

The Center for Global Islamic Studies Presents:

# The Role of Islamic Bioethics & Spirituality in Contemporary Medicine

A one-day Conference – Saturday September 19th, 2015  
Ustler Hall: 9am – 3pm

The main objective for this conference is to investigate the intersection and relevance for ethics – and in particular Islamic ethics – in the field of contemporary biomedicine. Our point of departure is related to how the desire to seek and provide treatment for disease states is consistent with intuitive ethical expectations and therefore seemingly exempt from the need for religious validation. However, continuing advancements in the fields of science and medicine have complicated this ostensibly straightforward question in an unprecedented fashion. Our modern civilization has to grapple with biomedical issues of tremendous breadth, spanning from withdrawal of care from terminally ill patients and the evolving understanding of brain death, to organ donation, stem cell research and reproductive assistance. In an effort to reconcile past, present and future, Muslim health specialists and religious scholars often turn to primary sources, particularly the subsection of Prophetic Tradition (Ḥadīth) typically known as “al-ṭibb al-nabawī” (Prophetic Medicine) and to pre-modern works of jurisprudence (fiqh) in search for possible answers. As to be expected, the thorny nature of these issues often leads to sharp controversies and leaves many unresolved issues.

This one day conference will be held Saturday September 19th, 2015 at the University of Florida, in the historic Ustler Hall, and aims to bring members of the University and broader community together. The conference will be free and open to the public and is being coordinated with collaborators in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as the College of Medicine. We anticipate a diverse audience of physicians, allied health professionals, academics, graduate and undergraduate students in addition to community members.

The conference is open to the public – lunch will be provided.

## Program

9:00            Welcome – Opening Remarks

9:10            Keynote Address:

*Muslim Ethics and Technology: Challenges & Opportunities to Tradition*

**Ebrahim Moosa**, PhD, University of Notre Dame

Abstract:

The lecture will explore the subtle transformation that occurs in inherited notions of Muslim ethics as a result of the emergence of technology as part of the knowledge narrative of modernity. As technology has altered our inherited imaginaries of the ethical where ideas and facts were concretely embraced, this has altered our inherited understanding and mental images of science within a frame of technology. Technology impacts our understanding of what constitutes a notion of personhood, consciousness and value.

10:00 *It's a Matter of Life & Death: End of Life and Brain Death from an Abrahamic Faith Perspective*

**Andrew Miller**, MD, West Virginia University

Abstract:

How one defines death may vary. It is important for clinicians to recognize those aspects of a patient's religious beliefs that may directly influence medical care and how such practices may interface with local laws governing the determination of death. Debate continues about the validity and certainty of brain death criteria within Islamic traditions. This lecture will explore this debate, while acknowledging similar difficulties in making this determination within the Judeo-Christian tradition.

10:30 Coffee-break

10:45 *The Quest for Conception: Infertility & Assisted Reproduction within an Islamic Framework*

**Marcia Inhorn**, PhD, Yale University

Abstract:

This lecture will discuss the social and religious considerations of infertility as well as assisted reproductive therapies in the Muslim world. With a view to both medical anthropology and jurisprudence, modern solutions to an age old problem will be reconciled within the Islamic context.

11:15 *This Man is Hungry & I Won't Feed Him: The Boundaries of Conscientious Objections*

**Hassan Shanawani**, MD MPH, National Center for Patient Safety

Abstract:

At times, clinicians may have an objection to disclosing information regarding, or providing a professionally accepted and available medical service. Often, these are based on personal morality or faith, and in the opinion of the provider, would constitute doing something morally wrong. These oppositions are referred to as conscientious objections. This lecture will explore how one may balance the rights of patients while protecting the moral integrity of the provider, with special attention to the concept of ethics and morals in Islam.

11:45 *Pedagogy and Purpose: Moral Imagination and the Teaching of Medical Ethics*

**Curtis Hart**, M Div, Weil Cornell Medical College

Abstract:

As we engage in more nuanced discussions of the bioethical concerns of an increasingly diversified patient population, the question of how exactly to teach this science also becomes progressively challenging. This lecture will discuss how moral imagination and the formation of one's professional identity play a vital role in this education process, and how this has changed both the message of medical ethics, as well as transformed those who teach it.

12:15 Lunch

1:15 *The Challenges of Balancing Bioethics and Spiritual Needs of Muslim Americans: A Real World Response*

**Ashiq Kermalli**, M Div, Chaplain Orlando Health

Abstract:

Muslim Americans represent a small yet growing population in acute care hospitals. Therefore the need to develop culturally competent models of care exists for this minority group. This lecture will discuss the real-world needs of Muslim American patients and how faith impacts their healthcare, spiritual, and bioethical needs.

