

94th Annual Educational Conference
Catholic Medical Association
September 3 - 6, 2025
Kansas City, MO

Educational Objectives

The BODY: Ever Ancient! but Ever New?

1. Demonstrate how the “prophetism of the body” leads to flourishing as a physician.
2. Assess the dangers of AI leading to a metaphysics of disembodiment.
3. Identify the ways in which medical professionals take seriously the common bodily characteristics of the human body while maintaining personalized treatment planned.

Case Discussion with Physicians: Palliative Care and Hospice

1. Scott: Explore the ethical issues surrounding VSED.
2. Marino: Define what actions are morally obligatory in treatment and utilizing the Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs) to determine the correct course of action when treating a patient.
3. Boggeln: Explore the changing dynamic when a proxy-decision maker for a near terminal teenage patient decides to reverse an advance directive in a crisis situation.
4. Sobecks: Describe the roles of compassionate care with active listening, empathy and spirituality when treating cancer patients, particularly in the end-of-life setting.

Benedict Medicine: Creating a Culture of Faith-based Primary Care

1. List four hallmark characteristics that distinguish primary care from other disciplines within medicine.
2. Describe three attributes of contemporary American healthcare that oppose a spiritual understanding of the principles of dignity of the human person, solidarity, subsidiarity, and stewardship.
3. Summarize arguments for and against the reliance on a public healthcare system as a means of providing medical care.
4. Give an appraisal of arguments for and against direct-pay approaches to primary care from a faith-based perspective.
5. Explain why the ideal of “moral neutrality” in mainstream medicine is an impossibility.

The FACTS about Fertility Explained

1. List the 3 predominant biomarkers of the female cycle and illustrate how they correspond to underlying hormonal changes.
2. Describe how different evidence-based fertility awareness-based methods (FABMs) use one or more of the 3 predominant biomarkers to chart the female cycle enabling women to identify their fertile window and monitor their health.
3. List a number of common reproductive health issues for which FABMs can aid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Discuss various factors that may lead a woman or couple to choose one method over another.

5. Describe the health benefits of using FABMs rather than hormonal or physical contraceptives.

Healing Pediatric Gender Dysphoria

1. Discuss normal gender identity development in children and adolescents.
2. Discuss the claim that incongruent gender identities are innate and immutable.
3. List what the psycho-social evaluation and treatment plan of gender dysphoric youth should include.

Ever Ancient Ever New: From Medical Missions to Global Health – History and Current Needs in American and International Health Care

1. Describe the role of Christianity in the fundamentals of modern health care.
2. Describe inequities in health care in the global setting.
3. Discuss the role of faith-based health care in Global Health, particularly in low-resource settings, and formulate solutions to the problem of sustainability in partnerships with international programs.

Abortion Pill Reversal: Meeting Challenges

1. Discuss the latest research on abortion pill reversal.
2. Identify statistics regarding chemical abortion in US.
3. Discuss the risks of mail order and telehealth abortions.

Integrity in Determining Death: Updates on the Neurological Criteria

1. Differentiate between the true death of the human person, legal death, and medical determination of death.
2. Identify inconsistencies between the definition of death in the Uniform Determination of Death Act, the standard of whole brain death referenced by Pope Saint John Paul II, and the 2023 American Academy of Neurology guideline on brain death.
3. Examine the results of a recent symposium on brain death organized by The National Catholic Bioethics Center and held at the Center for Law and the Human Person of The Catholic University of America.
4. List two reasons why the 2023 American Academy of Neurology guideline raises serious moral concerns.

A Spiritual Approach to Accompanying the Dying

1. Identify how technology has depersonalized the care of your patients.
2. Describe impediments encountered in helping patients to die well.
3. Consider how you might be able to best accompany your patients as death approaches.

From Manuscript to Publication: Leveraging the Linacre Quarterly for Professional Development and Continuing Medical Education

1. Identify and describe the various types of articles in The Linacre Quarterly, including scientific research, medical ethics, and personal reflections.
2. Critically appraise the content of articles in The Linacre Quarterly, applying insights from scientific studies, ethical discussions, and personal narratives to their own practice.
3. Outline the benefits of engaging in writing, peer reviewing, and editing for The Linacre

Quarterly, recognizing how these activities contribute to their professional development and continuing medical education.

