

Health Ethics, Arts, and Humanities in Utah

Fall 2021

CHeEtAH

By Gretchen A. Case, PhD, MA, Director of CHeEtAH



**Gretchen Case, PhD, MA,
Director of CHeEtAH, with
Jay Jacobson, MD, (Emeritus),
Founder of Division of Medical Ethics**

On July 1, 2021, the Center for Health Ethics, Arts, and Humanities (CHeEtAH) announced its establishment, starting a new chapter in the story of ethics and humanities at the University of Utah. Becoming an official Center means we will be better able to reach collaborators across the U as well as communities beyond campus.

Jay Jacobson founded the Division of Medical Ethics and Humanities in 1989 with a vision of bringing his passion for the burgeoning fields of medical ethics and humanities to the University of Utah School of Medicine. He gained the support of the Department of Internal Medicine and found an enthusiastic group of faculty and staff from across campus already engaged in relevant work. As founding faculty member Peggy Battin says, “This group has been a wellspring of intellectual innovation since its founding, when the faculty got together informally to explore each other’s research work, and its establishment as a Center will only enhance this capacity to engender creative work.”

As a Center, we continue our dedication to community-facing events, such as the Literature and Healthcare reading group, although we’ve changed the name (formerly Physicians’ Literature and Medicine.) Our popular Evening Ethics series will continue, with exciting upcoming collaborations to bring in nationally known speakers—see this issue of the newsletter for information on Katherine Standefer, Harriet A. Washington, and MK Czerwec—that emphasize our long commitment to interdisciplinarity. Founding faculty member Leslie Francis says, “It is truly wonderful to see our longstanding commitments to teaching, research, and service be recognized with Center status. Being a Center will enable us to bring so many disciplinary specialties together in addressing critical ethical issues in health care and public health.”

As the new Director of the Center, I’m grateful for the efforts of so many people who made this transition possible, in particular Wendy Hobson-Rohrer, Associate Vice President of Health Sciences Education, and Michael Good, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences. We all are grateful to you, our friends and colleagues, who have learned and thought with us over the years. The faculty and staff of this wonderful group have kept ethics, arts, and humanities a vibrant and visible part of medicine and health sciences. This includes founding faculty member, and previous Chief of the Division, Jeff Botkin, who says, “The development and support of the CheEtAH as a University center represents an important step in the recognition and integration of these domains of service and scholarship in Health Sciences and across the campus. It has been an honor to work with such a talented and diverse set of colleagues over the years. The future is bright for this important work at the U.”

Indeed, we are looking toward a bright future. Please stay with us to see what the next 30 years bring!

To our readers that receive hard copies of this Newsletter: we are considering transitioning to electronic versions of our Newsletter only. If you still would like to receive hard copies of our Newsletters, please let us know at linda.carrlee@hsc.utah.edu.



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Evening Ethics Discussions



These informal, multidisciplinary discussions about current issues in health ethics take place approximately bi-monthly or as ethical issues arise. A CHETAH faculty member facilitates discussion. Guided by the topic, we invite people with relevant expertise and experience and informed opinions to join us. Generally about 15-60 people from a variety of disciplines, including healthcare, public policy, philosophy, law, and business attend. We distribute short, timely articles from the nation's most thoughtful newspapers, journals, blogs, and magazines to the group in advance of our discussions. CME is offered.

"What Does It Cost to Save a Life?: Weighing the Promise of Medical Technology Against Its Personal, Systemic, Ecological and Social Costs"
with
Katherine Standefer



Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021
5:30pm-7pm

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/97868455735>
Passcode: 106477

CME event code:
257019

What if a lifesaving medical device causes loss of life along its supply chain? That's the question Katherine E. Standefer finds herself asking one night after being suddenly shocked by her implanted cardiac defibrillator. In her gripping, intimate debut memoir *Lightning Flowers: My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving a Life*, Standefer explores the true cost of her ICD--from the technology's impact on her body and life, to her harrowing experience in the American healthcare system, to her global journey into the mines and factories where the minerals in her device may have originated. In this Evening Ethics discussion, we'll explore how Standefer's complex experience as a "cyborg" and supply chain research map onto the Four Pillars of Medical Ethics, wrestling with complicated questions about harm, justice, and autonomy on both the individual and communal level.



