

Keynote and Conference Description

Health care treatment and related decisions for patients who are approaching the end of life pose many complex challenges for patients, their families and health care providers. Some of the most challenging issues concern ethnic, cultural, and spiritual differences among the principal decisions makers. Other challenges arise from ethical and legal complexities, and still others concern providing effective palliative care while maintaining adequate mental functioning for the patient.

The Ethics and End of Life Care Conference will provide attendees with a unique experience in learning new ways of approaching end of life decisions. The day will begin with a keynote address by Dr. Paul Reitemeier, a Philosophy Professor and Chair of the Human Research Review Committee at GVSU with twenty years experience as health care ethicist and educator. He will explore the advantages and limitations of Advance Directives and explain how various end of life circumstances sometimes become sources of confusion, uncertainty, and conflict even for those well prepared to face the necessary decisions. He will offer insights in ways of approaching such decisions that can result in improved understanding and lead to genuine consensus building.

Following the keynote address, conference attendees will form small working groups for focused discussions using trained facilitators to address prepared case studies of challenging end of life decisions. The case studies focus on three areas: cultural, ethnic, and spiritual concerns; ethical and legal concerns; and palliative care concerns. Each attendee will participate in all three sessions to gain a coherent, consistent, and comprehensive understanding of the relevant complexities and to develop practical means for successfully addressing end of life decisions.

A summary panel of small group facilitators will close the conference with their insights of how conference participants progressed in their understanding and communication skill development over the course of the day. A lunch is provided for all attendees, and special vendors offering relevant services will be available during the conference breaks for additional information gathering and discussions.

By the end of the conference attendees will be able to:

- Explain the legal requirements for health care information disclosure and privacy protections
- Explain the legal parameters for withholding and withdrawing life sustaining medical care
- Identify the main precepts of ethical duties and responsibilities concerning end of life among the major faith traditions
- Understand the rationale supporting end of life decisions among the major faith traditions
- Understand the basic philosophy and methods of hospice and palliative care medicine and their role in end of life care
- Explain the advantages and limitations of advance directives

Keynote: Paul J. Reitemeier, Ph.D.

Paul Reitemeier (Philosophy Ph.D., Michigan State University, 1991) is a visiting Associate Professor in Philosophy and serves as Chair of the Human Research Review Committee (IRB) at Grand Valley State University in western Michigan. Previously he worked for the National Center for Ethics in the Veterans Health Administration as senior health care ethicist and office supervisor. The VA operates the largest health care system in the U.S. with a budget of \$24 billion and more than 1,300 sites of care including 163 hospitals, 220,000 employees. It serves more than 4 million patients annually. The National Center for Ethics serves the entire VHA health care system.

Reitemeier has published numerous book chapters and articles on topics in bioethics in a wide variety of academic forums, and presented papers in England, Japan, Canada, and many national conferences. He is widely recognized in clinical, research, and organizational ethics and health care ethics education. His leadership skills and program development experience include enhancing humanistic qualities in health professionals through focused curriculum structures, using systems management to foster compassionate patient care at the end of life, and enhancing professional and organizational integrity through integrated ethics programs. He has extensive teaching experience in undergraduate and graduate education for health professional students, bioethicists, health care administrators, and liberal arts students.

In addition to his work at GVSU and in federal government, Reitemeier has held regular full-time faculty positions at six universities and medical schools in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan, and New Hampshire.

Breakout Session Facilitators

A number of talented and highly qualified professionals from around the state have agreed to serve as breakout session facilitators at this conference. These include:

Charles Ray DuBose, Jr., M.D.
Assistant Professor/
Private Practice
Grand Valley State University

Rev. Nathaniel Moody
Pastor/Funeral Director
Brown-Hutcherson Ministries/
Brown's Funeral Home

Mary Green, P.T., M.S.,
N.C.S., J.D.
Assistant Professor
Grand Valley State University

