Past HEAL Conference

2026: Trust in Science and Government: What About Vaccinations?

Speakers and Topics

- **Misinformation:** How did we get here and how can we escape?
  - Tom Huddle, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- **Philosophical aspects:** Aquinas on Our Duties to Our Community
  - Emily McCarty, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Classics and Philosophy, Samford University
- **Historical and legal aspects:** Trust, Information, Coercion and Choice: Legal and Public Policy Aspects of Vaccinations
  - David Smolin, JD, Harwell G. Davis Professor of Constitutional Law and Director, Center for Children, Law and Ethics, Cumberland School of Law, Samford University
- **Pellegrino Award and keynote:** Reflections on Trust in Medicine and the Clinician's Response to Vaccine Hesitancy
  - Douglas Diekema, MD, MPH, Professor, University of Washington School of Medicine
- **Healthcare aspects:** Vaccine Skepticism and Hesitancy: Definitions, Experience and Management
  - Adam Cifu, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago School of Medicine
- **Healthcare aspects:** Childhood Immunizations: A Healthy Approach to Advocating for the Common Good
  - Scott James, MD, Associate Professor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, UAB Pediatrics
- **Community health aspects:** Restoring Trust Through Community Health: The Role of Pharmacists in Vaccine Confidence and Access
  - Jennifer Campbell, PharmD, and Pauline Long, PharmD, Co-owners, MedsPLUS Consulting
- **Personal connection:** Experience With the Cutter Incident
  - Jack Nelson, JD, Professor Emeritus, Cumberland School of Law, Samford University
- **Panel discussion:** Where Do We Go From Here?
  - All available speakers

2025: The anxious generation

Speaker: Jonathan Thigpen, PharmD, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Curricular Innovation and Professional Development, McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Samford University.

- **Neurobiological aspects**: Children, teens and the media: It's not all bad
  - Daniel Marullo, PhD, Clinical Psychologist, Children's of Alabama
- **Philosophical aspect**: Appearance or reality? The issue of truth and social media
  - Dennis Sansom, PhD, Retired Professor and Chair, Department of Classics and Philosophy, Samford University
- **Student aspect:** Thoughts on the effects of technology and social media on their lives. Panel discussion
  - Moderator: Amy Broeseker, RN, PharmD, PhD, Professor, McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Samford University
- **AI ethics:** Wellbeing in the age of digital deception
  - Laura DeNardis, PhD, Inaugural Director, Center for Digital Ethics; Inaugural Chair in Technology, Ethics, and Society; Professor, Communication, Culture and Technology, Georgetown University
- **Legal aspects:** Should minors' access to social media be restricted?
  - Greg Laughlin, JD - Associate Professor of Law and Law Library Director Cumberland School of Law, Samford University
- **Medication aspects:** Update on medications related to adolescent mental health
  - Kim Benner, PharmD and Mary Worthington, Pharm, Professors at McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Samford University
- **School administrators:** When the anxious generation goes to school - How parents and health care professionals can provide support
  - Anna Gaston, LICSW, Student Assistance Counselor for Vestavia Hills City Schools
- **Panel discussion: Where do we go from here?** All available speakers

2024: Gun Violence and Healthcare: A Public Health Issue

- **Legal aspects:** Gun Violence Prevention: The Constitutional Dimension
  - Brannon Denning, JD, Cumberland School of Law
- **Public policy aspects:** Pre-Purchase Policies and Their Effect on Firearm Fatalities
  - Griffin Edwards, UAB Collat School of Business
- **Epidemiological aspects:** Evidence-Based Solutions to Reduce Gun Violence
  - Cassandra Crifasi, PhD, MPH, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions

- **Government health aspects:** An Overview of Local Initiatives Regarding Gun Violence
  - David Hicks, DO, MPH, Jefferson County Health Department
- **Counseling aspects:** Responding to Trauma: Practical Advice for Healthcare Workers Serving Families and Victims of Gun Violence
  - David Cecil, PhD, LICSW, Samford University
- **Community aspects:** Reducing Violence and Improving Health Through Community-Engaged Violence Prevention
  - Lori Bateman, PhD, UAB Heersink School of Medicine
- **Panel discussion:** Christson Adedoyin, PhD, Samford University; Henry Irby, Brookside Police Department; and Tiffany Osborne, UAB Minority Health and Health Equity Research Center

2023: Genetics & Genomics: Medical, Ethical and Social Implications

- **Ethical aspects:** An Overview of Human Identity
  - Dennis Sansom, PhD, Samford University
- **Genomics aspects:** An Overview of Genomics and Precision Medicine
  - Bruce Korf, MD, PhD, UAB
- **Pharmacogenomics aspects:** Chronic Disease and Pharmacogenomics
  - Nita A. Limdi, PharmD, PhD, MSPH, FAHA, UAB
- **Genome editing and ethics:** Ethics Considerations and the International Governance of Human Genome Editing: Prospects or Pipe Dream?
  - Jeffrey Kahn, PhD, MPH, Johns Hopkins University
- **Medical aspects:** Human Identity and Medicine
  - Farrell Mendelsohn, MD, Cardiology, P.C.
- **Genetic counseling aspects:** Genetic Testing Challenges and Counseling Considerations
  - Kelly East, MS, CGC, HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology
- **Faith and healthcare:** Diagnosed With a Rare Disease: How One Family Navigates the Unknown
  - Renie Moss, parent and advocate for children with neurofibromatosis

2022: Coming out of the Pandemic: Where are we Mentally?