Background Readings: (contact linda.carrlee@hsc.utah.edu for pdfs)

1. ["At the University Inn"](#) by Katherine Standefer (The Kenyon Review, 2018)
2. Chapter 5 of *Lightning Flowers: My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving a Life* (Little, Brown Spark 2020) --pdf
3. Excerpt from Chapter 10 of *Lightning Flowers* -- pdf
4. Optional: [Excerpt from Prologue and Chapter 1 of Lightning Flowers as available via The New York Times](#) (includes description of the relevant heart condition, Long QT Syndrome)

"Don't Let the Lion tell the Giraffe's story": How the Curation of History Hobbles Medical Ethics
with
Harriet A. Washington

2021 Cowan Memorial Speaker & Priscilla M. Mayden Endowed Speaker

Thursday, October 7, 2021
5:30pm-7pm

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/95304732845>

Passcode: 838654

CME event code:
280019

Harriet A. Washington, MA (Columbia) is our 2021 Cowan Memorial Lecturer and Priscilla M. Mayden Endowed Speaker. In *Medical Apartheid*, Harriet Washington notes that Winston Churchill echoed the title's Nigerian aphorism, observing that "History is written by the victors." With an eye to assessing the medical treatment of those in the African diaspora, she will evaluate the holistic ethical landscape by focusing on signal events, including within the COVID-19 pandemic. In examining ethical frameworks that have defined the parameters of moral medical issues and have justified the medical agency of those in power Washington will demonstrate how this is often achieved by ignoring pertinent events — by eliding large swaths of the history. This selective curation of history consistently elides unethical acts and must be questioned as a prelude to restoring ethical behavior in medicine.



Background readings:

1. [How environmental racism is fueling the coronavirus pandemic](#) by Harriet Washington (Nature, 5/19/2020)
2. [Statues that perpetuate lies should not stand](#) by Harriet Washington (Nature, 9/21/17)
3. [African American Physicians and Organized Medicine, 1846-1968 Origins of a Racial Divide](#) by Baker, Robert B., Washington, Harriet A., et.al. (JAMA, 7/16/2008)
4. [Limning the Semantic Frontier of Informed Consent](#) by Harriet Washington (JLME, Fall 2016)
5. [Flacking for Big Pharma](#) by Harriet Washington (The American Scholar, 6/3/2011)
6. [The Well Curve](#) by Harriet Washington (The American Scholar, 9/7/2015)

"Pandemics & Panels: What Have We Learned about Global Health Crises Through Comics?" with MK Czerwiec

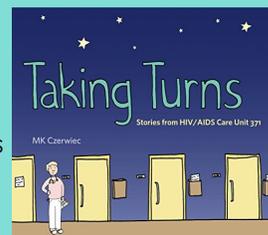
Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021
5:30pm-7pm, HSEB 2680 AND

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/99852712931>

Passcode: 973343

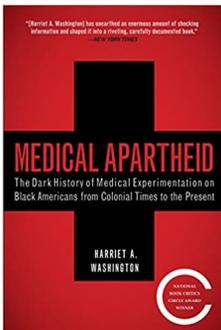
CME event code: 307019

During both the COVID-19 global pandemic and HIV global epidemic, comics have played critical role in public health and personal coping. In this lecture, MK Czerwiec, RN, MA will reflect on the role comics played in both of these crises, and extrapolate insights into how comics can potentially help us to be better caregivers, patients, and supporters of both.



2021 Cowan Memorial & Priscilla M. Mayden Endowed Lecturer: Harriet A. Washington, MA (Columbia)

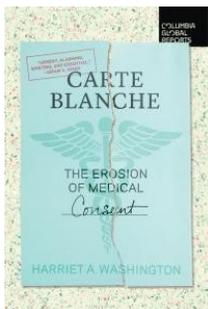
Our 2021 Cowan Memorial Lecturer and Priscilla M. Mayden Endowed Lecturer is Harriet A. Washington. This virtual visit is made possible by a collaboration by the Center for Health Ethics, Arts, and Humanities (CHEtAH), Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library (EHS), J. Willard Marriott Library, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion, (EDI), School of Medicine Office of Health Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (SOM OHEDI), and The Tanner Humanities Center



Harriet A. Washington, MA (Columbia) is a prolific science writer, editor and ethicist who is the author of the seminal *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present*, which won a National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Oakland Award, and the American Library Association Black Caucus Nonfiction Award and five other well-received books, including *A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and its Assault on the American Mind* as well as *Carte Blanche: The Erosion of Informed Consent in Medical Research*, published in 2021 by Columbia



Global Reports. Washington is a Writing Fellow in Bioethics at Harvard Medical School, a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, has been the 2015-2016 Miriam Shearing Fellow at the University of Nevada's Black Mountain Institute. She has also been a Research Fellow in Medical Ethics at Harvard Medical School, a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, a visiting scholar at DePaul University College of Law and a senior research scholar at the National Center for Bioethics at Tuskegee University. She has held fellowships at Stanford University and teaches bioethics at Columbia University, where she delivered the 2020 commencement speech to Columbia's School of Public Health graduates and won Columbia's 2020 Mailman School of Public Health's Public Health Leadership Award, as well as its 2020-21 Kenneth and Mamie Clark Distinguished Lecture Award.



