

# 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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### 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,

The year is progressing and so, we hope, is the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. One sign of this is CCBI's new book *Ethics and the New Genetics: An Integrated Approach* published by the University of Toronto Press. *Ethics and the New Genetics* is the result of an interesting collaboration among many contributors, Canadian and American, and we congratulate all the authors who attended the CCBI Guelph Symposium in 2002 which began the process. We owe a special vote of thanks to Professor Michael Vertin of the Philosophy Department of the University of St. Michael's College who steered the project through a Lonerganian process, and to our diligent and concise editor, Danny Monsour of the Lonergan Institute.

We welcome our new office administrator, Bambi Rutledge, who comes to us from the deVeber Institute. Bambi is making a smooth transition and is getting to know many of our colleagues at the University of St. Michael's College, of which she herself is a graduate.

Fr. Leo Walsh, CSB, and I were happy to be of service to the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops as members of the committee drafting their pastoral letter, "Going to the House of the Father: A Statement on the Dignity and Destiny of Human Life" (April 2007). We congratulate the Bishops for speaking out against euthanasia yet again, and for continuing to educate about the need to be aware of political developments.



We were also glad to be invited to many parishes to lead CCBI's *For People in the Pews* program. There is a real need for this for this type of discussion about Church teaching and bioethical matters. Many of the "baby boomer" generation have reached the age when thoughts turn to how we can best live out the later stages in life and the many moral questions that arise during times of serious or terminal illnesses. How can we prepare for these stages, and how can we help each other as individuals, as members of families, and as communities of believers?

We believe there is a lot we can do as individuals and communally, and we can become much more aware of what lies ahead. One of the most valuable outcomes of the sessions is the discussion that takes place among the participants, and it is striking how much we can learn through listening to others' experiences. Such engagement is one more way of building parish community.

CCBI is excited to announce that we are in the planning stages of a conference for Canadian Catholic physicians which will address some of their ethical and spiritual concerns. Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto has graciously agreed to be the host of this April 2008 event. We hope to invite as many physicians from across Canada as possible, and we ask your help in giving this information to any physician you know who would be interested.

We thank all of you for your ongoing support, and ask you to keep us in your prayers as we continue to implement our mission of research and education in bioethics from a faithful Catholic perspective.

## CCBI Update

For the People in the Pews

### Edmonton

Fr. Leo Walsh, CSB, and Moira McQueen were privileged to lead a “For the People in the Pews” programme at St. Thomas More Church in Edmonton in March, as a Lenten Retreat. We are grateful to Fr. Sylvain Casavant for hosting this event, and to Michael Shea, CEO of the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation, John MacDonald, Director of Pastoral Care and Life Initiatives of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, Gordon Self, Vice-President of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality of the Caritas Health Group, and Steve Hill, Director of Mission Integration for the ACHC for their generous contribution of time and effort in organizing this event. It is part of the CCBI’s mandate to contribute in some way to the ethical education of people across Canada, and, thanks to their efforts, we were able to make such a contribution in Edmonton.

### Courtice, Ontario

Dr. Bridget Campion led a four-evening FPIP bioethics discussion group at St. Therese Parish in Courtice, Peterborough Diocese. We are grateful to Fr. Ken Rae, Fr. Stan Ilo and the parish staff and council for organizing this very successful event and for their warm hospitality.

### Conferences

Rose Maggisano attended the 17th International Conference on Palliative and End-of-Life Care: *Hospice Palliative Care: the Quest for Quality* organized by the Ontario Palliative Care Association and Humber College. The OPCA works to encourage the development and expansion of palliative care in Ontario. This conference provided educational development and opportunities for communication to members who are health care professionals in the palliative care field. *Bioethics Matters* (see insert) reports on one workshop, *Palliative Care for the Elderly – Challenges of Quality Care in Long Term Care Settings*.