- **Ethical aspects:** Why Should We Do the Moral Thing: For Reason or Love?
  - Dennis Sansom, PhD, Samford University
- **Nursing aspects:** The Nursing Profession's Mental Health and Well-Being: COVID-19 Impacts

    - Stephanie Wynn, DNP, RN-BC, PMHNP, Samford University
- **Psychological aspects:** The COVID-19 Pandemic and Acclimating During Prolonged Crises
    - Josh Klapow, PhD, UAB
- **Legal aspects:** Public Health Mandates and the Law
    - Frank McPhillips, JD, Maynard, Cooper & Gale
- **Pharmacy aspects:** The Interplay Between COVID-19 and Psychotropic Medication Use
    - Marshall Cates, PharmD, McWhorter School of Pharmacy
- **Social work aspects:** Caring for the Caregivers: The Pandemic's Impact on Social Work
    - Lisa Baker, PhD, LCSW, Samford University

2019: Medical Marijuana: Its Benefits and Risks to Society

- **Legal and ethical aspects:** The Changing Legal and Ethical Contexts of Medical Marijuana and CBD
    - David Smolin, JD, Samford University
- **Medical aspects:** Medical Cannabis: What Is the Evidence for Its Use?
    - Tyler Gaston, MD, UAB
- **Health risks:** Real Medicines Have Real Risks: Marijuana's Potential Health Hazards Explained
    - Erik Messamore, MD, PhD, Northeast Ohio Medical University
- **Policy aspects:** Impact of the Agriculture Improvement Act
    - Scott Gottlieb, MD, former FDA commissioner
- **Ethical aspects:** Suffering, Marijuana and the Goals of Medicine
    - Farr Curlin, MD, Duke University
- **Public health aspects:** Medical and Recreational Marijuana Laws: Effects on Marijuana and Opioid Outcomes Among Adolescents and Adults
    - Silvia Martins, MD, PhD, Columbia University

2018: The Ethics of Access to Health Care: Are We Doing Too Much or Too Little

- **Faith-based perspectives:** Biblical Framework for Caring for the Poor
    - Dennis Sansom, PhD, Samford University
- **Ethical aspects:** The Ethics of Access to Health Care: Evidence from the World Cities Project
    - Michael K. Gusmano, PhD, Hastings Center for Bioethics

- **Healthcare systems perspective:** Ethics of Access to Care from a Hospital and Health System Perspective
  - Keith Parrott, Brookwood Baptist Health
- **Panel discussion:** Ethics of Access to Care: Local Approaches and Considerations
  - Birmingham-area healthcare leaders panel

2017: Effective Pain Management in an Era of Opioid Abuse

- **Ethical and philosophical aspects:** The Nature of the Soul, Addiction, and the Seven Deadly Sins
  - Dennis Sansom, PhD, Samford University
- **Medical aspects:** Opioids for Chronic Pain: Whatever Happened to First, Do No Harm?
  - David N. Juurlink, BPharm, MD, PhD
- **Public health and ethics aspects:** Turning the Tide or Riptide? Ethical Challenges of the Changing Opioid Epidemic
  - Stefan G. Kertesz, MD, MSc
- Watch the lectures: Part 1 | Part 2

2015: Religion and Healthcare in a Diverse Society: The Role of Institutional and Provider Conscience

- **Ethical aspects:** *Taking Moral Diversity Seriously: The Implications for Bioethics*
  - H. Tristram Engelhardt Jr., PhD, MD
- **Professional practice aspects:** *Can Professional Practice Help in Adjudicating Professional Conscientious Objection?*
  - Thomas S. Huddle, MS, PhD, FACP
- **Clinical ethics aspects:** *Reframing Conscientious Refusals in an Era of Competing Visions of Health, Medicine and Ethics*
  - Ryan Nash, MD, MA, FACP, FAAHPM
- **Health policy aspects:** *Is There a Place for Religious People in Healthcare Professions?*
  - Leonard J. Nelson, JD, LLM

2014: Immunizations Across the Lifespan: Ethical and Legal Implications

- **Ethical aspects:** *Immunizations: Individual Rights vs. Societal Obligation*
  - Dennis Sansom, PhD
- **Public health aspects:** *Adult Immunization: Do Disparities Have Ethical Implications?*

    - William Schaffner, MD
- **Healthcare workforce aspects:** *Requiring Immunizations for Healthcare Workers: Fair and Just?*
    - Lisa M. Lee, PhD, MS
- **Pediatric aspects:** *Pediatric Immunizations: The Effect of Conscientious Objection*
    - David Kimberlin, MD
- **Healthcare economics aspects:** *The Illusion of Charity Care*
    - Bruce D. White, DO, JD

2013: Marketplace Medicine and Conflicts of Interest

- **Research ethics:** Fear and Loathing in Medical Research
    - Carl Elliott, MD, PhD
- **Healthcare policy:** Health Care Reform and the Market
    - Leonard J. Nelson III, JD, LLM
- **Clinical ethics:** Patient Demands and Accommodations
    - Bruce D. White, DO, JD

2012: Moral Distress at the Bedside: A Role for Hospital Ethics Committees?

