

Ethics Resources

A variety of organizations has been formed to provide resources for the study of ethics and ethical problems inherent in health care. Organizations which provide information and services for nurses are identified below, with a brief description of their purpose and services, and the addresses to which further inquiry can be made.

National Center for Nursing Ethics,
Leah Curtin, Director, P.O. Box 2237,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201.

The National Center for Nursing Ethics was founded in 1975 to fill the need for a sustained professional investigation into the ethical dimensions of problems within the nursing profession, to share these views with colleagues and to promote both intraprofessional and interprofessional dialogue. The center publishes "Update on Ethics" monthly as a means of providing some of the information necessary to stimulate the impact upon the nursing profession of rapidly advancing technology and change in social mores.

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The publication also provides a means of sharing with the professional community findings of such investigations. Subscription is open to all professionals and institutions, but is recommended especially for nursing educators and health care institutions. The annual rate of subscription is \$15.00.

Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, 1701 K Street, N.W., Suite 205, Washington, D.C. 20006.

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation offers a postgraduate fellowship program for full-time study of ethics for nurses at selected universities offering suitable courses. The fellowship sponsors one year of study in either degree or nondegree programs. The purpose of the program is to prepare nurse educators with a better understanding of the ethical, religious, philosophical and legal problems related to nursing practice, with inclusion of concerns affecting the care of mentally retarded individuals. Applicants may request amounts up to \$18,000 and must provide supporting documents such as letters of reference, record of academic and professional career, description of the proposed program of study, and information regarding how the program of study will benefit the applicant and the profession. The deadline for application is November 15. Details regarding the application requirements may be obtained from the foundation.

Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences (The Hastings Center), 360

Broadway, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, New York, 10706.

The Hastings Center was founded in 1969 to stimulate interdisciplinary study of major biomedical ethical and moral problems. It has a full-time staff of associates in residence, student interns and scholars, as well as nonresident fellows who are chosen for their expertise in a wide range of disciplines. The center sponsors seminars and research which focus on both the theoretical aspects and practical application of moral and ethical principles. Articles providing information for scholars of ethics and reports of the center's activities appear in a wide range of professional journals, including the center's own publication, *The Hastings Center Report*. Membership and subscription to the report is open to all interested individuals for an annual fee of \$18.00.

Pope John XXIII Medical-Moral Research and Education Center, 1438 So. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63104.

This is an independent Catholic organization established in 1973 to identify and study the moral and ethical issues confronting the health care field as a result of developments in medical science and technology. The center seeks to formulate responses to questions of medical moral concern compatible with the heart of Christian faith and Catholic teaching as they are realistically assessed in terms of today's world. Its activities include interdisciplinary research and dissemination of research findings and other information needed for the study of complex ethical and moral issues. In addition to the

bimonthly publication, *Ethics and Medics*, the center publishes task force reports and commentaries on selected ethical problems and issues. Subscribing membership is open to individuals at \$50 and institutions at \$75.

The Institute for the Study of Medical Ethics, P.O. Box 17307, Los Angeles, California 90017.

The Institute for the Study of Medical Ethics was founded in 1974 with the basic purpose of ensuring the protection of patients regarding human experimentation and to firmly establish their rights under

the law. Its efforts are focused on obtaining information from persons who have undergone medical experimentation and documenting experimental abuse, and on taking social and political action to ensure patient's rights. The institute is funded by contributions and staffed by volunteers, with an advisory board of physicians, attorneys, medical researchers and media representatives. Carleen Bridgeman, R.N. is executive director of the institute.

Information about the institute's activities is included in Patrick Robinson's book, *Human Experimentation without Informed Consent*, and reports can be obtained by writing the institute.