



HHBE

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



Message from the Chair

Dear friends and colleagues,

I arrived in Rochester 3 years ago as the inaugural chair of the Department of Health Humanities and Bioethics (HHBe) and director of the Paul M. Schyve, MD, Center for Bioethics.

We have been busy. As you will see in the sections that follow, our department has grown steadily, adding multiple new faculty members across 2023-2025, with additional hires planned for 2026. Our team has been active nationally and internationally, presenting at conferences, conducting archival research, publishing books, and contributing widely to journal publications across medicine, bioethics, and the humanities.

Our academic curriculum has undergone significant revisions, including updates to the master's program and the addition of new advanced certificates, with more educational offerings in development.

Grand Rounds have been organized under unified leadership, now occurring twice monthly alongside additional collaborations with other departments. We continue to strengthen partnerships across the University and the broader community to advance the work of health humanities and bioethics.

The Paul M. Schyve, MD. Center for Bioethics continues to grow its annual conference and deepen our regional collaborations. Please save the date for our 4th annual conference, May 1-2, 2026.

It's an exciting time to affiliate with the Department of Health Humanities and Bioethics. We hope to see you at many of our events, and look forward to scholarly collaborations!

- Dr. Lainie Ross

Faculty and Staff Growth

We welcomed primary faculty **Jon Herington** (7/2023); **Christy Slobogin** (1/2024); **Bry Moore** (5/2024); **Alex Parry** (7/2024); **Andrew Lea** (7/2025) and **Sarah Hagaman** (7/2025).

New joint faculty members include:

Rachel Diamond (Pediatrics, Medicine); **Timothy Dye** (Obstetrics & Gynecology); **Mical Raz** (History, Medicine); **Shalom Schlagman** (Medicine, Pediatrics); and **Trisha Paul** (Pediatrics).

Looking ahead, we are delighted that **Jason Wasserman** will join us in May 2026.

We are all supported by three superb administrators:

Chris Donnelly (Administrative Coordinator), who has been here since before the department was established, as well as **Shawn Hammes** (Senior Business Administrator), who joined in August, and **Olivia Harrington** (Department Program Specialist), who joined in September.

Scholarship

We were thrilled to have strong representation at the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities Conference in Portland, Oregon (October 2025).

Our faculty have been sharing their work across the map this year—presenting in Boston, Houston, Baltimore, Northampton, Chicago, Edinburgh (Scotland), and Nanjing (China), among many other exciting locations. Along the way, we've also spent time deep in the archives, including at the American Medical Association in Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and The Strong Museum of Play here in Rochester.

Christy Slobogin published her book *Putting Plastic Surgery on Paper* (University of Rochester Press, 2025). The book is open access - funded through a grant from the URochester Humanities Center - and ready for you to download and start reading.

You can also secure a copy of **Andrew Lea's** 2023 book *Digitizing Diagnosis* (Johns Hopkins University Press). Andrew also procured a Humanities Center grant to make the book open access. We encourage you to download both titles!

Beyond books, our department continues to publish widely across leading medical and bioethics journals—including *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *JAMA*, *JAMA Pediatrics*, *Journal of Pediatrics*, *Annual Review of Genomics and Human Genetics*, *Pediatrics*, *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, *American Journal of Transplantation*, *Pediatric Transplantation*, *American Journal of Bioethics (AJOB)*, *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* and humanities journals— *Social Education*, *Technology and Culture*, and *Literature and Medicine*.

To explore our most recent publications, stop by the bulletin boards outside the Department or [visit our website](#).



Salt & Straw after a delicious dinner at Kati Portland!

The Arts

We're thrilled to share that beginning in July, the Eastman Performing Arts Medicine (EPAM) Center, led by **Gaelen McCormick**, will be housed within our Department! This collaboration includes the Eastman School of Music, the Office of the Patient Experience, and the Music Therapy teams at Golisano and Strong Hospitals. EPAM provides access to specialized healthcare for injured performing artists, integrates arts in healthcare, and develops translational research on the impact of the arts in health. A warm welcome to **David M. Greenberg**, the inaugural *Evans Lam Research Professor for Music and Medicine*. He will join our team in mid-March and will be leading the research arm of EPAM, with joint appointments in the Department of Neurosciences, the Eastman School of Music, and HHBE.