- **Nursing ethics:** Collaboration of a Nursing Ethics Roundtable and a Hospital Ethics Committee to Decrease Moral Distress at the Bedside
    - Joy Hinson Penticuff, RN, PhD
- **Hospital ethics:** The Role of Ethics Committees in Catholic Hospitals
    - Leonard J. Nelson III, JD, LLM
- **Clinical ethics:** Medical Futility and Moral Distress
    - John Lantos, MD
- **Pharmacy ethics:** The Moral Distress of an Outside-the-Loop Clinician
    - David Brushwood, RPh, JD
- **Case study:** Surrogate Decision-Making in the Intensive Care Unit
    - Bruce D. White, DO, JD

2011: Eliminating Healthcare Disparities: An Ethical Quagmire?

- **Ethical aspects:** Health Disparities: Just and Unjust
    - Robert Veatch, PhD
- **Biomedical ethics:** From Stem Cells to Cloning: Where Are We Now?
    - Gregory Pence, PhD

- **Panel discussion:** Health Disparities and End-Stage Renal Disease
  - Denyse Thornley-Brown, MD; Gregory E. Pence, PhD; and Robert Veatch, PhD
- **Academic ethics programs:** The Role of University-Based Ethics Programs and Their Communities
  - Joseph O. Dean Jr., PhD
- **Public health aspects:** The Health Impact of Resolving Racial Disparities
  - David Satcher, MD, PhD
- **Case study:** The Family from Hell
  - Bruce D. White, DO, JD

2010: Are Codes of Ethics Enough?

- **Ethics and law:** Codes, Standards of Care and the Differences Between Ethics and Law
  - Bruce D. White, DO, JD
- **Professional ethics:** Developing Ethical Standards: The Role of People and Codes
  - Joseph Fink III, BS Pharm, JD
- **Ethics leadership:** Ethics Code Design: Emerging Best Practices
  - John Knapp, PhD
- **Health education ethics:** Applying the Health Education Code of Ethics to Other Healthcare Professions
  - Chuck Sands, PhD
- **Virtue ethics:** Codes Are More Than Rules, They Are Virtues
  - Dennis Sansom, PhD
- **Clinical ethics:** Primer on Clinical Ethics for Ethics Committee Members
  - Ronn Huff, MA(c)
- **Professionalism:** Codes of Ethics: Setting the Goal Posts for Professionalism?
  - DeWitt C. Baldwin Jr., MD
- **Nursing ethics:** Codes and Care at the Bedside: The Nurse's Dilemma
  - Joy Hinson Penticuff, RN, PhD

2009: The Intersection of Faith and Ethics in Healthcare

- **Spiritual and ethical aspects:** The Numinous, the Medical and the Moral
  - Daniel P. Sulmasy, OFM, MD, PhD
- **Spirituality and dignity:** The Fine Edge Between Light and Shadow: Spirituality, Illness and Dignity
  - Karen Lebacqz, PhD
- **Healthcare spirituality:** When to Be Spiritual in Healthcare

    - Dennis Sansom, PhD
- **Conscience and healthcare:** Conscientious Objection and the Future of Catholic Healthcare
    - Leonard J. Nelson, JD, LLM
- **Medical ethics:** Self-Deception, Medical Practice and the Eclipse of Spirituality
    - John Knapp, PhD
- **Clinical ethics:** Justice: Bedside Clinical Ethics' Next Great Challenge
    - Bruce D. White, DO, JD

2008: Healthcare Reform: Access, Economics and Obligation

- **Healthcare access:** Children's Access to Healthcare: The Puzzling U.S. Attitude
    - Loretta Kopelman, PhD
- **Healthcare ethics:** Securing Access to the Healing Pool
    - William F. May, PhD
- **Healthcare policy:** An Argument for Universal Healthcare
    - Melvin Brandon, PhD
- **Theological ethics:** Finite Care in a World of Infinite Need
    - Stanley Hauerwas, PhD
- **Healthcare economics:** Health Economics and Politics: A Historical Perspective
    - Robert Helms, PhD

2007: Struggling With Improving Bedside End-of-Life Care

- **Clinical ethics:** Medical Futility: Where Do We Stand?
    - Lawrence J. Schneiderman, MD
- **Nursing and ethics:** Insights From Tarot About Futility Decisions: The Hanged Man
    - Amy Haddad, PhD, RN
- **Faith and medicine:** Where Is God in Suffering and Death?
    - Wilton H. Bunch, MD, PhD