There will be three opportunities to hear Harriet Washington, virtually:

'A Hideous Monster of the Mind': Medical Mythology and the Construction of 'Blackness' (Thursday, October 7, 2021, 12pm-1pm, [Internal Medicine Grand Rounds](#))

"Don't Let the Lion tell the Giraffe's Story": How the Curation of History Hobbles Medical Ethics (Thursday, October 7, 2021, 5:30pm-7pm, <https://utah.zoom.us/j/95304732845> Passcode: 838654 , Evening Ethics Discussion)

"Medical Apartheid and Beautiful Lies": Repeating the Past and Breaking the Cycle" (Friday, October 8, 2021, 12pm-1pm, <https://utah.zoom.us/j/95140646243> Passcode: 611870 , Cowan Memorial Public Lecture and Priscilla M. Mayden Endowed Lecture)

2021-22 Health Humanities Speaker: MK Czerwiec, RN, MA

MK Czerwiec , RN, MA will visit Utah November 3-4 as our 3rd Annual Health Humanities Lecturer. MK Czerwiec is a nurse, cartoonist, and educator. She is the creator of *Taking Turns: Stories from HIV/AIDS Care Unit 371*, editor of the Eisner Award-winning *Menopause: A Comic Treatment*, and a co-author of *Graphic Medicine Manifesto*. MK regularly teaches graphic medicine at Northwestern Medical School and the University of Chicago. She co-manages [Graphic-Medicine.org](#) and is the Comics Editor for the journal *Literature & Medicine*. See more of her work at www.comicnurse.com. **There will be two public opportunities to hear MK Czerwiec:**



"Pandemics & Panels: What Have We Learned about Global Health Crises Through Comics?" (Evening Ethics: Wednesday, November 3, 5:30-7pm, location tbd)

"Graphic Medicine: Comics As Bridge Between Humanity & Health" (Tanner Center Talk, Thursday, November 4, 9-10am, location tbd)

Literature and Health Care Discussion Group

Schedule of 2021 Readings can be found on our website

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

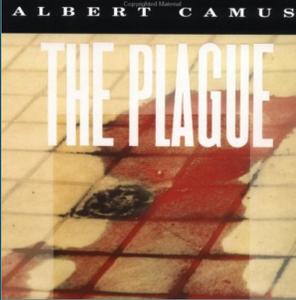
6-7:30pm, Facilitated by Mark Matheson, DPhil

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/91794876442> Passcode: 585595

The Plague

by Albert Camus

In his novel *The Plague* (1947), Albert Camus offers a compelling fictional account of an epidemic in a North African city. The central character is a physician, Dr. Bernard Rieux, who is very active in the town of Oran before the plague and who becomes a leading figure in dealing with its catastrophic effects. The novel offers a perceptively sequenced presentation of the outbreak, progress, and abatement of the plague. Living as we still are with the COVID pandemic, we can appreciate Camus's insight into the consequences of the plague for individuals and institutions. In both the novel and our current reality, mass infection reveals a great deal about the character of human beings, as it does about organizations—medical, civic, ecclesiastical, and commercial. One of the real interests for us in reading the novel will be comparing the responses to plague in Camus's fictional city with those in 21st-century America. One initial observation: while the narrator is aware that the plague raises political issues in Oran, there is an absence of the politicization of the epidemic along ideological lines that we've witnessed in the U.S. since March 2020. There is also the question of how a physician—and how the medical establishment—deals with this kind of disaster. Dr. Rieux is persistently stoic, but he faces exhaustion, numbness, and existential philosophical and spiritual quandaries. The effects of the epidemic on Dr. Rieux—of human suffering on a scale he has never experienced, and about which he can do almost nothing—will be a rich topic of discussion when we gather in September.



