

*A week in the life of a first-year fellow*

**Notes:**

- 1) This is mostly fictionalized, in that it is extremely unlikely all of this would happen in a single week.
- 2) In open time between scheduled department responsibilities, presentations, observation opportunities, and clinical service activities, fellows spend most of their time working on mentored research projects. These may be conceptual or analytically-driven based upon empirical data. This may entail reading literature, discussing and debating with members of the department, outlining and writing a paper, reviewing drafts with members of the department, preparing presentations, and submitting abstracts and manuscripts to journals and conferences.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u>9:00am – 10:45am</u> Meet with <b>your faculty mentor</b> to discuss two projects you are working on: the <b>latest draft of a conceptual paper</b> and a plan for <b>analyzing survey data</b> for another.</p> <p><u>11:00am – 12:00pm</u> Meet with the faculty attending and the on-call second-year fellow to discuss a case that has just come in to the <b>Bioethics Consultation Service</b>, and then meet with the consult requestor to provide assistance.</p> <p><u>1:00pm – 3:15pm</u> Continue writing the draft of your conceptual paper.</p> <p><u>3:15pm – 3:30pm</u> <b>Tea time</b></p> <p><u>3:30pm – 5:00pm</u> Observe the clinical center <b>ethics committee</b> meeting. OR Attend the NIH <b>Bioethics Interest Group</b>. (both monthly activities)</p>	<p><u>8:30am – 9:30am</u> Department staff meeting</p> <p><u>9:30am – 11:30am</u> Do a <b>literature search</b> for articles needed to flesh out the background section of your paper.</p> <p><u>12:00pm – 1:00pm</u> Attend <b>Journal Club</b> during lunch – Bioethics, philosophy, medical, and science journals are reviewed, and an article of interest is discussed.</p> <p><u>1:00pm – 2:00pm</u> Meet with <b>your faculty mentor</b> to discuss how to <b>respond to reviewer comments</b> received about a manuscript you submitted to a journal.</p> <p><u>3:15pm – 3:30pm</u> <b>Tea time</b></p> <p><u>3:30pm – 5:00pm</u> Attend a <b>Works-in-Progress (WIP)</b> presentation by a member of the department.</p> <p><u>(4:00pm – 7:00pm)</u> <b>Joint Bioethics Colloquium (JBC)</b> – Attended by <b>second-year fellows</b>, but <b>first-year fellows</b> with specific interests can attend. Dinner is served. (~10 times per year).</p>	<p><u>8:30am – 11:30am (Fall)</u> Lecture course: <b><i>Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research.</i></b></p> <p><u>12:00pm – 2:00 pm</u> Work on readings and notes for the afternoon’s seminar course. <b>Read and offer comments</b> on another fellow’s paper in progress.</p> <p><u>2:00pm – 3:15pm</u> Get caught up in a <b>conversation</b> with the department’s visiting scholar about the Ethics Grand Rounds presentation. You come away with a <b>new idea</b> for your current paper.</p> <p><u>3:15pm – 3:30pm</u> <b>Tea time</b></p> <p><u>3:30pm – 5:00pm (Spring)</u> Seminar course: <b><i>First-year seminar in philosophy and bioethics.</i></b></p>	<p><u>9:30am – 10:30am</u> Attend <b>patient rounds</b> in the <b>Clinical Center</b>: shadow doctors as they visit and discuss their current patients.</p> <p><u>11:00am – 12:30pm</u> <b>Analyze data and interview transcripts</b> collected from the <b>pilot phase of the survey you have helped develop.</b></p> <p><u>1:00pm – 2:45pm</u> Meet with <b>your faculty mentor</b> to participate in a conference call with a research collaborator.</p> <p><u>3:15pm – 3:30pm</u> <b>Tea time</b></p> <p><u>3:30pm – 5:00pm</u> Work with <b>NIH research librarians</b> to gather articles for the literature review section of a paper</p>	<p><u>9:00am – 12:00pm</u> Observe an <b>IRB meeting</b> (monthly)</p> <p><u>12:00pm – 1:00pm</u> Pick up produce at <b>NIH farmer’s market</b> and enjoy lunch with colleagues</p> <p><u>1:00pm—3:15pm</u> <b>Create list of new paper ideas</b> to work on after current projects</p> <p><u>3:15pm – 3:30pm</u> <b>Tea time</b></p> <p><u>3:30pm – 5:00pm</u> Edit and finalize a draft of an abstract for <b>submission to a bioethics conference</b></p> <p><u>5:00pm - ???</u> <b>Happy hour and karaoke</b> with the other fellows!</p>

**Other occasional activities:**

- 1. Ethics Grand Rounds (EGR):** ~6 times/year presentation where a clinician or researcher presents a case that poses ethical dilemmas, and an invited speaker comments on that case. EGR is open to the entire NIH community. It is followed by a departmental catered lunch with the invited speaker where department members have the opportunity to get to know the speaker and ask further questions. Past topics have included: definitions of death, inclusion of pregnant women in research studies, and altruistic organ donation.
- 2. Guest speakers:** Periodically throughout the year, the department will host guest speakers who may be academics from the surrounding area, past fellows passing through DC and hoping to present work in progress, or academics looking to form research collaborations with department members. These presentations help foster the department's many collaborations with other bioethics centers and academic departments.
- 3. Fellows' Feedback:** Once per month, pre- and post-doc fellows meet with the Department Chief over lunch to discuss improvements to the fellows' experience.