The practice of medicine is an inherently ethical practice. When there is agreement in medical decision-making, the ethical foundation that informs those decisions may go unrecognized. In addition to understanding the principles of bioethics (autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence and justice), clinicians require skills to balance the application of these principles in clinical practice. Clinical competence should include the ability to identify and discuss ethical values as well as legal and professional obligations in often complex, emotionally charged circumstances.

The articles in this month’s PERI-FACTS: Ethical Issues in Obstetrics illustrate a process for analyzing and resolving ethical conflicts in two challenging obstetrics cases. Informed consent and shared decision-making are fundamental to the process.

While these articles focus on conflicts between a mother and provider, clinicians can use the same decision-making process for other types of conflicts. Clinicians also should consider a formal or informal ethics consult when conflicts become intractable. We hope these articles facilitate conversations about these important topics.

Margie Hodges Shaw, J.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Law and Bioethics
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Welcome to the Peri-FACTS® Academy – Jenna Engasser

We want to welcome Jenna Engasser, our new Marketing Coordinator to the Peri-FACTS® Academy team. Jenna has worked for a number of years supporting multiple CPG companies in both sales and marketing roles. Her background expertise includes category management, sales, brand management and project management. She graduated from the University at Buffalo with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing.

Her focus for the Peri-FACTS® Academy will be to market our program and expand our reach both locally and across the globe.

Help us in welcoming Jenna to Peri-FACTS!

Sincerely,

James R. Woods, Jr., M.D.
Editor-In-Chief

Happy New Year!