

à propos

Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute
Institut canadien catholique de bioéthique

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Message from Dr. Moira McQueen, Executive Director

CCBI

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Wellness in Mind, Body
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Keynote speaker:

Dr. Michael Higgins



OUR MISSION

To promote and protect
the dignity of the human person
through interdisciplinary ethics
research and education in health
care and the life sciences.

Dear Friends,

There is something exciting about September. There is a feeling of a new beginning, as students return to school or begin a new stage in their studies, and as adults return to a more regular rhythm after the somewhat more relaxed days of summer. Perhaps even as adults we are still tuned in to the rhythms of the school year, and can still recall that feeling of anticipation of being in a new grade, with new teachers, and with expanding personal horizons. There's always so much to learn!

With this in mind, the CCBI is looking forward to our bioethics conference on mental health issues, to be held October 4-5, 2007. Michael Higgins, the well known media commentator on all things Catholic and religious, and respected author and president of St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB, will lecture on the topic: *Broken of Mind, but Not Shattered of Spirit*.

The title of his talk is revealing. Mental health problems beset one in five, many of them friends, family or neighbours, yet mental health is an area where many of us are woefully uninformed. If we are to take our Christian vocation seriously and be aware of these wounded members of our community, then here is an area where most of us, including all of us at CCBI, have a lot to learn.

Professor Higgins will launch this issue for us as the CCBI's Annual Lecture on Thursday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. We invite each and every



one of you to attend what promises to be a most enlightening discussion. The lecture is free of charge and open to everyone.

On Friday, October 5, you are invited to register for a one-day series of talks, to be given by Professor Barry Brown, Dr. Ed Rzedki, Dr. Bill Sullivan, Chaplain Chris De Bono and Debbie Collins. These talks should serve to heighten our awareness of mental health issues, and encourage us to be more involved in being part of the solution to the many problems which occur in this field. We intend to continue to focus on mental health issues in our seminars and lectures for the foreseeable future, since it has been an area that tends to be neglected. At the same time we want to continue to strengthen our knowledge of bioethical issues in end-of-life matters, palliative care, questions raised by reproductive and other technologies, stem cell research, and many others, all from a Catholic perspective.

This one-day bioethics conference, following Professor Higgins keynote talk on Thursday evening, is open to all interested people. We encourage you to attend, and to invite your friends and family. Once we know about the issues, we will perhaps be better prepared to do something about them.

One of the speakers, Dr. Bill Sullivan, has recently been honoured in being appointed to the Pontifical Academy for Life. This is a wonderful recognition of all the work he has done in the field of bioethics, as well as his successful work in founding both the CCBI and the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists (IACB). We congratulate him, and assure him of our support and willingness to be of assistance in any way we can.

For the People in the Pews (FPIP)

This four-part program offers all interested and inquiring Catholics the opportunity to examine current bioethical issues from a Roman Catholic perspective. The sessions are led by experienced Catholic moral theologians, ethicists, doctors, and educators. Dialogue is a welcome and essential component of the sessions.

The sessions cover topics such as:

- what is bioethics and what are the issues?
- beginning of life issues (reproductive technology, IVF, surrogacy, embryo adoption, stem cell research);
- end-of-life issues (patients' rights, advance directives, Powers of Attorney, pain and suffering, palliative sedation, withdrawal of treatment, euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, palliative care, and spirituality).

FPIP will be held September 12, 19, 26, and October 3 at The Spirituality Centre (Sisters of St Joseph of Peterborough). Contact (705) 745-4478 to register. For information or to request FPIP for your parish, please email rose.maggisano@utoronto.ca.

Annual Conference October 4 - 5, 2007 Bioethical Dimensions: Wellness in Mind, Body and Spirit

Conference Objectives

- to explore the meaning of suffering and dignity for those with mental health issues and their families;
- to raise deeper questions concerning important ethical, theological, and spiritual dimensions;
- to provide updates on topics relevant to professionals working with persons with mental health concerns
- to offer bioethics topics aimed at enhancing knowledge
- to provide a forum for interaction and sharing of ideas with colleagues.

Keynote Speaker - October 4, 7:30 pm

Dr. Michael Higgins

Broken of Mind, but Not Shattered of Spirit

Prof. Barry Brown

Falling through the Cracks: Some Flaws in Mental Health Policy

Chris DeBono and Debbie Collins

De Profundis: Spirituality in a Mental Health Centre

Dr. Edward Rzedki, *Mental Health from a Psychiatrist's Perspective*

Dr. Bill Sullivan, *Ethically Questionable Treatment Decisions regarding Persons with a Developmental Disability*

Information

Cost: \$100; \$50 for students and seniors

Details about rooms at USMC will be posted on website.

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Certificate of attendance will be issued on request.

CCBI Update

Fully Alive, June 11-12, 2007

Dr. Moira McQueen is a member of the committee that updated Grades 1 and 2 of *Fully Alive*, the family life education program approved by the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops. In *Fully Alive* the materials are integrated to reflect the special nature of Family Life Education as a shared program between home and school. Work is ongoing to revise the remaining grades.

Book Launch - *Ethics and the New Genetics*

Later in June, CCBI hosted a book launch for the Institute's most recent publication, *Ethics and the New Genetics: An Integrated Approach*.



Guests included Bishop Hundt, Archdiocese of Toronto, and Professor Margaret O'Gara, newly appointed President of the Catholic Theology Society of America for 2007-2008 (pictured above); editor Daniel Monsour; Dr. Bill Sullivan; Professors Michael Vertin, Richard Toporosky, and Gordon Rixon, SJ; and representatives from the publisher, University of Toronto Press. (To order, call 1-800-565-9523.)

International Association of Catholic Bioethicists International Colloquium

In July Dr. Moira McQueen and Dr. Rory Fisher attended the IACB conference on *Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine: How Far Should We Go?* The goal was to develop an ethical framework for assessing developments in stem cell research and regenerative medicine.

Pontifical Appointment for Dr. Bill Sullivan

On August 2 the Vatican announced the appointment of Dr. Bill Sullivan, Founding Director of CCBI and Director of the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists, to the Pontifical Academy for Life. In an article by Michael Swan in *The Catholic Register* (August 13, 2007) Dr. Sullivan states "the most important challenge for the academy is to identify new bioethical issues at very early stages and to keep articulating a vision of how our current and emerging science and technologies can best promote the flourishing of individuals and communities around the world."