

## **Greetings and welcome to the Fall 2006 Issue of the Ethics and Human Rights Update!**

The ethical issues impacting nursing practice over the last year have caused us to reflect frequently on our Code of Ethics. Some of the issues in the news include terrorism and treatment of prisoners, disasters and alterations in nursing care, genetic competencies and education for nurses, patient communication and culture, medical marijuana, capital punishment, and system errors that cause patient harm.

Next month, the Ethics and Human Rights Advisory Board will be meeting in Denver, Colorado on October 23-24 just prior to the American Society of Bioethics and Humanitarians (ASBH) meeting. Some of the topics that will be discussed at that meeting include moral distress, genetics, cloning, and continued updates to existing ethics position statements. More information on the meeting can be found in a September 8<sup>th</sup> announcement on the Ethics pages of nursingworld.org. I hope to see some of you at that meeting and the ASBH meeting that follows.

With this newsletter, I am so pleased to announce formally, the addition of Martha Turner to the Ethics Center staff. Martha is an ANA member who recently retired from the military. Martha brings a wealth of ethics experience to the Center. Her biographical sketch can be found at <http://www.nursingworld.org/ethics/mturner.htm>. The current update content was primarily authored by Martha. The Update highlights literature and information concerning current issues in prison nursing. The update provides links between the Code of Ethics for Nurses and the roles, responsibilities, and practice of nurses. In addition, the Update provides a rich reference resource, and the names of individual nurses with a variety of experience who are willing to assist nurses who need a point of contact to answer specific questions.

After you review the update I hope you will take a few moments to visit the announcements page and to view the many updates on nursingworld.org. I would like to call particular attention to the Ethics announcements concerning Nursing care and the ANA conference that will be held in Atlanta in 2007. Another noteworthy announcement about Cindy Prows, the 2005 NCHPEG Scotti Award winner, and the wonderful FREE Genetics CE that she developed is worth your attention. I have personally completed the CE module and found the module a wonderful opportunity to explore genetics from both the nursing and patient perspective.

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact us at the Center by directly emailing us [laurie.badzek@ana.org](mailto:laurie.badzek@ana.org) and [martha.turner@ana.org](mailto:martha.turner@ana.org) or use the contact the center link on the Ethics pages of nursingworld.org. We are especially interested in hearing about ethics issues or scenarios you face in practice. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of Patrice Franklin whose dedication and skill makes this newsletter come alive for all of us.

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**Director of the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights**