



## 6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

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### Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: Being Directive in Clinical Ethics Consultation

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

I will present a case with many hallmarks of a challenging clinical ethics consultation: a patient in a terminal stage of illness who can no longer advocate for herself/himself, a decision to be made with life and death consequences, urgency, differing cultural and religious values that require opposing courses of action, estranged family members, and conflict. What interests me in this case is my role as the ethics consultant, particularly how and why I deviated from usual consensus-building strategies to be far more directive than I imagined an ethics consultant should be. In this presentation I will draw on my reflections of this experience and discussions in the literature to explore the appropriateness and limits of being directive in clinical ethics consultations. In doing so, I discuss the precarious nature of being directive in cross-cultural circumstances, and of situations where the ethics consultant's role seems to include family counsellor. Cases such as this highlight the importance of having effective means to assess ethics consultations retrospectively. I will share the techniques I used, where I believe current evaluative strategies are lacking, and the potential for techniques from other disciplines to be adapted for retrospective assessment of clinical ethics consultation.

The objectives of this presentation are to explore: 1. Being directive versus building consensus in clinical ethics consultation. 2. Making recommendations when family members are in conflict about irreconcilable values. 3. Potentially effective retrospective assessment techniques for clinical ethics consultations.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

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Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes     No