**Introduction:**
The Montefiore Bioethics Office is conducts a wide variety of bioethics-related tasks for the hospital. Their activities range from academic ventures such as journal publications and teaching bioethics classes to more field related work, such as doing ethics consultations for hospital staff and patients.

**Learning Experiences in Bioethics:**
While much of my internship was focused on research, a large emphasis was also placed on learning and engaging with Bioethical issues in the medical field. Aside from research in the office, I was also encouraged to see Bioethics in practice in the field. Some of these experiences included:
- Shadowing a kidney surgery (pictured to the right) and a palliative care team at Montefiore locations
- Sitting in on ethics consultations and ethics review boards conducted by the Bioethics office
- Visiting the Hastings Center (pictured below), a bioethics think-tank, to discuss a range of bioethical topics such as deep-brain stimulation

**Research Topics**
My primary job was to do article research for my advisor, who taught a masters class in Bioethics at a nearby university. Some of my favorite topics that I researched were:
- The philosophy of advanced directives for dementia patients
- Mental illness in China
- Dialysis for undocumented immigrants

**Independent paper on Loneliness**
During the last few weeks of my internship, I worked primarily on a research paper on loneliness. Loneliness seems to be growing among the most developed nations, and in my paper I touch on the following points:
- The growing severity of loneliness: a global epidemic?
- The Sensation-Condition distinction, and reasons behind lack of awareness concerning loneliness
- Policy steps for addressing loneliness?

**Reflections and Conclusions:**
As a philosophy major, having these experiences in the medical field was very eye-opening. From observing procedures in the hospital to sitting in on ethics meetings, I now have a deeper understanding on how how philosophy is applied and used in the medical field. Furthermore, my brief exposure to topics in Bioethics has really helped me realize how complex and growing this field is, especially as medical technologies continue to become more and more advanced.

**Questions/ Topics for the Future**
- To what extent should philosophical discussions formulate bioethics policy?
- How can we study the social determinants of health?
(I also plan to continue research for my paper on loneliness in the future!)

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