



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

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Abstract Submission Form – Posters

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

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Others? Please include Name, Title/Degree, Institution and Country:

Proposed title of poster: Cultural Engagement in Clinical Ethics

Abstract of poster content with three clearly stated objectives (up to 250 words):

In an increasingly diverse society, many of the questions which are viewed as being ethical conflicts in fact turn out to be cross-cultural misunderstandings. This diversity reflects a spectrum of individual values and beliefs about the nature of health, illness, wellness, and expertise in matters relating to health and healthcare practices in patients and providers. After reviewing the pertinent literature on this topic, we seek to introduce the concept of Cultural Engagement, a process by which one individual gains an internal shared understanding and appreciation of the attitudes, beliefs, and meanings related to

healthcare held by another individual. We seek to engage individuals, not cultures, and thus create a situation of increased cultural sensitivity and understanding between patients and providers. The model suggests that to create an environment of trust requires cultural relevance, mutual respect, and vulnerability. Through the use of the Six Questions and Cultural Engagement Chart, one can detail explanatory models (EMs) for both patients and providers. Through understanding and access, problems can be discussed, negotiated, and resolved. The model proclaims cultural diversity as an opportunity for shared understanding and mutual recognition rather than seeing culture or cultural diversity as a problem. Finally, and most importantly, the model provides clinical guidelines for culturally relevant ways of providing healthcare in an environment that preserves the cultural identities of both patients and practitioners alike without calling for unreasonable time or resource commitments.

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

Carter, M. A., & Klugman, C. M. (2001). Cultural Engagement in Clinical Ethics: A Model for Ethics Consultation. Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics, 10(1), 16-33

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster?

Yes No