A Introduction to Bioethics at Penn

**Penn Bioethics Journal and Society**

**Student Handbook**

**What do bioethicists discuss?**

**Neuroethics**
- Should Adderral be permitted for the purpose of cognitive enhancement?

**Public Health Ethics**
- How should vaccines be rationed during pandemics? Are we responsible for the health of individuals in third-world countries?

**Physical Enhancement**
- Should athletes be allowed to use steroids while competing?

**Allocation of Scarce Resources**
- What criteria should be used to make fair waiting lists for hearts and kidneys?

**Healthcare Reform**
- Should we create a broader national health care system? Should there be an upper age limit for receiving treatment?

**Reproductive Ethics**
- Should commercial surrogacy be legal? Should widows be able to use their husbands’ frozen sperm?

**End of Life Care**
- Should other states adopted the assisted suicide programs currently in effect in Oregon and Washington?

**Research Ethics**
- Most research subjects are middle-aged white males. Should guidelines be used to ensure the representation of other populations? What are the obligations of pharmaceutical companies conducting research in third world countries?

**Animal Ethics**
- Do animals have the same moral status as humans?

**Physician-Patient Relationship**
- When should a physician be allowed to exercise conscientious objection? When can a physician give a patient treatment against their will?

**Pediatric Ethics**
- Should parents be allowed to conceive “savior siblings”- children designed to serve as a matching donor for their sibling? Should parents be required to give their children

**Philosophical Schools of Thought**

- Consequentialism
- Deontology and Kantian Ethics
- Teleology
- Rights-based
- Social Contract Theories
- Distributive Justice
- Rule and Act Utilitarianism

**Common Terms**

- Competence and Capacity
- Undue Inducement
- Extraordinary Measures
- Altered Standards of Care
- Informed Consent
- Surrogate Decision Maker
- Doctrine of Double Effect

**Ethics Codes**

- Nuremberg code: [http://ohrp.osophs.dhhs.gov/](http://ohrp.osophs.dhhs.gov/)
- Declaration of Helsinki: [http://www.wma.net/e/policy/17-c_e.html](http://www.wma.net/e/policy/17-c_e.html)

**Recommended Reading List**

- *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine*
  Bonnie Steinbock and John Arras

- *Principles of Bioethics*
  Tom Beauchamp, James Childress

- *The Birth of Bioethics*
  Al Jonsen

- *Just Health*
  Norman Daniels

Please visit us: [www.dophin.upenn.edu/bioethic/](http://www.dophin.upenn.edu/bioethic/)
[www.bioethicsjournal.com](http://www.bioethicsjournal.com)
Penn Bioethics Society

The Penn Bioethics Society (PBS) is comprised of a group of undergraduate students at the University of Pennsylvania dedicated to broadening the discussion of medicine, biotechnology, philosophy, health care, and ethics. We seek to raise awareness of ethical issues by participating in, and creating outlets for, discussion and education. In particular, we publish the Penn Bioethics Journal as the nation’s premier peer-reviewed undergraduate bioethics journal furthering recognition of outstanding contributions from an international population of undergraduate students. Additionally, we focus on expanding boundaries of Penn undergraduates by hosting campus-wide events including formal lectures, case study presentations, public debates, debriefing of current bioethical issues and casual student-led conversations. The Society creates a dynamic and inclusive environment to gain pertinent and timely information on bioethical issues at the University of Pennsylvania.

To find out about weekly student lunches, faculty lunches, meetings, and more about the undergraduate Penn Bioethics Society & Journal (PBS/J) please visit our websites.

Penn Bioethics Websites:
www.dophin.upenn.edu/bioethic/
www.bioethicsjournal.com

To be added onto the listserv and to receive our weekly newsletter, apply to join our editorial staff or with any questions, please e-mail
penn.bioethics.society@gmail.com.

Penn Bioethics Journal

The Penn Bioethics Journal (PBJ) is the nation’s premier peer-reviewed, undergraduate bioethics journal. Established in 2004, the Journal features and provides a venue for the contributions of undergraduates to the field of bioethics. PBJ, embracing the interdisciplinary focus of bioethics, reviews and publishes reports of empirical research and analysis of previous work—addressing debates in medicine, technology, philosophy, public policy, law, theology and ethics among others. The biannual Journal additionally features news briefs and editorials reviewing current bioethical issues, as summarized by our undergraduate editorial staff. Undergraduate editors and authors have a unique opportunity to get involved with the peer-review process through the collaborative and rigorous review and preparation of PBJ. With an audience ranging from top contributors to the field to a broader public seeking unbiased information, the Penn Bioethics Journal scholastically involves all undergraduates interested in the extensive field of bioethics.

The editorial staff also focuses on expanding boundaries of Penn undergraduates by hosting campus-wide events through the Penn Bioethics Society. These include formal lectures, case study presentations, public debates, debriefing of current bioethical issues and casual student-led conversations.

Archived editions of the Journal and information on the submissions process can be found on our website: http://bioethicsjournal.com

PBJ Editing Process

Selection
The editors read all of the papers that have been submitted and then gather in clusters of five or six to discuss the merits of each. Papers are either accepted, accepted with conditions, or rejected. Final decisions are made according to majority vote at the general body meetings. Afterward, managing editors mail the decisions and conditions to the authors and guide them through the revision process.

Editing
A panel of editors copy-edits the revised papers, news briefs, and editorials for minor grammatical, referencing, and syntax errors.

Layout
After the editing has been completed, a publishing team formats and lays out the new issue which is sent to the printer.