

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**

**Dancing with Broken Bones:
Palliative Care for the Homeless and Inner-City Poor**

The inner-city poor and homeless are not only some of the most vulnerable among us; they are perhaps the most invisible as well. These are people from whom we avert our eyes, metaphorically, socially, and—sometimes—literally, lest we see the full scope of need, a need especially poignant in those who need palliative or end-of-life care. Drawing heavily on his primary research and personal experience in working among the inner-city poor, Dr. Moller will explore how health care professionals can address some of the socioeconomic and trust barriers to achieve excellence in palliative care. Emphasis will be given to immediate steps in creating compassionate care outreach and in teaching other health care professionals about the life, death and dying of the inner city poor and homeless.

Participants will learn to:

- ▣ Present a narrative that describes the experience of dying “homeless” and also describe how exemplary palliative care can transform the end-of-life experience for the most vulnerable
- ▣ Identify the major elements that characterize the world of inner-city poor near the end of life, thereby crafting a portrait of dying poor
- ▣ Present a home-based educational curriculum for teaching about issues surrounding dying, culture, and faith
- ▣ Explore the intersection of class and race with the experience of dying

David Wendell Moller, PhD, is director of Human Values in Medicine at Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City. He received his MA in sociology from the New School for Social Research in New York City and earned both an MA in philosophy and a PHD in sociomedical sciences from Columbia University. Recognized by his peers as a distinguished advocate for the dying, Dr. Moller in his writing and teaching addresses the role that cultural values and social institutions play in forming the end-of-life experience. He has lectured extensively about the social foundations of dying and death, and his scholarship has been praised as breaking new ground. His latest book, Dancing with Broken Bones: Portraits of Death and Dying Among Inner-City Poor, describes what it is like to live and die in urban poverty.

**Wednesday, April 16 • 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.