Hope for the Practicing Clinician: In the Setting of the Jubilee Tradition

1. Examine the medical literature to demonstrate how the concept of hope is being used in the context of patient care and physician well-being.
2. Define the concept of hope in the context of healthcare and its importance for both patients and medical professionals.
3. Assess new research in the area of cultivating hope in medical practice, evaluating its role in creating a supportive and compassionate work environment to promote healing for patients and maintain well-being for clinicians.

Hope for the Practicing Clinician: In the Setting of the Jubilee Tradition, going deeper

1. Examine more deeply the contemporary and traditional perspectives of hope in medical practice and its significance for patients and physicians presented in part 1.
2. Identify specific strategies to nurture hope in clinical interactions to enhance patient coping, engagement, and recovery.
3. Apply practical techniques to cultivate hope within themselves and their practice, fostering resilience, preventing burnout, and improving professional satisfaction.

Street Medicine: A Means to Imitate Jesus' Practice of Radical Love for the Poor

1. Identify the similarities between the characteristics of Street Medicine and Christian Social Teaching, including the preferential option for the poor and the respect for human life.
2. Examine the evangelization opportunities in Street Medicine, especially its connection to discussions on the value of human beings outside of their circumstances or society's perceptions.
3. Describe how Street Medicine encompasses practices of the saints: going to the people where they are, seeking to bring them to better health, and being in solidarity with the people whom they serve

NFP- Past, Present and Future

1. Illustrate the trials and tribulations of key physicians and scientists in the development of methods of natural family planning (NFP) from 1932 to 2010.
2. Describe the science underlying natural or fertility awareness-based methods (FABMs) and their applications for women's health and family planning.
3. Highlight the need and opportunities for collaboration among the various proponents of natural methods and the broader medical community to expand the use of these methods among the general population.

Restorative Reproductive Medicine – What Is It and How Do I Learn More?

1. Define restorative reproductive medicine
2. Describe the various restorative reproductive medical approaches, and the advantages and limitations of each approach.
3. Demonstrate how each RRM approach can aid in the diagnosis and management of common reproductive and hormonal health concerns.

4. Discuss opportunities for training in RRM so you can expand your ability to provide more comprehensive, restorative reproductive medical care.

Restoring the Doctor-Patient Relationship through Direct Care

1. Discuss the evolution of the health care systems from the early 1900s to today.
2. Describe the key features of a DPC practice, and the unique features of a house calls based micro-practice.
3. Highlight how a DPC practice affords the time for physicians to care for patients physical, mental and spiritual health.
4. Discuss benefits and challenges of the DPC model and a house calls-based practice.

A Prescription to Improve Healthcare: Dignity, Solidarity, and Subsidiarity

1. Define the principles of dignity, solidarity, and subsidiarity and how they apply to current social controversies in law and medicine.
2. Describe how professional collaboration between lawyers and physicians influenced the development of modern medicine and the legal system.
3. Identify common themes for professional collaboration for today and the future to improve the health and wellbeing of our US population.

When Athens Meets Jerusalem: How Spirituality Can Inform and Transform Medical Care

1. Explain the health benefits of spirituality and religious practices.
2. Illustrate how spiritual practices have been integrated with medical practices historically and at present.
3. Recognize how chaplains can assist medical professionals to provide integrated, holistic care for patients.

Hormones and Homosexual Behavior: The Pioneering Work of W. C. Young at the University of Kansas

1. Discuss evidence for homosexual behavior effects of cross-gender sex steroids.
2. Highlight the foundational role of W. C. Young's work in the field of behavioral endocrinology, and the organizational/activational hypothesis.
3. Examine conjecture when discussing environmental contamination with physiologically active levels of sex steroids.

Direct Primary Care - Old Becomes New Again

1. Summarize the positive benefits for patients and doctors of Direct Primary Care.
2. Evaluate how a practice can run efficiently and effectively without insurance.
3. Assess how Direct Primary Care can save patients money.

End of Life or Ending Life? -- Stealth Euthanasia among Christians

1. Describe the traditional use of Advance Directives in contrast to current "mis-applications."
2. Discuss the ethically appropriate use of the term "allow natural death."
3. Explain the correct meaning of the Principle of Double Effect in its clinical application.

