

Please type your Name, Job Title/Position, & Location (Hospital or Community Setting) in the Chat Box

Paul Helft Part Time Fellowship in Clinical Ethics at the Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics

INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 2026



Charles Warren Fairbanks
Center for Medical Ethics

Presentation Objectives

- Review the history & mission of FCME
- Explore the Fellowship experience & upcoming application process
- Understand how your Fellowship education can positively impact your department/hospital

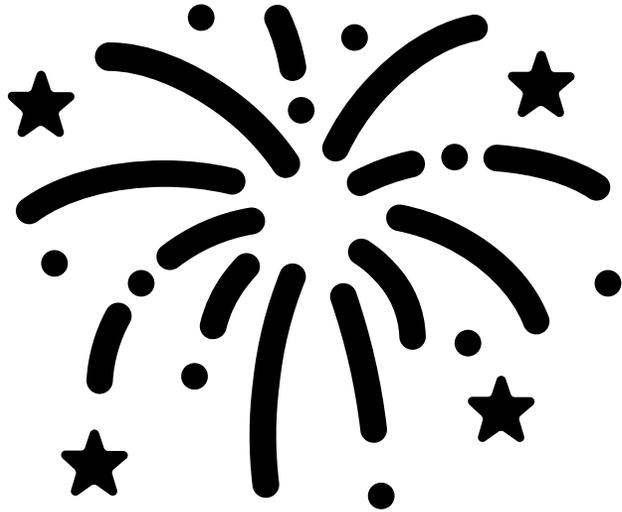


FCME History

- Founded in 2001 as a living memorial to Charles Warren Fairbanks
 - Philanthropist, US Senator, Vice President to Theodore Roosevelt
 - Member of first Board of Trustees of Methodist Hospital
- Proposal by Dr. Steven S. Ivy
 - Hospital-based clinical ethics center
- Dr. Paul Helft selected as FCME Director in 2004 (retired 2021)
 - Ethics program development
 - Consolidation of Ethics consultation services for Academic Health Center
- Dr. Brian Leland, MD, selected as the FCME director in 2022
- Dr. Emily Holmes, MD, selected as Fellowship Director in 2023



Fairbanks Fellowship in Clinical Ethics



Mission: Empower team members to be ethics resources for their respective healthcare systems through education

- 2005: Inaugural fellowship class
- 2019: Graduated our 100th Fellow!
- 2025: We will graduate our 150th Fellow!
- 2026-2027 will be our 22nd class



What is the Ethics Fellowship?

- A nine-month, part-time interdisciplinary Fellowship program for professionals interested in healthcare ethics
- One dedicated day per week (Wednesday) throughout the course of the Fellowship (7:30am-4:00pm)
 - *August 26, 2026 – May 19, 2027*
- Class size is traditionally between 7-10



Tuition

- For those enrolled in a Master level or higher educational program, the tuition is \$500
- Everyone else: the tuition is \$3,000
- IU Health Team members receive tuition forgiveness



CE/CME Offering

- We are able to offer at least 30 hours of CE/CME for the Entire Fellowship year. Exact amount to be determined.



Fellowship Impact Statements:

“I will forever be a product of the FCME and IU Health ethics department. The guidance that this fellowship has offered will serve as the foundation for all of the work I will do in the future. The discussions, readings, presentations, and project have shaped the way I will approach my future roles, and I couldn't be more excited about that.”

BRIGITTE SWARTWOOD, PHD

CURRENT ETHICISTS AT WELLSTAR IN ATLANTA, GA



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Fellowship Core Component: Education

- Curriculum focused on key areas
 - Clinical ethics:
 - Foundations in bioethics
 - Clinical ethics issues (Perinatal ethics, Transgender ethics, etc.)
 - Communication: Vital Talk training
 - Diversity and Inclusion: Intro. to Cultural Dynamics, Immigration Pathways, Bias
- Seminars led by FCME and guest content experts
 - Preparation: 3-5 articles; podcasts; videos. Approx. 2-4 hours/week



Fellowship Core Component: Service

- Participation in IUH Ethics Consultation Sub-Committee Meetings
 - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30AM
- Ethics Consultation Service Experience
 - Fellows take call with a supervising ethics consultant for 4-5 weeks
 - Care conferences, chart note writing, etc.
 - Presentation and discussion of ethics consultations
 - Ethics note writing curriculum



Fellowship Core Component: Scholarly Project

- Dedicated scholarly project/activity
 - Research project, hospital policy development, quality improvement, etc.
- Primary FCME mentor assigned to each fellow
- Takes TIME to do well



Fellowship Core Component: Scholarly Project

- Project Milestones:

- Project idea formulation session
- Annotated bibliography
- Literature review
- Two “Work in progress” sessions (WIP)
- Final presentation

- Side Note – we have had over 40 scholarly articles published by fellows on their ethics project.



Past Fellows' Projects

- **Respiratory Therapists' Involvement with End-of-Life Care, A Survey of Respiratory Therapists**
 - Cheri Bate, MA, RRT, Manager of Education for Respiratory Care, IU Health
- **Addressing Spirituality and Values Clarification in Ethics Consultations around End of Life**
 - Shawn Gerber, M.Div., BCC, Chaplain Manager, IU Health Bloomington
- **Shared Decision Making in the Pediatric Trach/Vent Population**
 - Kristen Ameel, MD, Pediatric Pulmonology, Salt Lake City, UT
- **Yes, We Can, But Should We? Ethical Considerations in Reporting Germline Findings**
 - Cindy Hunter, MS, CGC
- **Child Sexual Abuse Screening: A Unique Opportunity for Pediatric Urology Providers**
 - Melissa Young, NP, Pediatric Urology Nurse Practitioner



Fellowship Core Component: Scholarly Project

- FCME Fellow's Scholarship
 - Scholarship to fund regional/national professional conference attendance and project presentation



Fellowship Impact Statements:

“I think the Ethics Fellowship has opened my eyes to the many realities that can live within any one given situation. It has also made me question the true intent of justifying actions in life on an ethical basis.”

