



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Joseph P. and Rose F. Kennedy Institute of Ethics

Dear Colleague,

April 26, 2026

As Co-Director of the **Intensive Bioethics Course (IBC47)**, I'm reaching out to inform you that IBC47 will take place from **June 9-11, 2026** at Georgetown University, Washington DC. This acclaimed course is a collaboration between by the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and the Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University. Now being offered for the forty-seventh time, IBC47 has some new features this year to enable you to practice applying practically new learning during and following the course.

We encourage you take advantage of the **early-bird registration** rate that ends on **May 1, 2026**.

New Case-Based Format

For the first time, we are intentionally connecting the presenters' core learning points to small-group discussions of specific anonymized cases encountered during actual ethics consultations. Co-facilitators of these discussion groups will be faculty members of Georgetown University who will bring combined expertise and experience in clinical, health policy, legal, philosophy, and ethics work. Following each case discussion, all the groups will come together to share insights and questions. This is an opportunity to discuss these cases further with a panel of relevant course instructors, case developers, and group facilitators, and to identify what we learned from the actual case.

Special Events

Christine Grady, RN, PhD will give this year's Keynote Presentation on *The Common Good in Public Health Policy*. **Myles Sheehan SJ, MD, MA and Laura DeNardis, PhD** will co-facilitate a Panel Discussion on *AI and Health Care*. **Laura Bishop, PhD** will facilitate the popular Bioethics Movie Night on the theme of *Caregiving*.

Special Topics Deep Dives

You will be invited to sign up for a session with leading experts for a deep dive into one of several possible Special Topic discussions, such as on **Disability Ethics, Nursing Ethics, and Ethical Issues Related to Caregivers**.

Research Opportunities

Throughout the Course, participants will have access to the **Bioethics Research Library**, the largest collection of bioethical materials in the U.S. The Library will be open for extended hours during the IBC for the convenience of participants. Also, several expert Information Specialists will be available to assist participants in finding answers to bioethics questions. The Library will also be offering for free to IBC participants a selection of several dozen donated bioethics books.

Networking Opportunities

IBC 47 is truly multi-disciplinary and international in the participants it attracts. You will be able to network with likeminded colleagues and Georgetown faculty during a range of interesting social contexts throughout this Course, such as small groups, meals, breaks, movie night, and receptions.

For the IBC 47 program and to register, go to: ibc.georgetown.edu

We hope to see you in June at Georgetown University!

Warmly, 



IBC47 Co-Director with Myles Sheehan SJ, MD, MA

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Intensive Bioethics Course 47: Caring in Times of Crisis

	Day 1 (Tues. June 9, 2026)	Day 2 (Wed. June 10, 2026)	Day 3 (Thurs. June 11, 2026)
08:00 – 09:00 a.m.	Registration & breakfast – Social Room, Healey Family Student Center (HFSC), Georgetown Univ	Breakfast - Social Room, HFSC	Breakfast - Social Room, HFSC
09:00 – 09:15 a.m.	Welcome & orientation	Comments	Comments & final instructions
09:15 – 10:00 a.m.	1. ‘Caring and Individual Agency’ Daniel Sulmasy	4. ‘Quality of Life and the Clinical Good’ Joel Reynolds	8. ‘Choosing Life-sustaining Treatments Wisely’ Allen Roberts II
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.	2. ‘Mistrust and Group Agency’ Alyssa Newman	5. ‘Which & Whose Common Good?’ Sean Aas	9. ‘Care Ethics and Moral Integrity in Today’s HealthCare Environment’ Carol Taylor
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	case 1 intro.	case 3 intro.	case 4 intro.
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	break	break	break
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.	small groups on case 1 illustrating that -agency is broader than autonomy -trustworthy relationships are important for promoting individual and group agency	small groups on case 3 illustrating that -quality of life ought to relate to holistic flourishing of individuals and groups -in deciding on the common good, the flourishing of all in society should be considered	small groups on case 4 illustrating that -deciding on clinical and policy interventions wisely entails considering agency, contexts, the good of individuals and the common good integrally. -relationships are fundamental in supporting wise deciding and addressing the ethical vulnerabilities of individuals and groups
12:30 – 01:30 p.m.	lunch	lunch	lunch
01.30 – 02:00 p.m.	panel discussion on case 1 (3 x 5 mins., TBD)	panel discussion on case 3 (3 x 5 mins., TBD)	panel discussion on case 4 (3 x 5 mins., TBD)
02:00 – 02:45 p.m.	3. ‘Individuals and Groups in Complex-adaptive Ecosystems’ Claudia Sotomayor	6. The Common Good in Public Health Policy Christine Grady	10. ‘AI & Health Care’ Myles Sheehan SJ & Laura DeNardis
02:45 – 03:00 p.m.	case 2 intro.		
03:00 – 03:30 p.m.	break	break	break
03:30 – 04:30 p.m.	small groups on case 2 illustrating that -the determinants of health of individuals and groups are inter-dependent -deciding on the clinical & public health good involves considering complexity and changes.	7. small groups on Special Topics	11. Concluding Discussion Myles Sheehan SJ, Bill Sullivan, Daniel Sulmasy
04:30 – 04:45 p.m.	break	break	break
04:45 – 05:15 p.m.	panel discussion on case 2 (3 x 5 mins., TBD)	Reception - Dahlgren Quadrangle (Bioethics Research Library in the event of rain)	Closing Reception (Kennedy Institute of Ethics & Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethic, 4 th Floor, Healy Hall, Georgetown University)
05:45 – 08:00 p.m.	Bioethics Movies Night on “Caregiving”, facilitator: Laura Bishop (Social Room, HFSC, dinner included)		

