

## Virtual Mentor

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### About the Contributors

Valarie Blake, JD, MA, is a senior research associate for the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs in Chicago. Ms. Blake completed the Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics, received her law degree with a certificate in health law and concentrations in bioethics and global health from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and obtained a master's degree in bioethics from Case Western Reserve University. Her research focuses on ethical and legal issues in assisted reproductive technology and reproductive tissue transplants, as well as regulatory issues in research ethics.

Michael F. Cannon, MA, JM, is director of health policy studies at the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., and co-author of *Healthy Competition: What's Holding Back Health Care and How to Free It*.

Eugene B. Cone is a third-year medical student at Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. His interests include legislation, medical policy, and research projects ranging from the proper role of transfusions in treating critically ill trauma patients to the outcomes of total wrist arthroplasty. He received a BA in biology from Harvard University, writing an honors thesis examining the biochemical effects of cooking on meat and their role in human evolution.

Lizz Esfeld is a second-year student at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago. She graduated from Truman State University with a degree in biology. She worked as an intern for the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs in summer 2011.

Todd Ferguson, PhD, is a research associate for the American Medical Association's Ethics Resource Center in Chicago, where he directs the AMA's Online Fellowship in Physician Ethics and Professionalism. His research interests include social justice issues and the value of decency in the design, development, and implementation of health care services. He earned his PhD from Purdue University and is coeditor of *Restoring Hope: Decent Care in the Midst of HIV/AIDS* (2008).

Jack P. Freer, MD, is a professor of medicine, clinical professor of social and preventive medicine, and chief of the Division of Palliative Medicine at the University at Buffalo (SUNY) in New York. Dr. Freer is certified in hospice and palliative medicine, and his primary area of academic interest is communication skills.

Lisa M. Gangarosa, MD, is a professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Her research interests include gastrointestinal malignancies and therapeutic endoscopy.

Vivian Ho, PhD, is the James A. Baker III Institute Chair in Health Economics and a professor in the Department of Economics at Rice University, as well as a professor in the Department of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, Texas. She has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Health Statistics and the National Institutes of Health's Health Services Organization and Delivery study section. She is also a founding board member of the American Society of Health Economists. Her research examines the effects of economic incentives and regulations on the quality and cost of health care.

Thomas S. Huddle, MD, PhD, is a professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and the Birmingham VA Medical Center. He is trained in the history of medicine and writes about medical education, medical professionalism, and medical ethics.

Audiey C. Kao, MD, PhD, is vice president of the ethics group at the American Medical Association in Chicago.

Allan Loup is a law student at Washington University in St. Louis and was an intern with the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs in summer 2011.

Kristina (Kiki) L. Maletz, MD, is a first-year resident in radiation oncology at the University of Rochester in New York. She received her MD degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed her internship at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, California.

Robert Martensen, MD, PhD, is the author of *A Life Worth Living: A Doctor's Reflections on Illness in a High-Tech Era* (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2008) and co-editor of *Surgical Palliative Care: A Resident's Guide* (American College of Surgeons, 2009). He is a lecturer at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Thomas J. Nasca, MD, is chief executive officer of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in Chicago and professor of medicine at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

Scott M. Palyo, MD, is a child and adolescent psychiatrist in private practice in New York. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, of which he is also a board member and co-chair of advocacy for the New York district. In 2011, Dr. Palyo completed his stint with Senator Debbie Stabenow in Washington, D.C., as AACAP's Irving Berlin, MD Congressional Fellow.

Gordon H. Smith, JD, is executive vice president of the Maine Medical Association, which he has served in one capacity or another since 1979. He is a graduate of the University of Maine and Boston College Law School. He is chairman of the board of Quality Counts, a regional quality improvement collaborative in Maine, and was formerly chair of the American Society of Medical Association Counsel.

Randy Wexler, MD, MPH, is an associate professor of family medicine at The Ohio State University in Columbus. He received his MD from Wright State University and his MPH from The Ohio State University. His research interests include improved blood-pressure control and health system change.

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