

**Program in Interprofessional Ethics (PIE)
Mini-Grants Program**

Awarded Grants, 2012

- **Proposal Title:** Nursing and Dental Ethics: An Interprofessional Exploration of Issues

Investigators: Joan Engebretson, DrPH, AHN-BC, RN – Judy Fred Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing; and Catherine Flaitz, DDS, MS – Professor, Department of Diagnostic and Biomedical Sciences, School of Dentistry

Proposal Summary: The objective of this proposal is to expand understanding and awareness of ethical issues facing nurses, dentists, and dental hygienists.

Award Amount: \$5,000

- **Proposal Title:** Interprofessional Humanities and Ethics

Investigators: Catherine Flaitz, DDS, MS – Professor, Department of Diagnostic and Biomedical Sciences, School of Dentistry; Nathan Carlin, PhD – Director of the Medical Humanities & Ethics Certificate Program, Medical School; and David Taylor, EdD – former Associate Professor and Director of Educational and Technology Services, School of Dentistry

Proposal Summary: This proposal focuses on the development of an interprofessional and sequential curriculum for dental and dental hygiene students that will lead to a Certificate in Clinical Humanities and Ethics.

Award Amount: \$5,000

- **Proposal Title:** Interprofessional Ethics

Investigator: Yang Gong, MD, PhD – Associate Professor of Health Informatics, School of Biomedical Informatics

Co-investigators: Nnaemeka G. Okafor, MD, MS – Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Medical School; and Maureen S. Beck, RN, MSN, GNP-BC – Co-medical director, UTHealth Center for Healthy Aging

Proposal Summary: The grant investigator and co-investigators will investigate the ethical dilemma between physicians and nurses with regard to reporting of medical errors.

Award Amount: \$10,000

- **Proposal Title:** Ethical Decision-Making: Tools for Healthcare Professionals

Investigator: Janelle Rios, PhD – Director of Continuing Education, Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH), School of Public Health

Proposal Summary: This proposal focuses on developing a fully-credentialed online continuing education course in ethical decision-making for healthcare providers. The course will be specifically designed for nurses and physicians at UTHealth.

Award Amount: \$10,000

Awarded Grants, 2013

- **Proposal Title:** Innovative Healthcare Models to Reduce Pediatric Oral Health Disparities, Enhance Ethical Awareness of Health Disparities, and Improve Interdisciplinary Training for Medical and Dental Professionals

Investigator: Gary Badger, DDS – Program Director, Chairman, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, School of Dentistry

Co-investigator: Keila Lopez, MD, MPH – Assistant Professor, Pediatric Cardiology, Texas Children’s Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine

Proposal Summary: This project will develop and pilot an application of the Chronic Care Model (CCM) to understand current barriers to oral healthcare; increase oral health knowledge; increase dental screenings, referrals, and access; and create a unique training model for pediatric and dental trainees through a subspecialty venue.

Award Amount: \$7,500

- **Proposal Title:** Personal and Professional Impact of Moral Distress in Interprofessional Healthcare Providers

Investigators: Deborah Jones, PhD, RN – Assistant Dean Undergraduate Programs, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing; Donna Warren-Morris, RDH, Med – Professor, Deans’ Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars, School of Dentistry; June Sadowsky, DDS, MPH, FASGD, DABSCO – Associate Professor, Dentist Geriatrician, School of Dentistry; Bela Patel, MD, FCCP – Associate Professor of Medicine, Assistant Dean of Healthcare Quality, Division Director of Critical Care Medicine, Medical School /Assistant Chief Medical Officer, Executive Medical Director of Critical Care Medicine, Memorial Hermann Hospital – Texas Medical Center; and Yang Gong, MD, PhD – Associate Professor, School of Biomedical Informatics

Proposal Summary: The investigators will conduct research to identify and compare the types of moral distress encountered by dentists, nurses, dental hygienists, and physicians in the Greater Houston area. The personal and professional impact of moral distress will also be examined among these interprofessional healthcare providers.

Award Amount: \$3,700

- **Proposal Title:** Parental Decision Making for an Unborn Child with Spina Bifida

Investigator: Lynnette Mazur, MD, MPH – Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Consultant for Texas Fetal Center, Department of Pediatrics and Division of Community and General Pediatrics, Medical School

Co-investigators: Anthony Johnson, DO, Ken Moise, MD, and KuoJen Tsau, MD – Co-directors, Texas Fetal Center; Karen Moise, RN – Nurse Coordinator, Texas Fetal Center; and Sangbum, Choi, PhD – Statistician, School of Public Health

Proposal Summary: This proposal will research various aspects of decision-making faced by parents of an unborn child with spina bifida, including the frequency of pursuing/not pursuing surgery and factors involved in making decisions.

Award Amount: \$10,000

- **Proposal Title:** Ethical Dilemma in Surgical Interventions for Fragility Hip Fractures in Older Dementia Patients

Investigator: Nahid Rianon, MBBS, DrPH – Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine-Geriatrics, Medical School

Co-investigators: Catherine Ambrose, PhD – Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Medical School; Paula Knudson – Special Advisor, Center for Clinical Research & Evidence Based Medicine, Medical School; and Sheryl McCurdy, PhD – Associate Professor, Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, School of Public Health

Proposal Summary: Research will examine how clinical teams decide for or against surgical intervention for fragility hip fractures in older (65 years or older) demented patients.

Award Amount: \$10,000

- **Proposal Title:** Enhancing Ethical Decision Making in an Interprofessional Team Dealing with End of Life Care in a Vulnerable Patient Population

Investigator: Rebecca Wiatrek, MD – Assistant Professor of Surgery, Medical School

Co-investigators: Cheryl Person, MD – Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Medical School; Andrea Taylor, PhD – Assistant Professor of Psychiatry-Clinical, Medical School; Jeanette Ferrer, DO – Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine-Geriatrics, Medical School; and Kathleen Sexton, LCSW – Program Coordinator, Clinical Case Management, Harris Health System – Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital

Proposal Summary: Research will be conducted to evaluate team members' prioritization of ethical core values both overall and in relation to specific end of life ethical scenarios.

Award Amount: \$7,500