Additionally, the Department of Health Humanities and Bioethics is proud to collaborate with the Memorial Art Gallery (MAG). **Susan Daiss** leads "Art and Observation" sessions for first-year medical students, as well as other members of the School of Medicine and Dentistry and the School of Nursing. If you're interested in arranging a session or series for your trainees, team, division, or department, please contact us!

Finally, we just completed season two of "In the Same Vein," a podcast series led by **Christy Slobogin**, co-hosted by a URochester student, exploring how the humanities, medicine, and ethics are intertwined. You can hear the podcasts on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#). In November, Christy was interviewed by **Jeff Koslofsky**, Senior Marketing Strategist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, to discuss the process and aims of the podcast. [Click here to hear the interview](#).

Graduate Medical Education

In 2024, we transformed our Master's in Medical Humanities into a Master's in Health Humanities and Bioethics. The updated curriculum now includes 10 courses (with 4 electives) rather than the previous 8 required courses.

We have also launched a 3-course advanced certificate in Clinical Bioethics (2024) and are developing a 4-course advanced certificate in health humanities (2026).



External Collaborations

The **National Collaborative on Humanities and Ethics in Dentistry (NCHED)** was established in late 2023 among the University of Colorado, the University of Texas at Houston, and the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. It has now expanded to include Loyola University (Chicago). This collaborative holds quarterly lectures on ethical and humanities issues in dentistry.

The Injury Studies Network is an international community of researchers, practitioners, artists, and advocates committed to the interdisciplinary study of injuries. Based at the University of Rochester Medical Center, the Network explores the sociomaterial realities, cultural meanings, and health effects of intentional and unintentional injuries. Under the direction of coordinator **Alex Parry**, the Network has had a productive 2025, hosting eight online works-in-progress seminars, writing a forthcoming research agenda essay for the *Journal of Medical Humanities*, applying for an NEH Collaborative Research grant, arranging a [spring injury studies workshop](#), and reaching a tentative agreement with the Journal of Medical Humanities for a special issue on injury studies. The Network also intends to launch its own website (injurystudies.org) and to prepare a set of educational resources about injuries over the coming year.

Distinguished Discourse

Christy Slobogin is now the director of all of our [Grand Rounds and visiting lecture programs](#). We have integrated our Health Humanities and Bioethics (HHBe) Grand Rounds, and now offer sessions twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. All sessions are hybrid, but we encourage in-person attendance to meet our exciting speakers and to connect further over lunch or by scheduling one-on-one conversations.

In addition to our HHBe Grand Rounds, we contribute to several cross-departmental Grand Rounds, including the Sussman Grand Rounds in Internal Medicine and the McAnarney Grand Rounds in Pediatrics.

We also have major partnerships beyond the medical school campus. [The Corner Society](#) (established in 1934) and The Annual Sid Sobel Lecture (launched in 2024) are both hosted at the Rochester Academy of Medicine. The Schyve-Humanities Collaboration, run in partnership with Peter Christensen and Tanya Bakhmetyeva, began in 2023 and is hosted on the River Campus. This year's Schyve-Humanities collaboration focuses on the theme of privacy.

Please make sure you are on all of our mailing lists so you don't miss upcoming events!



Journal Collaboration

In 2026, the *Journal of Pediatrics* is launching a new section: "[Pediatric Humanities](#)." Led by Journal editorial board member **Lainie Ross**, the section seeks to publish pediatric-focused articles in narrative medicine (**Trisha Paul**), history of medicine (**Alex Parry**), and philosophy (**Bryanna Moore**).

Please send one-page letters of intent to Lainie Ross:
Lainie_Ross@URMC.Rochester.edu.