



Medical Ethics Newsletter

Catholic Medical Students' Association

Affiliated with the Catholic Medical Association



CMSA Goals

- To provide guidance and support for medical students.
- To support & nurture spiritual growth and moral leadership.
- To promote education in Catholic physician values.
- To develop community among students entering the medical professions.

NEW BRANCH OF THE CMSA IN TEXAS:

Greetings from Galveston Island, Texas! We are home to the newest chapter of the Catholic Medical Students' Association at the University of Texas Medical Branch. As the state's first medical school, it is fitting that we also are the first CMSA organization in Texas. Formed as an outreach of our local Newman Center, CMSA at UTMB seeks to foster education and fellowship among students studying medicine by hosting lunch-time lectures and evening programs. We are also co-sponsoring our local White Mass and various liturgical programs at churches in our community, as well as at the Galveston Newman Center. We have had extraordinary success in our recruitment efforts and are growing by leaps and bounds. We truly have been blessed.

- Matthew Ramirez, MSII



[HTTP://WWW.UTMB.EDU/CMSA](http://www.utmb.edu/cmsa)

PUBLIC SERVICE: The Port Clinic at UIC College of Dentistry

The Franciscan Port Free Clinic provides free, local primary health-care to underserved residents of Chicago's South-side, Back of the Yards neighborhood. The clinic provides health screening, treatment, and case management referrals – both for medical and social services. Many of the patients served by the clinic are homeless individuals.

What the Port Free Clinic has lacked is dental care for the underserved who visit; there are no den-

tists currently on staff. Currently, an effort is underway to provide monthly dental care to patients at the Port Clinic through the University of Illinois-Chicago College of Dentistry.

On June 10, Dr. Patricia Nihill, a faculty member at the UIC College of Dentistry, and four UIC dental students visited the clinic and met with the manager, Anne Lopez, RN, to gather information concerning the clinic's requirements.

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Volunteer at the Port Free Clinic!

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Dental students are finalizing a proposal to UIC administrators about providing once-a-month free dental care to patients screened at the Port Clinic. The proposal, now under review, would begin service this fall.

UIC Medical students have been volunteering at the Port Free Clinic since the fall of 2003. The Port Free Clinic is located at 5135 South Ashland in Chicago. Currently, a full-time registered nurse manages the clinic. The staff includes 26 volunteer doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners,



as well as volunteers from the listening ministry. The specialties represented at the clinic include: infectious disease, oncology, general surgery, family medicine, and podiatry.

Medical Students interested in volunteering should call the clinic at (773) 650-5171. The need is great—all are welcome to help with this project. Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday mornings are the optimal time for students to work with an attending.

THE GOSPEL OF LIFE: *Evangelium Vitae*

Encyclical Letter, Pope John Paul II

“A unique responsibility belongs to healthcare personnel...”

Agencies and centers of service to life, and all other initiatives of support and solidarity which circumstances may from time to time suggest, need to be directed by *people who are generous in their involvement and fully aware of the importance of the Gospel of life* for the good of individuals and society.

A unique responsibility belongs to healthcare personnel: doctors, pharmacists, nurses, chaplains, men and women religious, administrators and volunteers. Their profession calls for them to be guardians and servants of human life. In today's cultural and social context, in which science and the practice of medicine risk losing sight of their inherent ethical dimension, health-care professionals can be strongly tempted at times to become manipulators of life, or even agents of death. In the face of this temptation

their responsibility today is greatly increased. Its deepest inspiration and strongest support lie in the intrinsic and undeniable ethical dimension of the health-care profession, something already recognized by the ancient and still relevant *Hippocratic Oath*, which requires every doctor to commit himself to absolute respect for human life and its sacredness.

Absolute respect for every innocent human life also requires the exercise of *conscientious objection* in relation to procured abortion and euthanasia. “Causing death” can never be considered a form of medical treatment, even when the intention is solely to comply with the patient's request. Rather, it runs completely counter to the health-care profession, which is meant to be an impassioned and unflinching affirmation of life.

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The Hippocratic Oath

I SWEAR BY APOLLO, the physician, and Aesculapius and Hygeia and All-heal and all the gods and goddesses that, according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this Oath and stipulation-

TO RECKON him who taught me this Art equally dear to me as my parents, to share my substance with him and relieve his necessities if required; to look upon his offspring on the same footing as my own brothers, and to teach his Art if they shall wish to learn it, without fee or stipulation.

BY RECEIPT, lecture and every mode of instruction I will impart a knowledge of the Art, to my own sons and those of my teachers and to disciples bound by a stipulation and oath according to the laws of medicine, but to none others.

I WILL FOLLOW that system of regimen which, according to my ability, I consider for the benefit of my patients and abstain from what is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest such counsel; and in like manner I will not give to a woman a pessary to produce abortion.

WITH PURITY AND HOLINESS I will pass my life and practice my Art I will not cut a person who is suffering with a stone but will leave this to be done by men who are practitioners of this work.

INTO WHATEVER HOUSE I enter I will go into them for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption; and further from the seduction of females or males, free-man or slaves.

WHATEVER IN CONNECTION with my professional practice, or not in connection with it, I may see or hear in the lives of men which ought not be spoke of abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret.

WHILE I CONTINUE to keep this oath unviolated may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the Art, respected by men of all times, but, should I trespass and violate this oath may the reverse be my lot.



The Hippocratic Oath is the best summary of medical ethics thus far articulated.

A tradition which should be exemplified by every physician.

The Gospel of Life Continued...

(Continued from Page Two...)

Biomedical research too, a field which promises great benefits for humanity, must always reject experimentation, research or applications which disregard the inviolable dignity of the human being, and thus cease to be at the service of people and become instead means which, under the guise of helping people, actually harm them.



Message to Healthcare Workers:

“Do all in your power to raise awareness in the community, in national health care systems and in those in charge of them...”

-John Paul II



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Serving God and man

ON THE WEB AT
WWW.CATHMSA.ORG

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2005 ANNUAL WHITE MASS IN HONOR OF ST. LUKE

with Bishop Timothy Lyne

QUIGLEY CHAPEL

October 16, 2005 at 11:00 AM

Rush & Pearson Streets

(2 blocks from the Water Tower)

Brunch to follow \$20.00

STUDENTS AND CHILDREN FREE!

Speaker: Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Director, National Catholic Bioethics Center

Topic: "Stem Cell Research"

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

74th Annual National Conference

October 20-22, 2005

Portland, Oregon

"The Biological & Spiritual Development of the Child"
For more information visit WWW.CATHMED.ORG

Address Label Here

NEW MEMBERS

We encourage Students to join the Catholic Medical Association.

For Registration & Membership Information,

Call 1-877-CATHOLIC or visit WWW.CATHMED.ORG