Laurie Murphy, J.D.
Elder Law Attorney
Miller, Johnson, Snell &
Cumiskey

Gerry Healy, S.T.D.
Corporate Ethicist
Trinity Health

Michael Paletta, M.D.
Corporate Medical Director
Hospice of Michigan

Fr. Mark David Janis, C.S.P.,
Ph.D.
Director/Superior
Catholic Information Center

Sheila Rettig, R.N., M.S.N.
CEO
Interpreter Network, LLC

Roger Lemmen, M.D.
Medical Director/Hospice
Physician
Hospice of Holland Home

Neal Rogness, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Grand Valley State University

Laura B. Moody, R.N., M.S.N.
Nurse Educator
Grand Rapids Community
College School of Nursing

Lauran Stuiwe-Bittinger, R.N.,
B.S.N.
Palliative Care Coordinator
Saint Mary's Mercy
Medical Center

Ethics and End of Life Care Conference A Joint Conference of the Caregiver Resource Network, Greater Grand Rapids End of Life Coalition, and the West Michigan Alliance for Gerontology Education



Conference Registration

Register early, seating is limited

To register, complete the registration form below and mail, fax, or e-mail along with the full payment (see payment options below) to:

Continuing Education and Professional Development
Grand Rapids Community College
143 Bostwick Avenue NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503

Fax: (616) 234-4952

E-mail: continuingeducation@grcc.edu

On-line registration is also available by going to
www.grcc.edu/continuingeducation

Registration Form

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Conference Fee (check the box that applies to you)

- \$30.00 Conference Fee
 \$60.00 Conference Fee **and** Continuing Education Contact Hours Fee

Cancellations must be received one week prior to the conference date for a full refund.

Method of Payment

Check Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Ethics and End of Life Care Conference

Thursday, October 20, 2005

A Joint Conference of the Caregiver Resource Network, Greater Grand Rapids End of Life Coalition, and the West Michigan Alliance for Gerontology Education

Agenda: Thursday, October 20, 2005

Grand Rapids Community College
Applied Technology Center
151 Fountain Street, NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration/Networking/Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome/Keynote Address with Q&A
• Keynote Speaker: Paul J. Reitemeier, Ph.D.

10:30. – 11:00 a.m.

Break/Displays

11:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Breakout Session I

12:10 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch/Displays

1:00 – 2:10 p.m.

Breakout Session II

2:10 – 2:30 p.m.

Break/Displays

2:30 – 3:40 p.m.

Breakout Session III

3:40 – 4:15 p.m.

Closing Session/Evaluation
• Keynote speaker and breakout session facilitator representatives will re-engage with participants, tie up loose ends, and incorporate case studies.

Continuing Education Contact Hours Available

This conference has been reviewed by the Grand Rapids Community College Nursing Programs, which is a program approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing under Administrative Rule R338.10602(g). Participants will be awarded a total of 6.7 continuing education contact hours for attending the entire program.

Ethics and End of Life Care Conference

Just turn on a TV or radio or open a newspaper or magazine and you know that this is a timely and important topic. Space is limited for this one-day professional conference, so register today and plan to attend this important day of hands-on learning. Conference participants will learn to:

- Identify cultural perspectives on health, illness, dying, and death
- Demonstrate culturally competent communication skills
- Identify legal and ethical standards in withholding/withdrawing medical supports

When:

Thursday, October 20, 2005
8:00 to 9:00 a.m. – Registration/Networking/Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. – Conference

Where:

Grand Rapids Community College
Applied Technology Center
151 Fountain Street, NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Cost:

\$30.00 without Contact Hours or \$60 with 6.7 Nursing Continuing Education Contact Hours (Continental breakfast, lunch, refreshments, materials, parking are provided).

Contact Mike Faber at (616) 234-3483 for more information.

The Ethics and End of Life Care Conference is offered through a joint partnership of the Caregiver Resource Network, Greater Grand Rapids End of Life Coalition, and the West Michigan Alliance for Gerontology Education with sponsorship support from the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Grand Rapids Community College Older Learner Center, Grand Valley State University College of Health Professionals, Hospice of Holland Home, and Hospice of Michigan.

