

INSIDE

Finding Ethics in Unexpected Places

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This is the eighth issue of The University of Tampa's Center for Ethics newsletter. In this issue, we find ethics in unexpected places – at the movie theater, in your doctor's office, embedded in the leadership of a manufacturing company. Perhaps this proves the adage "if you want to find something, stop looking for it"? Or perhaps ethics is like breathing – so essential, so habitual one hardly notices. Regardless of the analogy best describing ethics, read on for the unexpected.

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Ethics in the Medical Field

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medical treatment and is one of many recognized medical ethics values. In Western medicine, if the patient is of sound mental-health, it is ethical to respect their desires for medical treatment, even if they do not align with our own personal desires. It becomes a complex situation if your patient happens to be losing quite a bit of blood. You give them donor blood, but they have denied blood product administration – even if it means saving their life.

Early in my career as an anesthetist I was called in to do what is referred to as an 'organ harvest'. This is a procedure performed on a patient that is declared brain dead, but still has viable organs that can be procured and donated to patients that need them (heart, liver, lungs, etc). Our patient that particular night was a young boy who sustained a traumatic brain injury playing football. When these procedures are initiated, organ recipients are contacted to come to the hospital (usually in another city or state) to begin preparation to undergo surgery for a transplant.

Organ harvesting/transplants already present a widely debated ethical dilemma for many. Whether the debate is religious or spiritual, a social standard to process these events ethically in order to be aligned with t

aspects are considered valued in the realm of medical ethics. In this case, the spiritual wishes of the family changed as they were just about to commence the procedure. Their new directive was to not participate in the organ donation process. The family withdrew life support to their child and the recipients were contacted as they arrived at the hospital that they would not be receiving their transplant any longer. Situations like this can be heart breaking. Not just for the family that just lost their son, but also for the matching recipients that have waited long for a life-saving donor-match. From a broad view it appears that there are healthy organs that could go to saving multiple other lives and promote good in society. But from a spiritual perspective, this family may have private beliefs that take priority over this procedure. The ethical implications here are radical. What is the right thing to do in this scenario? Should a higher authority allow the use of these organs to save lives? Should the family be allowed to preserve the remains of

Ethics Award Breakfast 2019

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In recognition of his service to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay, the Child Abuse Council of Florida Holocaust Museum, the United Way, the City of Tampa Library Board, Newman (along with his brother, Bobby Newman) was named Humanitarian of the Year by the Judeo-Christian

Health Clinic and was selected to carry the Olympic torch.

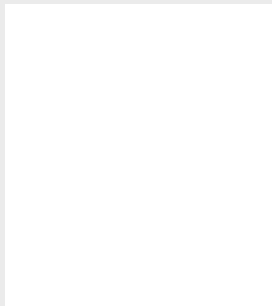
Approximately 200 guests, including local Tampa Bay business professionals and UT students, faculty, and administrators, attended the Tampa Bay Ethics Award Breakfast in November. The ceremony included testimonials from those with long-term experience with Newman's respectable and ethical contributions.

Ethics in the Workplace: Practitioner Tips

Question: What is an effective way to empower employees to do the right thing?

Tip: Encourage everyone to "ask the question."

Explanation: In other words, make it clear who employees can turn to for guidance, encouraging them to reach out when they encounter uncomfortable situations.



Kimberley Sullivan, Ethics Officer and Human Resources Manager, City of Tampa

