

THE
Flexner
DISCOVERY
LECTURE SERIES

BERNARD LO, M.D.

DECISIONS NEAR THE END OF LIFE:
CAN WE MAKE THEM LESS AGONIZING?

SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

4:00 P.M.

208 LIGHT HALL

THE
Flexner
DISCOVERY
LECTURE SERIES

Upcoming Discovery Lecture:

PETER DOHERTY, M.D.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1996

October 2, 2014

208 Light Hall / 4:00 P.M.

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CENTER FOR BIOMEDICAL ETHICS AND SOCIETY,
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DECISIONS NEAR THE END OF LIFE: CAN WE MAKE THEM LESS AGONIZING?

Decisions about care near the end of life are difficult for patients, families, and physicians. In the 1990's advance directives that specified what specific treatments a patient would not want in particular circumstances were advocated to help make decisions for patients cannot decide for themselves. More recently, advance care planning has emphasized discussions rather than documents and focused on the patient's goals and values first, rather than specific decisions. Tennessee has a form for Physician Orders for Scope of Care (POST). However, in some cases following the POST literally might not be in the patient's current best interests. The presentation will analyze how physicians and families might reconcile prior directives with the best interests of patients who cannot make decisions for themselves. Also the talk will discuss how to provide emotional support for family members who must make decisions and how physicians might improve communication with patients and families about decisions regarding life-sustaining interventions.



BERNARD LO M.D., Ph.D.

PRESIDENT OF GREENWALL FOUNDATION

**PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE EMERITUS,
DIRECTOR EMERITUS,
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MEMBER, INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

Bernard Lo, MD is President of the Greenwall Foundation, whose mission is supporting bioethics research and young researchers in bioethics. He is Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Director Emeritus of the Program in Medical Ethics at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). A member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Dr. Lo served on the IOM Council and chaired the Board on Health Sciences Policy. He chaired an IOM committees on conflicts of interest in medicine and currently is chairing an IOM committee on responsible sharing of clinical trials data.

Dr. Lo serves on the Board of Directors of Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) and on the Medical

Advisory Panel of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Formerly he was a member of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, and Ethics Subcommittee of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Lo and his colleagues have published around 200 peer-reviewed articles on ethical issues concerning decision-making near the end-of-life, oversight of research, the doctor-patient relationship, and conflicts of interest. He is the author of *Resolving Ethical Dilemmas: A Guide for Clinicians* (5th ed., 2013) and of *Ethical Issues in Clinical Research* (2010). He continues to care for a panel of primary care internal medicine patients at UCSF.
