



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA
www.ethics2010.org



Abstract Submission Form – Panels

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

Name: Marcia Sokolowski

Title/Degree: Ethicist, Ph.D.(C)

Institution: Baycrest

Country: Canada

Email: msokolowski@baycrest.org

Phone including country code (<http://www.countrycallingcodes.com>): 416-785-2500 ext 3356

Primary contact: As Above

Additional panelists, if any (up to three):

Name: _____

Title/Degree: _____

Institution: _____

Country: _____

Name: _____

Title/Degree: _____

Institution: _____

Country: _____

Name: _____

Title/Degree: _____

Institution: _____

Country: _____

Proposed Session Title: The moral use of Advance Directives with the Alzheimers' patient: At the crossroads of theory and clinical practice

Describe topic or case to be discussed up to 300 words:

This presentation will critically examine the use of advance directives with the Alzheimer's population in the context of medical treatment decision-making in long-term care in Ontario, Canada. Different views

have generated conflicting conclusions about the moral authority of use of advance directives when dealing with individuals with Alzheimer's dementia.

The principle of autonomy underscores a patient's right to consent or refuse medical treatment. Allegedly, an advance directive is a tool that can be used to project the patient's wishes forward to a time when she is no longer able to exercise her autonomy, a practice relying on the notion of precedent autonomy, the idea that one can exercise one's autonomy conditionally or preemptively. Through the presentation of a case study, I will argue that while the idea of use of a directive is a compelling one, in practice its use is fraught with significant problems, most of which cannot be overcome. I will challenge the idea that a directive can be held to an autonomy standard, and suggest different ways to understand and apply the traditional concept of autonomy, in the context of decision-making for people with Alzheimer's. In doing so, implications for a different conceptualization and practical use of the concept of competence will emerge. The role of the substitute decision-maker will be analyzed as well.

Finally, I will put forth policy and clinical recommendations.

Describe briefly each proposed panelist's position to be offered (up to 300 words):

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

Yes No