

Converging Roads – Diocese of Columbus
Saturday, April 5, 2025 | Pontifical College Josephinum

VIRTUE IN MEDICINE

8:00 AM	CHECK-IN/BREAKFAST BEGINS
8:45 AM	OPENING REMARKS
8:55 – 9:40 AM	THE PRIMACY OF VIRTUE AND THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON Deacon Michael J. Deem, PhD
9:45 – 10:30 AM	MORAL COOPERATION IN HEALTH CARE Elliott Bedford, MA, PhD
10:30 – 10:45 AM	BREAK
10:45 – 11:45 AM	THE WITNESS OF HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE IN A SECULAR CULTURE Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD; Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD; and Kathleen Lutter, MD
11:45 AM – 1:30 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
12:15 – 1:00 PM	ADDRESSING DISPARITY IN HEALTH CARE Rev. Columba Thomas, OP, MD
1:00 – 1:30 PM	CMA OF CENTRAL OHIO AWARDS CEREMONY AND RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
1:30 – 1:50 PM	BREAK
1:30 – 2:15 PM	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
1:50 – 2:35 PM	A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE Anthony Isacco, PhD
2:40 – 3:40 PM	RESTORATIVE REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE AND CARE FOR INFERTILE COUPLES Kyle A. Beiter, MD; Elizabeth Christy, MS, CNM; and Elizabeth S. Stovicek, MD
3:40 – 3:55 PM	BREAK
3:55 – 4:40 PM	APPROACHING GENDER DYSPHORIA WITH MERCY AND CHARITY Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD
4:40 – 4:50 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:15 – 6:15 PM	VIGIL MASS Celebrant: Most Rev. Earl Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus
6:15 – 7:00 PM	WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

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VIRTUE IN MEDICINE

THE PRIMACY OF VIRTUE AND THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Deacon Michael J. Deem, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Human Genetics, Core Faculty, Center for Bioethics & Health Law, University of Pittsburgh

This presentation will discuss the importance and primacy of virtue ethics for the health care professional. It will also establish the foundation of the dignity of the person as the basis for medicine.

MORAL COOPERATION IN HEALTH CARE

Elliott Bedford, MA, PhD, Director, Ethics Integration for Ascension St. Vincent

This presentation will explore how the virtue of prudence can be applied to the principle of moral cooperation, and how moral cooperation can be applied within the practice of medicine.

THE WITNESS OF HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE IN A SECULAR CULTURE

Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Director, Center for Bioethics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine; Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine; and Kathleen Lutter, MD, Obstetrician Gynecologist, Avina Women's Care

This panel will describe the challenges of practicing medicine as a Catholic today. It will outline the role of courage in the practice of Hippocratic medicine and how courage can be a witness to other professionals and patients.

ADDRESSING DISPARITY IN HEALTH CARE

Rev. Columba Thomas, OP, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Kennedy Institute of Ethics and Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics

This presentation will consider the virtue of justice as it relates to the role of social determinants of health in provision of medical care.

A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE

Anthony Isacco, PhD, Professor, Director of Training for PsyD Program, Chatham University

This presentation will overview the clinical diagnosis of depression and its connection to suicidal ideation.

RESTORATIVE REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE AND CARE FOR INFERTILE COUPLES

Kyle A. Beiter, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Reply Fertility; Elizabeth Christy, MS, CNM, Coordinator of Communication and Events for the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, Diocese of Columbus; and Elizabeth S. Stovicek, MD, Emergency Medicine and Palliative Medicine Physician, MetroHealth

This panel will explore the unique approaches to the medical care of a woman that restores her physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. It will also discuss how to support couples and families with compassion when infertility is their reality.

APPROACHING GENDER DYSPHORIA WITH MERCY AND CHARITY

Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine

This presentation will describe the current cultural trends in the area of gender reassignment, diagnostic tests for gender dysphoria, and puberty suppression. It will propose ways that health care professionals can mercifully and charitably approach transgender patients.