



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at ethics@providence.org with any questions.

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Proposed title of paper: How can we use "the arts" in teaching "the art of ethics" to health care professionals ?

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

The growing expectation that health practitioners should be ethically attuned and responsive to the broader humanistic and moral dimensions of their practice has seen a rise in medical ethics courses in universities. Many of these courses incorporate creative expressive encounters – such as the exploration and interpretation of poetry, art, music and literature – as a powerful vehicle for increasing understanding of the illness experience and to support a relational approach to ethics in healthcare practices.

This paper describes the experience of first-year paramedic students who were invited to produce their own creative composition (art/poetry/music/sculpture) in response to a short vignette describing the plight of a fictional “patient-other”. Our aim was twofold: firstly, to engage their “sympathetic imaginations” to capture a sense of illness as being not only a fracturing of bodily wellness, but also, for many, a fracturing of holistic wellbeing; and, secondly, to encourage an ethics of relational engagement – rather than an ethics based on the detached, intellectual mastery of moral principles and theories – within their paramedical practice.

This paper will:

1. Explore the role of the ‘arts’ in ethics education for health care professionals
2. Consider the philosophical and educational platform which underpinned this task

3. Reflect upon the success of this method in equipping future health carers to respond ethically to the deeper human dimensions of their practice

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

Milligan E. and Woodley E.J. (2009). Creative, Expressive Encounters in Health Ethics Education: Teaching Ethics as Relational Engagement. 'Teaching and Learning in Medicine.' Vol 21 Issue 2, p131-139.

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes No