’s plan or recommendation, the provider may discourage the patient from making decisions that may not be in her best interest. In such cases, the provider may advise the patient to seek a second opinion. This is because the provider wants to protect the patient from making a decision that may be harmful to her or her baby. However, if the patient chooses to make a decision that is not in her best interest, the provider may still be responsible for providing her with the information she needs to make an informed decision.

In summary, the ethical challenges in obstetrics are significant, and medical professionals need to be prepared to handle these challenges effectively. The Cleveland Clinic Bioethics Department and the Cleveland Clinic OB/Gyn & Women’s Health Institute are dedicated to providing education and resources to medical professionals to help them navigate these ethical challenges.

Ethics and the Maternal-Fetal Dyad: Unique Challenges for Patient and Provider

Dear Colleague,

We hope you enjoyed reading the Fall 2011 issue of Bioethics Reflections. As you will discover from our cover story, Jason Gatliff has been nominated for the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine Ethics Award. That honor is in recognition of the third annual, three-year program. It is a testament to Jason’s long-term commitment to medical ethics.

Jason Gatliff, MD, of the Cleveland Clinic OB/Gyn & Women’s Health Institute, is a former fellow in the Cleveland Clinic Bioethics Department and a member of the Cleveland Clinic OB/Gyn & Women’s Health Institute. In his role as a staff member in the Department of Bioethics and the OB/Gyn & Women’s Health Institute, Jason Gatliff is responsible for providing ethical guidance on cases that arise in the field of obstetrics.

In our feature highlighting the work of former fellows, we talk with Jason Gatliff, MD, about his experience as a staff member in the Cleveland Clinic Bioethics Department and his contributions to the field of obstetrics.

Jason Gatliff was born in the United States in 1976 and earned his MD from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 1999. He then completed his residency in internal medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 2002. He went on to complete a fellowship in medical ethics at the Cleveland Clinic in 2008.

Jason Gatliff was a fellow in medical ethics at the Cleveland Clinic Bioethics Department from 2008 to 2010. During his fellowship, he worked closely with Dr. Ruth Farrell, MD, Head of Maternal-Fetal Medicine in Cleveland Clinic’s OB/Gyn & Women’s Health Institute.

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Award, Women Faculty of the School of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. This recognition is awarded to the Mary Kent Kennedy Women’s Power” leadership conference in memory of Mary Kent Kennedy. Dr. Farrell has been recognized for her contributions to the field of medical ethics and has received several awards for her work.

Dr. Kowalski, MD, MBA, received the Junior Career Development Award, Case Western Reserve University 2003-2007, for a project entitled “Iterative Mentored Reflection: Progressing Case Study.” Her project was carried out in the context of the 2007-2008 International Fellowship program and focused on neurosurgical residents.

Dr. PaulFord, PhD, was selected for a fellowship in Training Award, Case Western Reserve University 2007-2011, for a project entitled “Behavioral Sciences and Neurosurgery Training.” His project was carried out at Harvard Medical School. Before her training at Harvard, she served as an associate professor in neurosurgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Rose earned her PhD in the area of social work from the University of Chicago and currently serves as a member of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Bioethics.

Welcome Susannah Rose, PhD, from Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA, has been appointed to the Committee on Ethics for Residents Fellowship for the 2011-2013 Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics. Dr. Rose is currently investigating financial disclosures, conflict of interest, and terminal diseases. She is currently working on a project testing different conflicts of interest disclosure mechanisms.

Congratulations to our Fellowship Class of 2009-2011:

Welcome, Beth Bowers, JD, is a fellow from the American Medical Association in Chicago, a fellow from the bioethics research program at Case Western Reserve University, and a fellow from the University of Chicago. She is also a member of the Program in Cancer Research Outcomes University of Chicago/Medical Center, sponsored by the National Institute of Health and the National Cancer Institute in Chicago as a Senior Research Associate in Ethics Standards.

Welcome, Jalayne Arias, JD, is a fellow from the Public Health Law and Policy Program (College of Law, Arizona State University), where she also has served as Deputy Director of the Public Health Law Network, Western Region. Her current interests include cancer research, trial law, and policy, mental health policy and bioethics. She is currently investigating financial disclosures, conflict of interest, and terminal diseases. She is currently working on a project testing different conflicts of interest disclosure mechanisms.

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Bioethics Reflections
Now Available By Email

The third annual Bioethics Research Day, held in May, attracted an even larger crowd than in previous years. Richard Sharp, PhD, Director of Bioethics Research, attributes that to a couple of twists on this year’s program, including keynote speaker Carol Gilligan, PhD. Dr. Gilligan is a moral development theorist, psychologist and professor.

“Having Dr. Gilligan speak was a little out-of-the-box for us,” Dr. Sharp says. “We wanted to have someone who could provide perspective, someone who was not in our field who could see us through our eyes.”

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Richard M. Farrell, MD, MA, received the Junior Investigator Development Award; Women Faculty of the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. This is in recognition of his Medical Kenneth Society “Women and Power” leadership conference in May.

Dr. Farrell also has been reappointed to the Committee on Ethics of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

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Societal, Ethical and Legal Issues of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

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Dr. Ford has published on various topics in health policy, mental health policy and bioethics. She is currently investigating financial conflict of interest disclosure mechanisms. Dr. Rose earned a master’s degree in social work from 1999 to 2006. Dr. Rose received her doctorate in philosophy. Her interests include health law, from the Sanford D. Dreyer Center for Law at the University of Arizona College of Law. She also was served as Deputy Director of the Public Health Law Network, Western Region. Her current interests include the impact low and middle-income countries have on clinical research; informed consent processes as they impact clinical research on under-

Research Ethics & Law at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. There she will focus on research ethics and genetics/ genomics research. She continues her ethics and legal research and policy formulation.

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Welcome New Fellows

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