

## Center News

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The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity

### Center Launches New Project on Neuroethics

On November 5-6, a select group of Christian leaders grappling with emerging ethical issues in the neurosciences gathered together from around the nation at CBHD headquarters in Bannockburn, Illinois. The purpose of the gathering was a consultation to chart the course for cutting-edge research bringing Christian perspectives to bear on a host of challenging issues related to the human brain. Representing such institutions as Stanford University, Mayo Clinic, and Brown University, the group convened under the leadership of CBHD Director of Biotech Ethics, Dr. William Cheshire.

### CBHD President Debates Rollin, Caplan

On October 1, the national TV program "Faith Under Fire" aired a debate between Dr. John Kilner and TV news correspondent Betty Rollin on the topic of assisted suicide. Ms. Rollin focused on the claim that having the right to assisted suicide made dying people feel more secure in their dying. Dr. Kilner disagreed, noting the staunch resistance to legalizing the practice on the part of disability groups and many others who recognize that bringing killing into health care undermines people's ability to trust health care and will create pressure for those whose lives are not "worthy," to get out of the way and die.

On September 20, Dr. John Kilner debated the University of Pennsylvania's Dr. Arthur Caplan on National Public Radio, broadcast live from Philadelphia. The focus was embryonic stem cell research, with Dr. Caplan supporting it and Dr. Kilner encouraging instead the alternative of adult stem cell research. Much of the discussion hinged on whether or not embryos, who must be killed to obtain embryonic stem cells, are truly (human) beings or merely "some cells." Dr. Caplan maintained the latter, at one point claiming that they are not really even "life." Dr. Kilner disagreed, noting that they meet standard scientific criteria for what is alive, and that they do not merely reproduce themselves, as cells do, but will develop into an entire adult human being unless they are kept from the proper environment and nurture they need. Accordingly, they should be recognized as beings at their earliest stage. ■

## 12th Annual Summer Conference *Genetic and Reproductive Ethics:*

*The Scientific Cutting Edge &  
Everyday Healthcare Challenges*

July 14-16, 2005—Deerfield, Illinois

A major national/international conference providing participants with the latest information on where technologies such as genetic intervention and assisted reproduction are headed. Plan to attend not only to get the latest updates on key developments in biotechnology but also to receive very practical information on the ways that various technologies are changing the practice of health care and the lives of patients—and the current and emerging ethical challenges that must be faced in the process.

## SAVE THESE DATES!

Graduate-Level Academic and Continuing Education Credit Available for Each Event

### Bioethics Institutes & Seminar

(Deerfield, Illinois)

Taught by over a dozen leading Christian figures in bioethics.  
Each *institute* includes the **July 14-16, 2005** bioethics conference.

#### Week-long Institutes (July 11-16, 2005):

##### **Intensive Bioethics Institute**

A thorough orientation to the field of bioethics, comparing Christian and non-Christian perspectives.

##### **Advanced Bioethics Institute**

Considers in greater depth various approaches to bioethics, with special reference to end-of-life issues.

##### **Engaging the World Through Bioethics Institute**

Effectively addressing bioethical challenges through the media, law, public policy, the church, and health care.

#### Undergrad/Pre-Med Bioethics Institute (July 13-16, 2005):

An orientation to bioethics for those considering careers in ethics, medicine, or health care.

#### Post-Conference Seminar (July 18-20, 2005):

Taught by national/international leaders in bioethics.

### Other Upcoming Conferences

**November 12-13, 2004—Western Pennsylvania:**

"Cutting-Edge Bioethics"

**November 19-20, 2004—Aurora, Colorado (Denver Area):**

"Breathtaking Decisions in Bioethics"

**February 26, 2005—Leawood, Kansas (Kansas City Area):**

"Breathtaking Decisions in Bioethics"

**\*If you are interested in hosting a conference co-sponsored by  
The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity in your area, please  
contact Tiffanie Ferguson by phone at (847) 317-4045,  
by e-mail [tferguson@cbhd.org](mailto:tferguson@cbhd.org), or see our web site at  
<http://www.cbhd.org/conferences/regionals/>**