Positive and Negative Rights of Conscience: Balancing When Rights Conflict

1. Analyze the difference between positive and negative rights.
2. Differentiate formal vs material cooperation.
3. Describe the effect when positive rights impinge on the negative rights of others.
4. Apply respect to positive and negative rights when providing patient care.

Empowering Women to Be the Genius of Their Hormones: Case Studies Using the Female Cycle as a Vital Health Record

1. Apply knowledge to understand and interpret menstrual cycles, recognizing it as a vital sign of health.
2. Explain how the fertility cycle can serve as a comprehensive health record, offering insights into overall health and aiding in early detection of potential issues.
3. Highlight the importance of personalized healthcare, showing how tracking and understanding the menstrual cycle can lead to more tailored and effective health strategies.
4. Identify practical tools and strategies for women to monitor and interpret their menstrual cycles, empowering patients, and guiding healthcare professionals to address the root cause of disease.

A Tale of Two Computers--But Only One Made in the Image of God

1. Explain how the Turing theorem implies that human mathematical reasoning must involve a process which is non-computable (nonalgorithmic) and therefore cannot be carried out by any physical system.
2. Explain how slight variability in neuronal firing (for example, due to quantum fluctuations in ion fluxes) can be amplified by the chaotic behavior of neuronal networks.
3. Explain how simultaneously occurring quantum fluctuations in multiple channels within multiple neurons with additive effect could cause a neuronal network with chaotic behavior to converge upon a different final state (attractor), thus retrieving a different memory or deciding upon a different behavior or choice.

A Faith-based Approach to Hospice

1. Review any POLST (or POST) form and make suggestions to better align the patient/family wishes with faith-based moral guidelines.

The Lost Art of Empathy: The Secret of Care of the Patient is Caring for the Patient

1. Investigate the current features of medicine that interfere with the personal connection between an individual patient and individual physician.
2. Identify the differences between the current depersonalized physician-patient relationships and the personal connections between patients and late 19th-early 20th century great physicians who integrated scientific and Hippocratic empathetic medicine.
3. List strategies for re-establishing personal physician-patient relationships in the current technical-sociological setting to make a compelling argument for the benefits of empathy to both physician and patient

Discussion Panel: Law and Public Policy at End of Life

1. Identify specific actions that will allow physicians to be effectively involved in advocacy

for ethical end-of-life decisions.

2. Enable physicians to understand and utilize moral principles important in clinical decisions related to end-of-life care.
3. Highlight legal and other challenges that patients and family members encounter with end-of-life decision making.
4. Describe efforts to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia in the United Kingdom and explain how promised safeguards have already been forgotten and how plans to expand the law are already underway.

The Ethics of AI in Health Care: Implications for Individual Practitioners from the Perspective of the Chair of a Hospital Ethics Committee

1. Discuss various ways AI can serve physicians and patients and improve care and outcomes.
2. Identify some of the ethical problems involved with the use of AI tools and programs in patient care.
3. Evaluate potential uses of AI in clinical practice using accepted ethical and moral standards for medical professionals.

Mission Integration in End-of-Life Care: The Case of Faith-based Hospice

1. Describe the important role that hospice care plays in providing individualized care for dying patients, demonstrating respect for each person and their unique values and beliefs as they prepare for death.
2. Differentiate contemporary understandings of hospice that associate it with euthanasia and assisted suicide from its traditional origin as a way to care for and accompany people with respect as they approach and prepare for death.
3. Recommend ways to ensure the ethical and professional practice of hospice care, through the particular example of a Catholic approach grounded in the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.

Medical Education and the Culture of Death

1. Explore contemporary medical education.
2. Illustrate popular scientific falsehoods.
3. Explain the process of creation of a new medical college.
4. Consider implications for the future of healthcare.

Joy through Generosity: A Blueprint for Childhood Obesity Intervention

1. Describe sectors within the socioecological framework from which contributors to pediatric obesity arise.
2. Identify and classify childhood obesity and associated comorbidities.
3. Discuss a community-based blueprint designed by Faithful-2-Fitness that can treat childhood obesity and support family wellness.