Wednesday, October 6, 2021 (NOTE: DATE CHANGE)

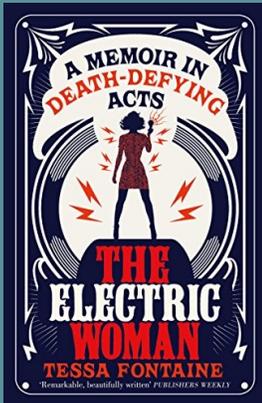
6-7:30pm, Facilitated by Rachel Borup, PhD

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/99135150674> Passcode: 441180

The Electric Woman: A Memoir in Death-Defying Acts

by Tessa Fontaine

Tessa Fontaine's relationship with her mother was difficult to begin with. Then her mother's devastating hemorrhagic stroke put Tessa in the complicated position of caring for a mother who had done a less-than-perfect job of caring for her. To escape the stress and ongoing emotional trauma of her mother's health crisis, Tessa learned to eat fire and joined the travelling World of Wonders sideshow, where she performed as Electra, the Electric Woman. Her memoir alternates between scenes at her mother's bedside, flashbacks to her difficult childhood, and scenes of adventure with her adopted carnie family. Tessa is an amazingly gifted writer who studied in the University of Utah's creative writing program. Her memoir is sure to spark discussion about the ways in which atypical bodies have been exoticized and vilified by sideshows, the therapeutic benefits of performance art, how outsiders often form alternative communities, difficult mother-daughter relationships, caregiving, and complicated grief.



Wednesday, November 10, 2021

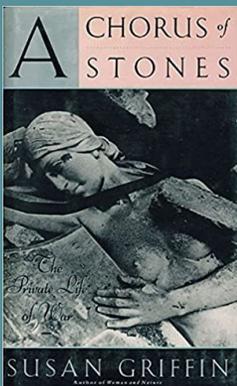
6-7:30pm, Facilitated by Jenny Cochrane, MA

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/96985052961> Passcode: 042175

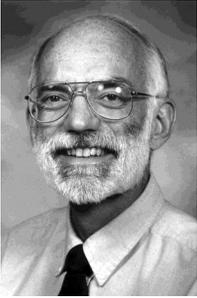
A Chorus of Stones: The Private Life of War

by Susan Griffin

Susan Griffin's *A Chorus of Stones* is, all at once, a historical narrative and memoir. Her prose weaves the story of global history into the lives of those who lived it—famous and inconspicuous alike—including the lives of her and her family. Much as stones carry the scars of the events of their environment, Griffin explores the idea that the trauma we carry is not ours alone but is a tapestry of pain past and present that we will, in turn, pass on to the future. She examines the toll that personal and global traumas take on our individual psyches—how they blur the lines of traditional gender roles, sex, health, safety, well-being, and sanity. Paragraph by paragraph, Griffin pulls the macrocosm of myriad historical events into the microcosm of identity and proves that we truly are products of all that is and all that has gone before.



Keep the date for The David Green Memoria Lectureship



David Green, MD

The David Green Memorial Lectureship honors David Green, MD, pediatrician, who, in 1989, was a founding member of the Department of Internal Medicine's Division of Medical Ethics, now known as The Center for Health Ethics, Arts, and Humanities. From 1983 through 1997, David was a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics. David was Director of Adolescent Medicine in the Division of General Pediatrics. At the University Hospital, he developed the Adolescent Unit and at the time of his death was Co-Medical Director of the hospital's Adolescent/Pediatric/Community Medicine Unit. For 17 years, David was Medical Director of the Utah State Development Center. He also was the course director and principal architect of the medical ethics course, required for many years, for fourth-year medical students, and he chaired the University Hospital Ethics Committee from 1985 until his death. David Green was known as a "skilled consultant and teacher of medical ethics, who, with sensitivity and insight, appreciated the complexity of individual cases." His memory lives on with us as we continue the important work to which he so faithfully dedicated himself.



Alyssa Burgart, MD

Alyssa Burgart, MD, will be our 2021-22 David Green Memorial Speaker, Dr. Alyssa Burgart is a board certified pediatric anesthesiologist and bioethicist, specializing in pediatric anesthesia and pediatric abdominal transplant anesthesia at Stanford Health. Dr. Burgart visits Utah **January 19-21, 2022.** Watch for more information!

