

6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

Abstract Submission Form -Papers

Name: Philip D. Crowell

Title/Degree: Rev. Dr. (PhD -Philosophy) Director of Spiritual Care

Institution: British Columbia Children's Hospital

Country: Canada

Email: pcrowell@cw.bc.ca

Proposed title of paper: The Art of the Ethics Consultation: Form, Flexibility and Function

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

1. To develop creative strategies for ethics consultations.
2. To draw upon the artist imagination of Haida art considering their virtue ethic.
3. To examine a complex rare disease case of an aboriginal child utilizing the Zurich model.

This paper will look at the ethical consultation and assessment process in the NICU. Is there a framework which helps providers to be consistent in their ethics assessment process? We will look at the Zurich NICU study and protocol examining the benefits and costs of a "tight" ethics framework. The uniqueness of situations often requires "broad" creativity, sensitivity and artistry to achieve a measure of success. Drawing upon Haida aboriginal art and the sketches of Robert Pope, (a cancer patient) I invite the audience to discover the context, narrative, and symbols of meaning which frame the ethics framework providing fuller articulation of notions such as the "patient's best interests" and "harmbenefit ratio."

The Zurich model suggests there are several ways neonatal intensive care decision-making may take place. Traditionally, the head of the unit decides when to withdraw or to withhold intensive care. Another option may be to follow strict rules or guidelines. Such an approach does not allow individual evaluation and does not take into account the complex situation of individual neonates. Another way is that the ethical decisions can be delegated to special ethics consultants alienating the healthcare team. Or ethical decisions can be delegated to the parents who then are overwhelmed by this task and experience profound feelings of guilt. Or finally, it may be the healthcare team who decides but this requires ethical artistry, competence, process and excellent communication skills to hold this all together.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference: **no**

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper? **NO**