RAFAEL MENDEZ
PROJECT COORDINATOR – INTERPRETER
IU HEALTH



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This sounds awesome! Can I apply?

Who can apply?



Minimum bachelor's degree



While we do give priority to IU Health team members, we highly encourage those outside of IU Health to apply



No formal or specific professional/academic ethics training is needed (a background of basic medical knowledge/language will be helpful)



Applicants should have a focused interest in ethics & be able to communicate how they hope to use their training upon completion of the fellowship

What are we looking for?

- Individuals who:
 - communicate in a professional manner
 - can be vulnerable in a group setting
 - contribute to conversation in a group setting
 - create a safe space for other fellows



Risk Management Physician

Respiratory Therapy PhD Student

JD Nurse Social Worker

Medical Interpreter Pharmacist

Chaplain Music Therapist

Intentionally Interdisciplinary

Application Specifics

- Requirements include:
 - CV/Resume
 - 4 guided personal statement essays
 - Letter of recommendation*
 - This letter should comment on your skills and merit for the fellowship
 - Letter of support from supervisor*
 - Must include guarantee of time protection for fellowship activities
- NO AI in your application



Application Process

- Our application is online only. You can access the application through our website (fairbankscenter.org).
- Applications reviewed by FCME faculty
 - Select applicants will be offered interviews
- Competitive fellowship
 - Applying does not guarantee acceptance



Timeline



Wednesday, January 28

Applications Open



Friday, March 20

Applications are Due: 5pm EST



Monday, April 6

Interview offers will be extended



Monday, May 11

In-Person Interviews @ Methodist



Late May

Decision Letters Sent



Interview Process

- Primary Interview Day is Monday, May 11
- Group Welcome
- Group Process:
 - Discuss a Case
 - Get a brief overview of the fellowship
- Interviews:
 - 30 minutes
 - 2 FCME faculty to 1 candidate



Timeline

- Applications are available – 2 ways to access:
 - www.fairbankscenter.org
 - Scan the QR code to be taken directly to the application:





Excellence in Clinical Ethics

The Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics (FCME) coordinates all the major service, research, and educational efforts in clinical ethics for nationally ranked Indiana University Health, the state's largest and most comprehensive healthcare system.

Mission Statement

Improve the care of patients by enhancing the ethical practice of health care professionals at IU Health and beyond through excellence in clinical ethics service, education, and research



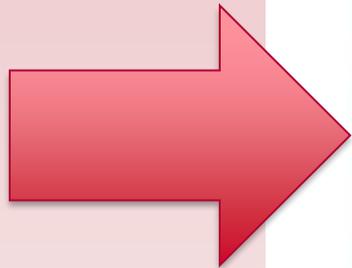
Fairbanks Fellowship in Clinical Ethics

A part-time fellowship with a mission to educate interdisciplinary individuals to serve as clinical ethics resources in their professional environment



Joint Academic Courses

In collaboration with various schools within IU, we host multiple practicum and internship opportunities for education in contemporary healthcare ethics.





Indiana University Health

Charles Warren Fairbanks
CENTER FOR MEDICAL ETHICS

Managers Information for the Fairbanks Fellowship in Clinical Ethics:

What is the Ethics Fellowship?

The ethics fellowship is a nine-month, part time fellowship aimed at training health care professionals in clinical ethics, including ethics consultation and ethics research. Graduates become capable members of the ethics community, serve as a resource for their colleagues facing ethical challenges in patient care, and have the potential to become leaders in the field of medical ethics.

What are the benefits for your team member?

- Learn how to navigate an ethics consultation.
- Develop a framework for ethical decision making.
- Understand how to support those with moral distress.
- Learn foundational clinical ethics principles from highly trained staff.

Compensation of Fellows Time:

It is at the discretion of each department if the Fellow will be compensated for their time during the Fellowship or while on call. Please communicate with your employee and FCME your plans for compensation.

Time Commitment (for 2024-2025):

Wednesdays: 08/28/24-05/21/25

Flexibility during the Fellows' "on-call" consult month when possible.

What we ask of managers:

A letter of support is required from each applicant's manager. This letter should include confirmation of your support for your team member to participate in the fellowship and assurance of protected time on Wednesdays from 7am-4pm for Fellowship Activities.

The letter can be sent to the applicant for them to submit or may be submitted online:
<https://redcap.uits.iu.edu/surveys/?s=RN8DCHN9XEMYN44T>.

Questions?

Contact Emily Holmes, Fellowship Director at egholmes@iu.edu

Approaching your Director/Manager

- Share the incredible benefits to your department/hospital
- Share with them the Managers Information Sheet on our website
- Have them watch the video of this presentation on our website.

Benefits from the Fellowship

- You will become an ethics resource for your department/hospital
 - Provide frameworks for ethical decision making
 - Support those with moral distress
 - Positively impact the ethical practice of colleagues
- Potential opportunities for continued involvement with FCME and the ethics committee at your hospital



Fellowship Impact Statements:

“I have presented my project for three different groups since completing it. I have been invited to help IUH West OR Nursing teams better understand transgender issues for patients undergoing transgender surgeries.”

VICKY STROCK

**RESP CARE AHC MANAGER FOR QUALITY & EQUIPMENT
IU HEALTH**



**Charles Warren Fairbanks
Center for Medical Ethics**

Questions

- Please unmute yourself and ask away!
- For questions that come up later or if you are watching the recording, contact us at fcme@iuhealth.org