Letter color codes: **KIE** **PCCB** guests

Box color codes:

presentation	case-related	movie	special panel	Special Topics
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Small-Group Co-Facilitators

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6
Clinical Perspectives	Myles Sheehan SJ	Claudia Sotomayor	Columba Thomas OP	Bill Sullivan	Sarah Vittone	Christopher Spevak
Health Policy, Philosophical &/or Legal Perspectives	Laura Bishop	David Miller	Maggie Little	Therese Lysaught	Edward Grant	Daniel Sulmasy

Leads &/or Co-Leads for Special Topics

1. Sean Aas & Joel Reynolds, “What is Disability Bioethics?” (see description below *1)
2. Christine Grady & Carol Taylor, “Celebrating the Moral Strength of Health Care Professionals”
3. Edward Grant & Christopher Spevak, “Advancing the ‘Common Good’ in Faith-Based Health Care: Tensions in Culture and Law”
4. David Miller, “Will Medical Ethics Follow the Money?” (see description below *4)
5. Myles Sheehan, SJ, “Pellegrino’s Internal Morality of Medicine”
6. Claudia Sotomayor & Allen Roberts II, “An Approach to Clinical-Ethics Consultations and Levels of Interventions”
7. Bill Sullivan, “The Missing Patients: Caring for and Coaching Caregivers” (see description below *7)
8. Daniel Sulmasy, “Ethical Questions Regarding Novel Organ-Procurement Techniques (TA-NRP)”
9. Sarah Vittone, “When Good Care Is Refused: Navigating Ethical Tensions and Risk of Harm” (see description below *9)

Selected Descriptions (for others and to register, go to: icb.georgetown.edu)

*1. Nearly all of the conditions treated by medicine are or could be disabilities. Nearly all of us are or will be disabled. This discussion will explore the complex intersections of bioethics research and disability studies research, including the emerging field of "disability bioethics."

*4. In this session, we will examine how private equity, insurer and corporate consolidation, and policy incentives are reshaping American medical practice. We will discuss how market forces can distort physicians’ fiduciary duties and health equity goals and how (or whether) the patient and the healing relationship can remain the moral center of medicine in a financialized, free-market healthcare system.

*7. In clinical contexts, every patient has or should have at least one identified ‘caregiver’. In public health care contexts, a major health care workforce consists of ‘caregivers’. In both contexts, caregivers have typically been family members and their crucial roles are mostly unrecognized and unsupported. This discussion will explore the neglected caring for caregivers and ethical remedies in clinical and public health *care*.

*9. This session explores the ethical crisis that may arise when patients or their surrogates refuse recommended care specifically care with low burden and high benefit. Grounded in principles and virtue ethics, participants will examine how to balance respect for autonomy with the obligation to act for the patient’s good (mitigate harm) with attention to professional virtues (e.g., compassion, prudence, integrity). Through case-based discussion and practical application, the session equips professionals to navigate conflict, explore key perspectives, address inconsistencies in capacity and critical thinking elements, examine emotive influences on decision-making, and mitigate conflict to facilitate positive shared decision-making.