Virtual Mentor
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Theme Issue Editor
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Contributors
Amy P. Abernethy, MD, PhD, is a palliative medicine specialist and oncologist at Duke University Medical Center and director of the Duke Center for Learning Health Care in Durham, North Carolina. She oversees a portfolio of studies on topics in palliative care, including health services delivery models, cancer pain interventions, and dyspnea treatments. Dr. Abernethy is the Duke University co-chair of the Palliative Care Research Cooperative and a member of the Institute of Medicine’s National Cancer Policy Forum.

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Allen E. Bale, MD, is a professor of genetics and director of the DNA diagnostics laboratory at Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut. Having conducted basic and translational research in cancer genetics for more than 25 years, he oversees CLIA-certified sequencing in the new Yale Center for Genome Analysis.

Nancy Berlinger, PhD, is a research scholar at the Hastings Center in Garrison, New York. She is a co-author of the revised and expanded second edition of The Hastings Center Guidelines for Decisions on Life-Sustaining Treatment and Care Near the End of Life (Oxford, 2013) and author of After Harm: Medical Error and the Ethics of Forgiveness (Johns Hopkins, 2005). She co-directs the Undocumented Patients project on access to health care for undocumented immigrants.

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.

Cristie M. Cole, JD, is a 2012-2014 fellow in the Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics, a multi-institutional program administered by the Cleveland Clinic. She received her JD from the University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law and her BA in biology and society from Cornell University. Her research interests include the legal and ethical issues in pediatrics and adolescent medicine, reproductive health, and personalized health care.

Thomas P. Duffy, MD, is professor of medicine/hematology and director of the Program for Humanities in Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins Medical School, where he also completed his Osler Residency and Hematology training. He is a member of the bioethics group at Yale and a founding member of the ethics committee of the Yale New Haven Hospital.

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Michael K. Gusmano, PhD, is a research scholar at the Hastings Center in Garrison, New York. His research and teaching focus on social inequalities and the consequences of health and social policy for vulnerable populations.

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Liza-Marie Johnson, MD, MPH, MSB, is a pediatric oncologist at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Johnson is vice chair of the hospital ethics committee and holds a master’s degree in bioethics. Her research focuses on ethics and adolescent quality of life.

Eric Kodish, MD, is the director of the Center for Ethics, Humanities, and Spiritual Care and the F.J. O’Neill Professor and chairman of the Department of Bioethics at the Cleveland Clinic. He is also executive director of the Cleveland Fellowship in Advanced Bioethics and a professor of pediatrics at the Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. His areas of expertise include childhood cancer and blood diseases, pediatric ethics, end-of-life issues, and research ethics.
Thomas W. LeBlanc, MD, MA, is an assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Hematological Malignancies and Cellular Therapy at the Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, North Carolina. He is a practicing oncologist and board-certified palliative care physician. His research explores symptom burden, quality of life, and decision making in patients with cancers of the blood.

Deena Levine, MD, practices pediatric oncology and palliative care at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Levine underwent pediatric hematology and oncology fellowship training at Johns Hopkins/National Institutes of Health (NIH) and a bioethics fellowship at the NIH and is completing a fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine. Dr. Levine’s research focuses on the integration of palliative care with oncology care and ethical issues in the care of children with cancer.

Amira Osman, MPH, is a PhD student in the Department of Health Promotion Education and Behavior of the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Her research interests focus on the social determinants of health and policies that influence the social environment as it relates to health.

Gayle Sulik, PhD, is a medical sociologist, founder of the Breast Cancer Consortium, and author of Pink Ribbon Blues: How Breast Cancer Culture Undermines Women’s Health.

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James F. Thrasher, PhD, is an associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion Education and Behavior of the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina in Columbia and a researcher and visiting professor at the Mexican National Institute of Public Health. As a behavioral scientist and communication specialist, he focuses his research on mass media and policy interventions, with a particular emphasis on examining the consistency of policy and media effects across populations that differ in sociocultural background and risk.

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