CHeEtAH Calendar of Events

*Literature and Health Care Discussion Group 6-7:30 pm (via zoom)	
The Plague by Albert Camus, Facilitated by Mark Matheson, DPhil; https://utah.zoom.us/j/91794876442 code 585595	Wed. Sept. 8
The Electric Woman: A Memoir in Death-Defying Acts by Tessa Fontaine, Facilitated by Rachel Borup, PhD; https://utah.zoom.us/j/99135150674 code: 441180 (NOTE: DATE CHANGE)	Wed. Oct. 6
A Chorus of Stones: The Private Life of War by Susan Griffin, Facilitated by Jenny Cochrane, MA; https://utah.zoom.us/j/96985052961 code: 042175	Wed. Nov. 10
*Evening Ethics 5:30-7pm (via zoom)	
"What Does It Cost to Save a Life?: Weighing the Promise of Medical Technology Against Its Personal, Systemic, Ecological and Social Costs" with Katherine Standefer; https://utah.zoom.us/j/97868455735 Passcode: 106477	Tues. Sept. 14
"Don't Let the Lion tell the Giraffe's story": How the Curation of History Hobbles Medical Ethics with Harriet A. Washington, MA (Columbia) https://utah.zoom.us/j/95304732845 Passcode: 83865	Thurs. Oct. 7
"Pandemics & Panels: What Have We Learned about Global Health Crises Through Comics?" with MK Czerwiec, RN,MA https://utah.zoom.us/j/99852712931 Passcode: 973343	Wed. Nov. 3
Lectureships	
Internal Medicine Grand Rounds: Cowan & Mayden Lecture with Harriet A. Washington: 'A Hideous Monster of the Mind': Medical Mythology and the Construction of 'Blackness' 12pm-1pm, Internal Medicine Grand Rounds	Thurs. Oct. 7
Max and Sara Cowan Memorial Public Lecture and Priscilla M. Mayden Lecture: "Medical Apartheid and Beautiful Lies": Repeating the Past and Breaking the Cycle" 12-pm-1pm, https://utah.zoom.us/j/95140646243 code: 611870	Fri. Oct. 8
Health Humanities Lecture at Tanner with MK Czerwiec: "Graphic Medicine: Comics As Bridge Between Humanity & Health" 9am-10am	Thurs, Nov. 4
Internal Medicine Ethics Resident Conference Seminar Series 2pm-3pm	
Patient Safety and Ethics: the impaired physician	Thurs. Nov.4, 11, Dec. 23, 30, Jan. 4

Disclosure: None of the faculty or planners or anyone in control of content for this continuing medical education activity have any relevant financial relationships since the content does not cover any products/services of a commercial interest; therefore, there are no relevant financial relationships to disclose. **AMA Credit:** The University of Utah School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. All attendees are encouraged to use the CME system to claim their attendance. Physicians will be awarded AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™; all other professions will be awarded attendance at a CME event credit that they may use for their re-credentialing purposes. All users will be able to print or save certificates. For questions regarding the CME system, please contact the UUCME Office. For questions regarding re-credentialing process or requirements, please contact your re-credentialing organization. **ACCREDITATION:** The University Of Utah School Of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

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Samuel M. Brown, MD, MS
Teneille R. Brown, JD
Leslie P. Francis, PhD, JD
Brent Kious, MD, PhD
Erin Rothwell, PhD
Jim Ruble, PharmD, JD
Susan Sample, PhD, MFA
Jill Sweney, MD
James Tabery, PhD
Natalia Washington, PhD
Jay Jacobson, MD (Emeritus)

Center Associates:

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Philip L. Baese, MD
Louis Borgenicht, MD
Maureen Henry, JD, PhD
Mark Matheson, DPhil
Thomas Schenkenberg, PhD

Deputy Director:

Linda Carr-Lee Faix, MA, PhC

Phone: (801) 587-5884

CHeEtAH Core Faculty on the Road and In Print

Jim Ruble has taken a new role, effective August 1, 2021, as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in the College of Pharmacy. In addition, his grant proposal (\$50k) was funded by the ALSAM foundation: "A database and heuristic of ethical issues in biomedical research."

Sam Brown is the chair of the international ACTIV-3b trial studying treatments for ARDS caused by COVID. He also has a new religious book out [*Where the Soul Hungers: One Doctor's Journey from Atheism to Faith*](#)

Peggy Battin gave the keynote address for the International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying, virtually, "Ending One's Life In Advance", July 27, 2021. She will present "Ending One's Life in Advance" at Rappahannock Community College, Warsaw, VA, virtually, on September 23, 2021.

Peggy Battin presented jointly with Lauren Solkowski, "The Impact of Stigma on Suicide and Overdose Death Investigations," for Primary Children's Hospital Social Work Group, virtually, July 28, 2021.

Gretchen Case received the 2021 Leonard W. Jarcho, M.D. Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Utah School of Medicine. "The award honors a faculty member who recognizes teaching is their most important responsibility. This outstanding medical educator demonstrates exceptional skill and dedication in teaching and advising medical students, interns, residents or fellows." <https://medicine.utah.edu/students/current-students/student-involvement/awards/jarcho-distinguished-teaching.php>