



The Ethics of Seeking and Assessing "Quality of Life" **Annual Medical Ethics Conference – 2019**

Friday, March 29, 2019 | 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Scaife Hall 11th Floor Conference Center, University of Pittsburgh

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT AND OBJECTIVES

This conference will explore the how “quality of life” is defined, measured, and used in various healthcare contexts—from pediatrics to long-term care to hand transplantation—as well as research on healthcare outcomes. It will examine how the field of contemporary bioethics emerged in response to concerns about quality of life, and how bioethics and disability studies can be brought into conversation with each other to develop more nuanced understanding of the concept of quality of life and to appreciate how individuals view their own quality of life. The conference will feature morning lectures with time for discussion, followed by concurrent sessions in the afternoon that include panels, talks, discussion, and consideration of cases.

Following the conference, participants should be able to:

1. Understand how the different ways of conceptualizing and measuring quality of life—subjective and objective—affect both clinical decision-making (by patients, their surrogates, and clinicians) and health policy
2. Understand and engage with disability studies perspectives in interpersonal interactions, policy discussions, and both academic and clinical contexts
3. Appreciate sociocultural and religious components of quality of life and the role they play in decision-making regarding health and healthcare

Ira R. Messer Lecture:

Can We Avoid Death with Dementia?

Dena S. Davis, JD, PhD
Presidential Chair in Health
Professor of Bioethics
Lehigh University

Keynote Lecture:

Assessing Justice: Reassessing “Quality of Life” through Disability Studies

Robert McRuer, PhD
Department of English
George Washington University

Plenary Lecture:

Quality of Life: What is it, how is it measured, and how are the results used?

Joel Tsevat, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine
Joaquin G. Cigarroa, Jr., MD, Distinguished Chair
Director, ReACH Center
Director, KL2 Program, UT Health San Antonio
Professor of Population Health,
Dell Medical School, UT Austin

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, VISIT:

ccehs.upmc.com/liveFormalCourses.jsf

FOR CONFERENCE PROGRAM, VISIT:

<https://bioethics.pitt.edu/medethics19>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

bioethics@pitt.edu or 412-648-7007

Medical, dental medicine, social work continuing education credit, as well as American Speech-Language-Hearing Association CEUs, are available. | Advance notification of any special needs will help us provide better service.