

Women and Health Lecture

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The Women and Health Lecture at Creighton University began in 1989 as an annual service event of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics (CHPE). Speakers are selected based on their interdisciplinary interest and/or expertise in health care and/or ethics with a particular focus on women. Thus far we featured sociologists, politicians, advocates, lawyers, nurses, philosophers, judges, theologians, and psychologists. In 2005 we selected a novelist for the first time and we moved the location for the lecture outside of the Creighton University campus.

The beginning...

In 1989, Dr. Katherine H Brown was an Assistant Director for Health Policy at CHPE and an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences. As a medical anthropologist, one of her special interests included minority and women's health issues. Her research and publications focused on sociocultural analyses of health problems and health care delivery systems. Based on these interests, Dr. Brown suggested the initiation of a women and health lecture. Her proposal was accepted and the first lecture was presented by Dr. Margaret MacKenzie, Assistant Professor of Humanities & Science, California College of Arts and Crafts (San Francisco, CA) on Monday, November 20, 1989 in the Creighton University Student Center Ballroom. Her lecture was "Our Bodies, Ourselves" was well received by the Creighton Community and a tradition was born.

Continuing endeavors...

Beginning in 1995, I assumed the role of director for the Women and Health Lecture. I undertook this position with the understanding that I would seek outside funding from appropriate agencies when possible, but also that the lecture become institutionalized as part of CHPE's programming and service projects. My admiration for the work of Dr. Susan Sherwin, author of *No Longer Patient: Feminist Ethics and Medicine* (1992), led me to invite her for my first event. Dr. Sherwin was Professor at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. I asked her to address the role of women in clinical research based on her preparation of a paper on women, ethics and clinical research for the distinguished Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues Relating to the Inclusion of Women in Clinical Studies, Institute of Medicine, Washington, DC in 1993. Successful application of a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council enabled us to financially support the lecture and maintain the status of a "free and open event to the public."

Resources...

There is a critical body of literature which includes discussion of this most recent direction that we have taken with the Women and Health Lecture. For further exploration of the use of narrative in the discussion of health care ethics, consider consulting the following publications. They are arranged alphabetically, not in any particular order of importance.

1. Doane, G., Pauly, B., Brown, H., & McPherson, G. (2004). Exploring the heart of ethical nursing practice: Implications for ethics education. *Nursing Ethics*, 11(3), 240-253.
2. Elwyn, G., & Gwyn, R. (1999). Narrative based medicine: Stories we hear and stories we tell: Analyzing talk in clinical practice. *British Medical Journal*, 318(7177), 186-188.
3. Greenhalgh, T. (1999). Narrative based medicine: Narrative based medicine in an evidence based world. *British Medical Journal*, 318(7179), 323-325.
4. Greenhalgh, T. & Hurwitz, B. (1999). Narrative based medicine: Why study narrative? *British Medical Journal*, 318(7175), 48-50.
5. Hunter, K. M. (2003). Narrative. In S. G. Post (Ed.). *Encyclopedia of Bioethics* (pp. 1875-1880). New York: Macmillan Reference USA, Thomson Gale.
6. Jones, A. H. (1999). Narrative based medicine: Narrative in medical ethics. *British Medical Journal*, 318(7178), 253-256.
7. Launer, J. (1999). Narrative based medicine: A narrative approach to mental health in general practice. *British Medical Journal*, 318(7176), 117-119.
8. McCarty, J. (2003). Principlism or narrative ethics: Must we choose between them? Retrieved February 2, 2006 from www.medicalhumanities.com.
9. Montello, M. (13 May 2005). Novel perspectives on bioethics. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, B6-B8.
10. Nelson, H.L. (1997). *Stories and their limits: Narrative approaches to bioethics*. New York: Routledge
11. Skott, C. (2003). Storied ethics: Conversations in nursing care. *Nursing Ethics*, 10(4), 368-376.
12. Tanner, D. T. (1999). The narrative imperative: Stories in medicine, illness and bioethics. *HEC-Forum*, 11(2), 155-159.