

Please join us for a noon Brown Bag

**Center for Ethics
and Humanities**



**in the
Life
Sciences**

**Spring 2008
Brown Bag
Series**

Informal Presentation & Discussion
Faculty & Students Welcome
Coffee, juice, and snacks

bioethics.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

**Sick, Stressed and Stigmatized: Asthma and Changing
Models of Mind and Body in the Past Century**

Asthma is the leading cause of childhood hospitalization and missed school days, and now affects over 27 million Americans. Current research has found links between stress, inflammation, and illness, in children and adults with asthma, and some have argued that exposure to violence and the stress of living in marginal circumstances may be a major unrecognized explanation for health disparities in asthma. These ideas have a long history, from the “nervous” constitutions of late-nineteenth-century Americans to the “smothering” mothers of Freudian theory (1910s to 1950s) to the behaviorists’ adaptation theories (1960s to 1980s), to most recently a broad set of ideas about psychological and physiological stress. Participants will learn about how medicine has understood the relationship between psychological distress and illness and how that has changed in the past century.

Carla Keirns, MD, PhD, received her medical degree and her graduate training in History & Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also completed her internal medicine residency. She is now Clinical Lecturer and Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of Michigan. Her book on the history of asthma from 1850 to the present will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2009.

Wednesday, January 23 • 12:00 Noon
C-102 East Fee Hall

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine and the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences. The Michigan State University College of Human Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Michigan State University College of Human Medicine designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1 hour in category 1 credit per session towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the activity.