

Please join us for a noon Brown Bag

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# 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](http://bioethics.msu.edu)

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## “We’re Hoping for a Miracle”:

### Responding to Religious Language in the Clinical Setting

Patients and families sometimes use religious language in the clinical setting to communicate their beliefs and values to health care professionals. Should clinicians respond to religious language used by patients? If so, how should they respond? Do clinicians’ beliefs matter? How can conflicts over beliefs be avoided or resolved in the clinical setting? To illustrate these questions and stimulate dialogue, I will present a scenario in which a religious concept (‘miracle’) leads to profound conflict between a patient’s family and health care providers in an acute care setting. Participants will then critically reflect on how and when religious language is used in the clinical setting, discuss more common clinical dilemmas involving patient and health care provider beliefs, and identify possible resources and responses to meet patients’ spiritual needs.

**David Kozishek** is Assistant Professor, jointly appointed in the Department of Family Medicine and the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences at MSU. He is a candidate for the PhD degree in Medical Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. He is also a hospital chaplain, board-certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains. David’s interests include narrative ethics and hermeneutics in the clinical setting, the use of literature and writing to increase moral reflection in healthcare education, the role of spirituality and beliefs in healthcare, and the ethical and humanistic questions that arise in human space exploration.

**Wednesday, April 9 • 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.*