



## Keynote Speaker Biographies

### **Giving Asylum? The Ethics of Long-Term Care for People with Severe Mental Illness**

Dominic Sisti, PhD

#### **Presenter Biography:**

Dominic A. Sisti, PhD is director of the Scattergood Program for the Applied Ethics of Behavioral Health Care and assistant professor in the Department of Medical Ethics & Health Policy. He holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Psychiatry, where he directs the ethics curriculum in the residency program.

Sisti's research examines the ethics of mental health care services and policies. He also studies the philosophical dimensions of the concept of mental disorder with a focus on personality disorders. Dr. Sisti teaches a graduate seminar on ethics in behavioral health care and, for the past five years, he has organized the ethics track for the American Psychiatric Association's Annual Meeting.

Sisti's writings have appeared in JAMA, Psychiatric Services, Nature Immunology, and the Journal of Medical Ethics. He is editor of three books: *Health, Disease, and Illness: Concepts in Medicine* (with Caplan & McCartney, Georgetown University Press, 2004), *The Case of Terri Schiavo: Ethics at the End of Life* (with Caplan & McCartney, Prometheus Books, 2006), and *Applied Ethics in Mental Healthcare* (with Caplan & Rimon-Greenspan, The MIT Press, 2013).

Sisti was an Edmund D. Pellegrino Fellow at the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University. Dr. Sisti's research has been funded by the Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation, the Greenwall Foundation, the Leonard Davis Institute, the Squire Family Foundation, and the Dana Foundation.

### **Medically Assisted Death for Psychiatric Patients?: Ethical Challenges to Care and to Conscience**

Bernard M. Dickens, O.C., Ph.D., LL.D., LL.D.(h.c.), F.R.S.C.

#### **Presenter Biography:**

LL.B., LL.M., Ph.D. (Law-Criminology), LL.D. (Medical Jurisprudence) (London), LL.D. (Sherbrooke, h.c.), a member of the English Bar and the Ontario Bar, is Professor Emeritus of Health Law and Policy in the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Medicine, and the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto.

He is legal articles co-editor of the Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics, and co-editor of ethical and legal issues of the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics. Professor Dickens's writing includes over 450 publications, including books, chapters in books, articles and reports, primarily in the field of medical and health law. His most recent book, co-edited with Rebecca J. Cook and Joanna N. Erdman, is *Abortion Law in Transnational Perspective: Cases and Controversies*, published in 2014 by University of Pennsylvania Press. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

### **Access to Physician-Assisted Suicide for Intractable suffering and Chronic Mental Illness: An Approaching Ethics Crisis**

Mark S. Komrad MD

#### **Presenter Biography:**

Dr. Komrad is a psychiatrist on the teaching faculties of Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland in Baltimore, MD where he teaches psychiatric ethics to residents and medical students. He published a seminal paper in the Journal of Medical Ethics entitled, "A Defense of Medical Paternalism". He is the Ethicist-in-Residence for the Sheppard Pratt Health Systems, the largest non-profit psychiatric hospital system in Maryland. He is a member of the Ethics Committee of the American Psychiatric Association. He has twice won the Carol Davis Ethics Award from the American Psychiatric Association for "Outstanding Publications in Ethics." He consults on Hollywood movies to try and help them develop more ethically accurate portrayals of psychiatric treatment and psychiatrists. He published a book for lay readers about how to convince a troubled loved-one to accept psychiatric treatment, featuring a prominent section on the ethical justification for such an intervention: "You Need Help: A Step-by-Step Plan to Convince a Loved One to Get Counseling." He was host of a national radio talk-show about Psychiatry ["Komrad on Call"] throughout the 1990's that was broadcast to over 40 million listeners across the U.S. He has been involved with the National Alliance on Mental Illness in the U.S., helping to guide their efforts on advocating for ethical treatment, for which they awarded me their national "Exemplary Psychiatrist," and "Mental Health Professional of the Year" awards.

#### **Tensions in Peer Work**

Jijian Voronka, PhD, Lucy Costa, Lana Frado,

#### **Biographies of the presenters:**

Jijian Voronka recently completed her PhD in Social Justice Education at the University of Toronto (2015). Her dissertation, *Troubling Inclusion: The politics of peer work and 'people with lived experience' in mental health interventions*, offers a four-year ethnographic account of the turn to employ service users in mental health and homeless research and services systems. She currently holds a SSHRC post-doctoral research fellowship in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University-Newark, and teaches at Ryerson University's School of Disability Studies.





Lucy Costa works as a systemic advocate in Toronto with the Empowerment Council an organization promoting the voice and rights of mental health clients as well as encouraging critical analysis about service user inclusion in the mental health sector. She sits on a number of advisories and has been involved in disability politics for over fifteen years. She is co-editor of the anthology "*Madness, Violence and Power*" due out winter 2016.

Lana Frado is the Executive Director of Sound Times Support Services, a consumer / survivor operated community mental health agency providing community support and specialised services to those involved in the criminal justice system and to substance users. She has worked within the consumer / survivor community for almost two decades in both grassroots and mainstream initiatives and has worked in cross-disability activism, policy and system design, employment and human rights issues at local, provincial and national levels.

### **Trouble with "Emotion"**

Louis Charland, PhD

#### **Presenter Biography:**

I came to the University of Western Ontario in the summer of 1998. My previous job was at the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University in Montreal, where I was a member of the Biomedical Ethics Unit and the Clinical Trials Research Group. While at McGill, I taught in the Master's Specialization Program in Bioethics and served on the Research Ethics Board of the Douglas Psychiatric Hospital.

Prior to my appointment to McGill, I taught philosophy and bioethics at the University of Toronto over a period of about five years. During that time, I served as a Research Associate at the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics. In 1993-1994, I worked as bioethicist at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children.

In addition to academic and hospital experience, I have also worked as a research and program evaluation consultant for the Government of Ontario's Premier's Council on Health Strategy. The Council was a "think-tank" created to plan for the future of healthcare in Ontario. During my stay with the Premier's Council I authored several reports on the Council's Health Innovation Fund and traveled extensively as an evaluator and research consultant for the Fund. My experience as a consultant also includes work with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. and the Mental Health Branch of the Ministry of Health.

Currently, I am Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario. I also have a joint appointment with the Faculty of Health Sciences and a cross appointment in the Department of Psychiatry in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. I am also a member of the Rotman Institute of Philosophy, based in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Western Ontario.



## **Niels Mulder**

Prof. Dr. C.L. Mulder is a psychiatrist and professor of public mental health. He is program leader of the Epidemiological and Social Research institute at Erasmus University Medical Centre, department of psychiatry, psychiatrist and teacher at BavoEuropoort/Parnassia psychiatric institute. He is involved in research projects concerning help seeking behaviour, motivation and compliance, emergency psychiatry, victimisation, assertive outreach, compliance, and coercion and regularly publishes (inter)national scientific articles and books on these matters. Prof. Mulder is also the chair of the European Assertive Outreach Foundation and a member of the board of the European Community based Mental Health Service providers Network (EuCoMS).

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