
UAMS Medical Humanities and Bioethics Newsletter – November 2025

From University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences <uamsonline@uams.edu>

Date Thu 11/6/2025 9:06 AM

To EthicsCommittee <EthicsCommittee@uams.edu>

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.



November 2025

Rounding Out Our Clinical Services

Faculty in the Department of Medical Humanities and Bioethics serve as clinical ethics consultants for both UAMS and ACH, providing support for providers/staff and patients/families when ethical concerns about care arise. But did you know that on a weekly basis we also join teams on rounds in various units at both institutions? From critical care to psych liaison service (and more), ethicists connect with providers to listen in and discuss patient conditions and challenges, if any.



This can be a great way to get some “curbside” help, but also, it is a great way to build connections and collaborations so that when a team does need an ethics consult, they are comfortable doing so.

While we would not be able to cover all units in both hospitals, *if you would like us to join a team regularly for rounds, please contact us (ethicsconsults@uams.edu)*, and we will be happy to put you into our rotations.

It Is Conference Season



The Fall often contains a fair number of professional conferences, and the primary national professional organization in bioethics and humanities—the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH)—holds its conference in October (or sometimes September) of each year. This year’s conference occurred October 22-25 in Portland, Oregon. Over 1000 members from across the country attended.

Two UAMS faculty had presentations accepted—Lauren Bunch, Ph.D., and D. Micah Hester, Ph.D. Dr. Bunch’s work on the concept of “trust” in health care has been well received by audiences who have heard her speak on the topic, and that work is leading to the development of multiple journal manuscripts. Dr. Hester’s presentation suggesting using models of music-making to understand better how healthcare professionals should work together led to robust discussion among participants.

Those interested in a deeper engagement with topics in bioethics, clinical ethics, research ethics, and health humanities may want to consider attending a future ASBH conference—next year, the meeting will be held in Indianapolis from October 14-17, 2026, and the deadline for submission of abstracts for consideration to be on the program typically is set for on or around March 1.



Also, Angie Scott, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of developmental pediatrics and medical humanities, was the keynote for the annual meeting of the Learning Committees Institute (LCI) at UAMS on October 11. Her talk focused on how the Arts & Humanities can contribute to community building in undergraduate medical education, something that Dr. Scott brings to our medical students as the course director for the M1 Practice of Medicine Course in the College of Medicine.

Getting Responsible with Research Conduct

As many may already know, the federal government requires that all federally funded research trainees (from graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to T and K awardees) must take at least eight hours of training in Responsible Conduct of Research (aka, RCR) every four years. For over a decade, UAMS has fulfilled this mandate by taking advantage of selected sessions held within the Scientific Communications and Ethics course put on through the graduate school (under the direction of Drs. Sterba and Prather). This process has served UAMS well, but did pose some logistical and other challenges, especially for non-graduate students who needed RCR training. With funding from TRI, then, a new course has been developed under the direction of Brandy Fox, Ph.D. (see her faculty profile herein), assistant professor of medical humanities & bioethics. The new dedicated and focused RCR course now consists of five two-hour modules scheduled over the course of one academic year.



Each module addresses two or more topics that fall under RCR considerations—topics like human subjects and animal research ethics, misconduct, authorship challenges, data integrity, and more. The sessions are case-based and discussion-oriented and accommodate up to 20 persons.

Any research trainee (or any researcher, for that matter) at UAMS is welcome to sign-up for the course. For more information, contact DMHester@uams.edu.

Faculty Profile: Brandy Fox, Ph.D.

The newest full-time member of our department is Brandy Fox, Ph.D. Dr. Fox is an assistant professor of medical humanities & bioethics, and began her time with us back in January of 2025. During her first six months she worked remotely from St. Louis, and has now moved to Sherwood, working on-site since July.

Before coming to UAMS, Dr. Fox earned her bachelor's degree in politics from the Catholic University of America, followed by a master's degree in health care ethics from Creighton University and a doctorate in Health Care Ethics from Saint Louis University. These educational experiences led her to a post-doctoral fellowship in Ethics, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) of genetics at Stanford University.



At UAMS, Dr. Fox is helping lead efforts in research ethics, from research ethics consultations (yes, we do these—send us an email, if you need help) to RCR training (see the story herein). She is also a clinical ethics consultant, rounding regularly in the MICU, SICU, and with psychiatry (see that story, herein, as well).

A few thoughts on questions we posed:

Something you like about Little Rock/Central Arkansas: How green it is and how many plants I can grow in my yard.

Something from where you lived in the past you wish we had here: I miss having an Ikea.

A talent you have or activity/hobby you like to do: Collect rocks and minerals/crystals.

Movie you would recommend to a friend: The Pirates! Band of Misfits. The fat dodo reminds me of my first dog, Seamus

Movie you would tell anyone to avoid: The 1997 movie Spawn – it's the only movie I've ever walked out of.

A food or meal that you loved to eat when you were growing up: Chocolate chip pancakes

One Last Note

In August, our colleague, Eva Regel, DBe, took a great new position at Houston Methodist Medical Center as their director of clinical ethics. While we will miss her greatly, we could not be happier for Eva. One of the impacts of her leaving is that coverage for the Clinical Ethics Consult Service (CECS) is a bit strained. So, while we will continue to provide 24/7/365 consultation coverage, on nights, weekends, and holidays, we cannot promise immediate responses to requests/pages. We will get back with anyone who contacts us, but after hours, it just may take a bit longer to do so. We appreciate your understanding and patience.

[Visit Our Department Website](#)

This email was sent to EthicsCommittee@uams.edu
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
UAMS · 4301 W Markham St · Little Rock, AR 72205-7101 · USA