1:45 *Closing Panel Discussion*

All speakers with moderator: William Allen, M Div, JD, University of Florida

**Speakers:**

## **Ebrahim Moosa**

Is Professor of Islamic Studies in the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and in Notre Dame's Department of History. He is also a senior faculty member in the Keough School of Global Affairs, helping to lead the School's new initiative in Global Religion and Human Development. Additionally, Professor Moosa co-directs, *Contending Modernities*, the global research and education initiative examining the interaction among Catholic, Muslim, and other religious and secular forces in the world. Moosa arrived at Notre Dame in the fall of 2014 from Duke University, where he taught in the Department of Religious Studies for 13 years. He previously taught in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Cape Town (1989-1998) and in the Department of Religious Studies at Stanford University (1998-2001). Moosa's interests span both classical and modern Islamic thought with a special focus on Islamic law, history, ethics and theology. He is the authored 2 books and over 50 journal articles. His work, *Ghazali and the Poetics of Imagination*, was the winner of the American Academy of Religion's Best First Book in the History of Religions (2006). Professor Moosa has been actively involved in the arena of Islamic medical ethics, with multiple journal publications discussing brain death, neuroethics, and applied bioethics. He is currently working on a new book, entitled *Between Right and Wrong: Debating Muslim Ethics*. Born in South Africa, Moosa earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Cape Town. Prior to that he earned a degree in Islamic and Arabic studies from Darul Ulum Nadwatul `Ulama in Lucknow, India. He also has a B.A. degree from Kanpur University and a postgraduate diploma in journalism from the City University in London.

## **Marcia C Inhorn**

Is the William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs in the Department of Anthropology and The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University. A specialist on Middle Eastern gender, religion, and health, Inhorn has conducted research on the social impact of infertility and assisted reproductive technologies in Egypt, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, and Arab America over the past 25 years. She is the author of five books on the subject, and has won the American Anthropological Association's Eileen Basker Prize and the Diana Forsythe Prize for outstanding feminist anthropological research in gender, health, science, technology, and biomedicine. She is also the (co)editor of nine books, and the author of hundreds of articles and chapters. Inhorn has been a visiting faculty member at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and the American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. She was also the inaugural Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor in the University of Cambridge's Centre for Gender Studies. Inhorn is the founding editor of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies (JMEWS)*, and co-editor of the Berghahn Book series on "Fertility, Reproduction, and Sexuality." She has served on the Board of Directors of the Middle East Studies Association and is the former chair of Yale's Council on Middle East Studies. In 2013, she was named the Middle East Distinguished Scholar by the AAA's Middle East Section.

## **Curtis W. Hart**

Is an Episcopal priest and Lecturer in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry at Weil Cornell Medical College and its Division of Medical Ethics. He is a graduate of Harvard College, cum laude in English and Union Theological Seminary, New York with a focus in its Program in Psychiatry and Religion. Since 2011 he has been Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Religion and Health*. For thirty-one years of his career he was a pastoral care department head the last twenty-

four of which were at the New York Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Center in New York. At Weill Cornell Medical College he is involved in the teaching of medical ethics and the course in palliative care for medical students and serves on its Institutional Review Board. He is a member of the Research Faculty of the History Section in the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell and currently serves as a member of the Board for Professional Medical Conduct of the State of New York. He lives in Tarrytown, New York.

### **Ashiq Kermalli**

Has been a staff chaplain at Orlando Health, Orlando, FL, since 2005. He has been a board certified chaplain and member of the Association of Professional Chaplains since 2007. He is also a member of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. He is one of the founding members of the Interfaith Council of Central Florida. Before becoming a chaplain, he served as an Imam for the Husseini Islamic Center in Orlando for two years, and was a visiting lecturer in the United States and Canada. Currently, he is a visiting lecturer at Rollins College in Orlando.

### **Hasan Shanawani**

Completed his undergraduate and medical education at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He subsequently completed his post-graduate medical training at the Case Western Reserve University and Duke University. He is a practicing physician in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. He has held faculty appointments at the Wayne State University and the John Dingell Detroit Veterans Administration Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. While there, he was a faculty member of the Center to Advance Palliative Care Excellence. Dr. Shanawani was previously a research fellow for the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, an independent non-profit research organization, as well as the Center for Genome Ethics, Law and Policy at Duke University. He has published on Islamic bioethics, end-of-life care, physician communication, and health care disparities. An accomplished bioethicist and clinician, Dr Shanawani has served on the ethics and conflict of interest committee for the American Thoracic Society, the nations largest professional society for pulmonary and critical care physicians. He continues to serve as an advisor to the Association of Muslim Health Professionals and the Islamic Medical Association of North America on issues related to professionalism, bioethics, and patient needs. He is now a fellow at the National Center for Patient Safety.

### **Andrew C Miller**

Is a Critical Care and Emergency Medicine physician at the West Virginia University. He also holds an appointment at the National Institutes of Health in Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Miller has authored multiple papers on brain death and end-of-life issues. His current research interest includes the relationship of faith and delirium and its outcomes in the intensive care unit.

### **Co-sponsors:**

University of Florida Office of Research, Center for the Humanities, Department of Religion, Center for Spirituality and Health, Islam on Campus, Muslim Medical Students Association, the Florida Bioethics Network, and the Dr. and Mrs. Sayeed Ahmed Islamic Lecture Series

## Accreditation:

The University of Florida College of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. This conference qualifies for a maximum of 4 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. For more information about this, contact Mustafa Ahmed: [mustafa.ahmed@medicine.ufl.edu](mailto:mustafa.ahmed@medicine.ufl.edu)