Introduction

- Montefiore Center for Bioethics provides:
  - Bioethics Consult Service
  - Bioethics committee to analyze bioethical issues, develop hospital policy, and review cases
  - Bioethics Education

Objective of Internship

This internship provided the opportunity to discuss healthcare and the patient-physician relationship within an ethical framework. My objective was to learn more about how bioethics principles could be applied in the clinical and research settings.

Reflection

- The researchers at the Center for Bioethics publish on bioethical issues, like how to care for those with dementia, artificial insemination, and patients with no surrogate.
- Located in the Bronx, Montefiore deals with many cases of homelessness, poverty, and addiction. I was able to learn about the community by interacting with patients and hearing their stories.
- I researched bioethical issues and published my own writing. I published on the ethics of football, the portrayal of suicide in popular media, and the risks of egg donation.
- Every week, the Bioethics Center reviews ethically complex cases from the hospital and provides a consult service for physicians in the hospital. Sitting in on these discussions provided me with a solid foundation in bioethics analysis and bioethics principles, such as how to weigh a patient’s autonomy and values in the context of beneficial medical treatment.
- I understood how bioethics principles were applied in a clinical setting, by shadowing, among others, a renal surgeon, a psychiatrist, and a pediatric ICU bioethicist. For example, I observed a kidney transplant surgery from a live donor, and then discussed the ethical ambiguities of removing an organ from a healthy donor.
- I am grateful to have interned at an institution that is at the forefront of providing care to vulnerable populations, while ethically honoring a patient’s wishes and treatment.

Looking ahead

I hope to complete the Einstein-Cardozo Master of Science in Bioethics, followed by medical school. I will call upon principles I learned this summer when I am a practicing physician in the future.

Questions

- How can other hospitals implement a bioethics consult service?
- How will the current US administration affect healthcare, and safe treatment for the underprivileged?

Conclusion

Montefiore hospital and the Center for Bioethics emphasize patient dignity and autonomy, and consider the patient narrative and social justice issues as necessary means of empathetic medicine.

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