

At the present time, 19 hospitals and three nursing homes in West Virginia are Friends of the West Virginia Network of Ethics Committees. For the past 5 years, the Network has held an annual educational symposium, which has been attended by 100–200 people. Topics have included withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, ethical issues in the healthcare of the elderly, healthcare reform, and how to start or strengthen an ethics committee. Speakers at these symposia have included Joanne Lynn, M.D., Ronald Cranford, M.D., Norman Daniels, Ph.D., John C. Fletcher, Ph.D., Ralph Crawshaw, M.D., and Steven Miles, M.D.

For the first time, the Network is offering a 2½-day Summer Intensive Course in Medical Ethics at a resort and conference center in West Virginia in July 1992. Bruce D. Weinstein, Ph.D., Mark R. Wicclair, Ph.D., and Alvin H. Moss, M.D., of the Center for Health Ethics and Law at West Virginia University will teach the course with Robert M. Arnold, M.D., Director of Clinical Training at the Center for Biomedical Ethics of the University of Pittsburgh. The course is for those who serve or plan to serve on an institutional ethics committee or those who are the institutional resource person for ethical issues. The course is also appropriate for physicians, nurses, social workers, other healthcare personnel, administrators, attorneys, and clergy who want to improve their knowledge of medical ethics. Cases will be used to illustrate concepts, and there will be an emphasis on interaction among the participants. Topics for the course include ethical principles and clinical decision making, determining decision-making capacity, obtaining informed consent and refusal, truth-telling, confidentiality and the duty to warn, withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining treatment,

CPR/DNR and the concept of medical futility, advance directives, realistic expectations for your ethics committees, and effective ethics consultation.

The Network is a service of the West Virginia University Center for Health Ethics and Law. Alvin H. Moss, M.D., is the Director of the Center for Health Ethics and Law, and Bruce D. Weinstein, Ph.D., is an Associate Director of the Center. Dr. Moss is a practicing internist and nephrologist who spends half his time teaching healthcare ethics to physicians, nurses, and dentists and the respective health professional students at the WVU Health Sciences Center and performing research on the appropriate use of life-sustaining treatments. Dr. Weinstein has a full-time appointment in the Center for Health Ethics and Law, and his research focuses on ethical issues in dentistry and pharmacy. He is the editor of an upcoming book on *Dental Ethics* to be published by Lea and Febiger. Mark R. Wicclair, Ph.D., is also an Associate Director of the Center. His book, *Ethics and the Elderly*, will be published in 1992 by Oxford University Press.

✓ Orange County Bioethics Network

SHARON MASS

The Orange County Bioethics Network (OCBEN) has been very active, providing an opportunity to learn and network for Orange County healthcare providers and other interested people. In 1992, there were two half-day presentations: the first on facilitating "Nurse Physician Communication around Bioethics," and the second on "Community Based No CPR." OCBEN continues to act as a resource on bioethics for the community.

On 3 October 1992, OCBEN presented its third annual all-day Bioethics Conference entitled "Patient Care Decision Making: At a Crossroads?" The full day agenda covered Persistent Vegetative State: The Medical Meaning and Its Implications for Treatment Decisions; Decisions to Forgo Treatment for Patients with Severe Dementia Who are Not Terminally Ill; Surrogates for Incapacitated Patients Who Have neither Family nor Friends; How Is the Patient Self-Determination Act Working in California?; A Panel Discussion: Advance Directives—How Can Patients, Doctors and Nurses Work Together?; Ethics Committees and Case Based Methods; and Case Review and Consultation: How Can Ethics Committees Learn the Necessary Skills? Faculty included Corrine Bayley, David Blake, Peter Clarke, Susan Evans, Jack Glaser, Jay Hartz, Sharon Mass, Carl Orfuss, Robert Pearlman, Judith Wilson Ross, Marilyn Shirk, and Michael Van Scoy Mosher.

✓ **The Division of Medical Ethics: Departments of Internal Medicine at the LDS Hospital and University of Utah School of Medicine**

JAY A. JACOBSON

Formed in 1989, the Division of Medical Ethics serves as a conduit of information for ethics committees in the intermountain region through 1) edu-

cation (providing reference material and/or presentations on specific topics for committees), 2) conference activities (a recent example was the conference "Ethics Committees and Morality Plays: A Shared Search for Virtue"), and 3) responses to requests for bioethics consultations. The primary purposes of the Division of Medical Ethics are to help educate physicians at all levels of training about ethical issues and to conduct research that will provide information useful for teaching and the development of public policy. Regular monthly activities are described in a newsletter, which circulates to interested individuals in the intermountain region. Programs include a Clinical Ethics Elective for Medical Students, monthly Medical Ethics Conferences for Internal Medicine Residents and other healthcare professionals, Evening Ethics Discussion Group, and a Physicians' Literature Discussion Group. A notable recent accomplishment of the Division was the presentation of a 2-week required course in Medical Ethics for 4th-year students at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

Current members of the Division include Jay A. Jacobson, M.D. (Department of Internal Medicine), Leslie P. Francis, Ph.D., J.D. (Department of Philosophy and College of Law), David Green, M.D. (Department of Pediatrics), and Margaret P. Battin, Ph.D. (Department of Philosophy). All members of the Division are active participants in the teaching and research program, and all are members of one or more ethics committees at hospitals in the region.