Your Body, Your Plan: The Power of Individualized Nutrition, Diet and Lifestyle Plans to Optimize Hormone Balance and Fertility

1. Describe the testing that can be done to determine a women\'s specific hormone profile, nutritional needs, and metabolism.

2. Summarize the dietary recommendations that can treat PCOS, enhance egg quality, improve estrogen dominance and optimize ovulation.
3. Discuss evidence-based recommendations for stress reduction and sleep improvement targeted to improving hormone balance.

GAI Companions and Faith-based Physicians

1. Define the emergence and functioning of GAI that intersects with patient care – chatbot companions, social and care companions for seniors, and grief and bereavement support companions.
2. Identify principles and values rooted in spiritual faith, faith-based views on modern technology, and relevant Vatican initiatives on AI ethics that would serve as a framework for faith-based solutions.
3. Discuss the role of faith-based physicians in asserting their moral and professional leadership in guiding the responsible use and integration of GAI companions that intersects with patient care.

Depersonalization in Healthcare and Its Antidote: Practical Approaches to Creating Healthcare Authenticity

1. Define “depersonalize” and “authenticity.”
2. Identify at least two (2) social developments of the last half of the 20th century contributing to the depersonalization of healthcare in the United States.
3. Identify at least two (2) practical applications that, if undertaken with intention, will restore authenticity in healthcare encounters.

Considerations for End-of-Life Care in Oncology

1. Review important principles when diagnosing and staging cancer.
2. Discuss allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation as a therapeutic approach to treat leukemia.
3. Describe the roles of compassionate care with active listening, empathy and spirituality when treating cancer patients, particularly in the setting of end of life.

Vaccine Ethics in a Post-COVID Era: Don't Throw the Baby Out with the Bathwater

1. Discuss individual rights as related to the call to serve the common good, as well as exploring the rights and responsibilities of parents regarding making medical decisions for their children.
2. Explain how medical tradition has a strong history of using science to understand the truth of our creation and examine the history of vaccine science through that lens.
3. Apply the lessons of the first two objectives to current questions of vaccine ethics to distinguish between valid scientific debate and distracting conspiracy theory.

The Ars Moriendi Yesterday and Today: Reviving a Spiritual Approach to the Art of Dying

1. Identify key theological and pastoral insights from the Ars moriendi that apply to the care of patients in healthcare today.
2. Discuss common themes and variations among prominent texts in the art of dying tradition that pertain to contemporary patient care.
3. Explain common pitfalls and opportunities in the pastoral care of dying patients in the

healthcare setting, as well as the role of clinicians in navigating this.

The Contemplative Nature of the Patient: A Response to Some Dangers of AI in Patient Care

1. Explain how the inappropriate application of artificial intelligence can undermine a patient's dignity.
2. Identify the importance of the patient's spiritual life in patient care and human flourishing.

How Faith-based Medical Professionals Can Engage in Public Policy

1. Identify various parts of the public policy and political arena in which medical professionals can engage.
2. The session will illustrate the impact that medical professionals can have on public policy in our country.
3. The session will recommend concrete ways that medical professionals can get involved in the political process at the federal, state, and local levels.

Artificial Intelligence in Health Care: An Ethical Approach

1. Identify current and potential applications of artificial intelligence in health care.
2. Evaluate artificial intelligence applications in health care for the challenges and opportunities they provide.
3. Discuss the ways ethical perspectives should guide the adoption of AI applications by health systems and providers and beyond.

Restorative Reproductive Medicine (RRM) Protocol Development

1. Define medical protocols.
2. Discuss the need for and obstacles to the lack of RRM protocols.
3. Discuss which protocols are needed, in order of priority.
4. Discuss process of creating protocols & addressing obstacles.
5. Apply drafting and editing to preliminary protocols.

Restorative Reproductive Medicine to Treat the Root Cause of Infertility

1. Highlight the prevalence, impact and cost of the burden of infertility in our society.
2. Discuss the shortcomings of the current status quo approach to fertility, as assisted reproductive technologies or ART.
3. Illustrate the emerging field of Restorative Reproductive Medicine and Restorative Reproductive Surgery as an alternative, but very effective, option offering root cause treatments for fertility.
4. Describe this important moment in our society and political environment to be offering root cause treatments for fertility.