Educational Materials

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Study Questions

Medical Ethics
What are the ethical standards that guide medicine? What forces threaten these standards and how have they evolved over time?

Influence of Race and Social Class in the Distribution of Healthcare
How does race and socio-economic status impact access to healthcare? Is healthcare a basic human right that society should provide regardless of income?

Impact of the Death of a Parent on Children
How do families carry on after a parent dies? What are the long term consequences on a child? How do single parents carry on, and how do children without parents carry on?

Spiritualism in Understanding Life and Death
The Lacks family views Henrietta as an angel who lives on helping people. How does spiritualism help us cope with death? How does spiritualism give us a framework for dealing with life's events?

Methodology of Medical Research
How does medical research make progress? What is used for evidence in the creation of knowledge? How do we understand medical "facts" and how do these facts change?

Public Health and Individual Rights
What is the balance we strike between the need for broad public health, medical advancement and the need to protect individuals? Should the government be able to mandate treatments or vaccines to protect the wider population even if the individual does not want the treatment?

Living with the Legacy of the Past
What responsibility do we hold for decisions that were made 50 or 100 years ago? When we benefit from unethical acts of the past, what responsibility do we have to make reparations?

The Journalist and their Sources
Skloot had to earn the trust of the Lacks family in order to tell their story. What is the ethical responsibility of the journalist to sources? How do journalists earn the trust of their sources and what constraints do sources place on journalists?

Resources

Overviews
Home page of Rebecca Skloot: Contains links to reviews, interviews and FAQs
Q&A How Henrietta Lack’s Cells Fueled Medical Breakthroughs -- overview of issues associated with book

HeLa Cells 50 years on: the good the bad and the ugly

Gene Patents
Judge Invalidates Human Gene Patent

After Patent on Genes is invalidated, taking stock

Lawsuit attacks patent giving company control over genetic test for cancer risk
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/01/AR2010030102925.html?wpisrc=nl_tech

Journalism
Society of Professional Journalists: Code of Ethics
http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp

Desperately Seeking Ethics: a Guide to Media Conduct
http://library.morainevalley.edu/record=b229764~S0

Medical Ethics
Code of Medical Ethics – American Medical Association

Commercial Use of Human Tissue
American Medical Association

Classic cases in medical ethics : accounts of the cases and issues that define medical ethics
http://library.morainevalley.edu/record=b239772~S0

Penn Center for Bioethics
http://www.bioethics.upenn.edu/about.shtml

Medical Tourism
Medical Tourism: A New Role for Nursing?
http://o-search.ebscohost.com.library.morainevalley.edu/login.aspx?
Ethnocentrism Is an Unacceptable Rationale for Health Care Policy: A Critique of Transplant Tourism Position Statements

Health Care Disparity
Access to Health and Health Care: How Race and Ethnicity Matter

2008 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Reports – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
http://www.ahrq.gov/QUAL/qrd08.htm

At the Front Lines of Medicine: How the Healthcare System Alienates Doctors and Mistreats Patients ... and What We Can Do About it
http://library.morainevalley.edu/record=b230758~S0

Health, Luck, and Justice
http://library.morainevalley.edu/record=b257767~S0

Impact of the Death of a Parent on Children
Helping a Child or Adolescent Deal with Death

Evidence-Based Practices for Parentally Bereaved Children and Their Families