Bambi Rutledge attended The Joint Convention of the Catholic Health Association of Canada and the Catholic Health Association of New Brunswick in Moncton, NB, May 4-6, 2007. *Values Count: Celebrating Best Practices in Catholic Health Care* brought together Catholic bioethicists from across Canada. Dr. Nuala Kenny, OC, MD, FRCPC, Professor, Departments of Bioethics and Pediatrics, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS gave the keynote presentation on *Catholic Values and the Future of Health Care*. Ethical issues discussed were: Ethics Education for Health Care Staff, Caring for the Caregiver: Challenges and Opportunities in the Professional Experience, Managing Values in Changing Health Care Environments, and End-of-life Decision Making.



## Education

USMC Continuing Education

Moira McQueen, Director of the CCBI, Advisory Council member Dr. Rory Fisher, and staff researcher Michelle Davis, MA, were pleased to deliver *For the People in the Pews: An Introduction to Current issues in Bioethics from a Roman Catholic Perspective* as part of a lecture series at the Continuing Education Department of the University of St. Michael’s College. The sessions were one of the four **20 Years: Anniversary Lectures**, and were made possible by the generous support of St. Michael’s Alumni Annual Fund.

The four part series presented relevant church teaching in bioethics such as the dignity of the human person in relation to new advances in science and medicine. Specific topics covered were reproductive technology, end-of-life decision making, palliative care and euthanasia.

### Assumption University, Department of Religion

Moira McQueen attended a conference on *The Future of Religion*, at Assumption University, Windsor ON, in May 2007, giving a talk called ‘*Religion, Law and Politics*.’ Her thesis was that religious values have been fundamentally important in shaping modern society, and those values should be included and acknowledged in public policy debates, reflecting the pluralistic thought that exists in Canada.

Those who hold those values must insist on their inclusion in these debates, recognizing that no-one comes to the table without values. Everyone has an operative set of values, which must be declared in the same way as specifically religious values.

### Canadian Bioethics Society

In June 2007, Moira presented a paper at the Canadian Bioethics Society’s annual meeting, called *Why 22 Weeks? Ethical questions re the UK’s new guidelines on resuscitation and intensive care of premature babies*. The paper discussed the reasons given for treating/ not treating extremely premature babies in the UK, comparing the guidelines with more restrictive practices in some other countries.

The Canadian guidelines on this matter are currently being revised, and it will be of interest to see what they will propose about treatment of such babies.

## Annual Lecture, Dinner and Conference

Wellness in Mind, Body and Spirit: Bioethical Dimensions  
October 4 – 5, 2007



Dr. Michael Higgins, President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Thomas University, Fredericton NB, will deliver the Institute’s Annual Lecture on Thursday, October 4, 2007. His talk, **“Broken of Mind but Not Shattered of Spirit,”** will interest all who are concerned about mental health issues, physicians, mental health care workers, pastoral care workers.

Dr. Higgins’ presentation will also launch CCBI’s conference on mental health, **Wellness in Mind, Body and Spirit: Bioethical Dimensions,**

October 4 - 5, 2007 to be held at St. Michael’s College. Information about the conference will be posted on [www.ccbi-utoronto.ca](http://www.ccbi-utoronto.ca) as it becomes available. Additional advertising will be mailed.

### 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.

### Highlights

**Dr. Barry Brown**, Bioethicist, CCBI, and Chair *ethica* Clinical Research Inc. (Montreal):  
*Falling through the Cracks: Some Flaws in Mental Health Policy*

**Dr. Edward Rzaeki**, Past Chief, Department of Psychiatry and Medical Director, Mental Health and Addictions Program, William Osler Health Centre (Toronto):  
*So you want to see a psychiatrist: Mental health from a psychiatrist’s perspective*

**Dr. Bill Sullivan**, Family Physician, Department of Family and Community Medicine, St. Michael’s Hospital and Surrey Place Centre (Toronto), and Director, International Association of Catholic Bioethicists:  
*Historical and ethical considerations of non-treatment and inappropriate treatment decisions regarding persons with a developmental disability (DD)*

## New Publication from CCBI

*Ethics and the New Genetics: An Integrated Approach*  
edited by H. Daniel Monsour

The theme of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute’s first academic symposium held in Guelph Ontario was “Ethics and the New Genetics.” An interdisciplinary group of experts - ethicists, geneticists, physicians, lawyers and theologians - gathered in an attempt to apply Bernard Lonergan’s notion of functional specialization to the ethical debates surrounding genetics.

