When does life begin? Should doctors assist in helping their patients end their lives if they have a terminal illness? Can children consent to genetic testing? What constitutes patient confidentiality and privacy? What are possible career paths in ethics for physicians?

These are just some of the questions we will explore in the bioethics selective. We will cover the principles and practice of bioethics and critically analyze what it means to “act justly” as a physician. The lunch talks will engage with the history and practice of bioethics. Evening workshops, held once a semester, will be discussions which allow students to practice applying ethical analysis to complex scenarios they will likely encounter in practice.

This selective will run throughout the year with several talks per semester. There will also be 1 workshop per semester. Being in the bioethics selective also allows students to attend the Clinical Ethics Rounds as well as the monthly Ethics Committee at Ronald Reagan Hospital.

Learning Objectives:

• Critically analyze ethical cases you are likely to encounter as a physician
• Understand the history and field of bioethics, especially in the U.S.
• Learn about the role of a hospital ethics committee and get to know the UCLA ethics community
Course Chairs: Clarence Braddock, M.D., MPH, MACP and Neil Wenger, M.D.

Dr. Braddock is the Vice Dean for Education at the DGSOM. In his role, Dr. Braddock is responsible for developing, managing and implementing strategies, initiatives and innovative programs to promote and support education and training across the DGSOM and to strengthen UCLA’s position as a national leader in academic health sciences. Dr. Braddock is recognized as a national expert on informed decision making and doctor-patient communication, having given numerous invited lectures on informed decision making, as well as workshops at national meetings, and is frequently interviewed for the print, radio, and television media.

Dr. Wenger is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at UCLA and a consulting researcher at RAND. He is director of the UCLA Healthcare Ethics Center and is chair of the Ethics Committee at the UCLA Medical Center. He also is director of the NRSA Primary Care Research Fellowship in the UCLA Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research. Dr. Wenger is an active general internist and carries out research in the empirical study of clinical ethics, care of and decision making for the older patient, and quality of health care.

Student Requirements: 5 lunch talks per year, with 1 evening workshop each semester. Accommodations can be made for scheduling conflicts with lunch talks. Students are highly encouraged to participate in the ethics rounds and Ethics Committee at Ronald Reagan.

Enrollment: Maximum of 20 students, Minimum of 10 students.

Sponsoring College: Academic Medicine College
Course Coordinators:

Schedule: Dates throughout the school year. Lunch talks on select Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Evening workshops (Wednesday 11/9/16 and Thursday 2/9/17, 5-7 PM), and shadowing opportunities are available Tuesdays throughout the year.

Location: CHS (Rooms TBD by Session)