The proceedings are now available in *Ethics and the New Genetics*. These articles explore some of the advances in human genetics that continue to prompt ethical debate and outline the different stances taken on critical issues. They also examine those stances in the context of Roman Catholic moral and religious thought.

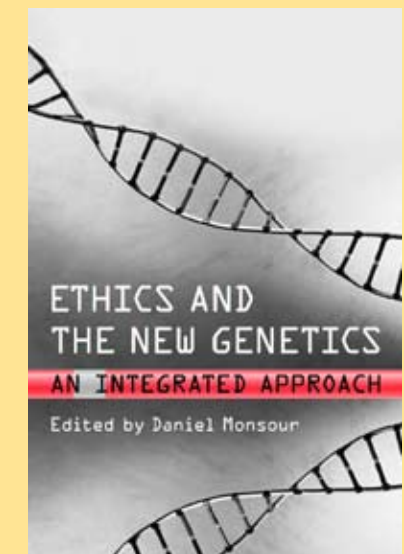
Timely, innovative, and wide-ranging, this collection will be of interest to bioethicists, philosophers, as well as to scholars of Lonergan and religion.

### Contributors:

Robert Allore, Joseph Boyle, Barry F. Brown, Cynthia Crysedale, John Dool, David Blake Farrell, Peter Ibbott, Christine E. Jamieson, Jaro Kotalik, Moira McQueen, Albert Moraczewski, Eileen de Neeve, Gordon Rixon, Russell J. Sawa, William F. Sullivan, Daniel P. Sulmasy, Anne Summers, Michael Vertin, and Leo Walsh.

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**International Association of Catholic Bioethicists (IACB) - Third International Colloquium, July 2007 (London, UK)**  
*Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine: How Far Should We Go?*

Moira McQueen and a number of Canadian bioethicists, including Dr. Hazel Markwell and Fr. Noël Simard, will attend IACB's 3rd International Colloquium. By creating a network for international collaboration, IACB seeks to increase the capacity of Catholic bioethicists to participate in public discussions, to promote ethics in health care and research globally, and to advance the thinking of Catholic bioethicists on controversial and emerging questions in bioethics.

Visit [www.iacbweb.org](http://www.iacbweb.org) for more information.

Former CCBI administrator **Jo-Anne Jackson-Thorne** is part of the secretariat of IACB which also includes CCBI's Founding Director, **Bill Sullivan**, MD, and associate **John Heng**, PhD.

**Doctors Rory Fisher and Maria Kraw Toronto Catholic Doctors Guild**

CCBI Advisory Council member Dr. Rory Fisher has completed his term as president of the St. Joseph Moscati Toronto Catholic Doctors Guild. Dr. Fisher is a speaker and educator in CCBI's For the People in the Pews.

We welcome TCDG's new president Dr. Maria Kraw and wish her much success in her new initiatives.

Both Dr. Kraw and Dr. Fisher are members of the committee planning for the 2008 Canadian Catholic physicians conference (see page 1).

**Media Focus on Stem Cell Questions**

**Global Television**

Global TV interviewed Moira McQueen asking her to comment on the ethics of stem cell research in light of the accord on stem cell research signed by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Ontario Premier Dalton McGinty.

**Salt + Light Media**

In March Dr. McQueen participated in Salt + Light's program Catholic Focus: The Stem Cell Question. Host Michèle Nuzzo facilitated the discussion on new and ethically sound developments in stem cell research as well as myths surrounding the Church's perspective on the issue.

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**Thank You for Your Support**

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