

# BIOETHICS BULLETIN

NIH CLINICAL CENTER DEPARTMENT OF BIOETHICS

## INTERVIEW WITH MATTHÉ SCHOLTEN, PHD

Matthé Scholten, visiting scholar from Ruhr University Bochum, speaks about his experience at the NIH Department of Bioethics

### Q: What have you been working on while you were here?

I've actually been working on quite a few projects. In Bochum, we recently started a new big research project on coercion in psychiatry, called SALUS (2018-2024), and there were many things to be organized and arranged during my stay. We worked out the study design of two studies, one on psychiatric advance directives and one on the use of treatment pressures in psychiatry, and submitted the ethics applications to the institution review board. I also made the final preparations for a weeklong international workshop "Human Rights and Mental Health," which I hosted in Bochum in the first week of April. In the workshop, early career researchers and experts from Germany, Ireland and the UK discussed the implications of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for psychiatric care. Alongside these scientific projects, I worked on an interdisciplinary social project for the MERCUR Global Young Faculty together with other early career researchers working in the Ruhr. In the context of this project, we developed "Kennste?", a card game aimed at making people aware of gender bias and inequality. **Continued on page 4**



THE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERED TO PROVIDE DINNER TO GUESTS AT THE CHILDREN'S INN IN MARCH. SPECIAL THANK YOU TO HAE LIN CHO AND HINA WALAJAHI FOR COORDINATING THESE EVENTS.

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## CHRISTINE'S CORNER



### **Greetings from the NIH CC Department of Bioethics!**

Highlighted in a recent NEJM Catalyst article was the value of breaking bread together to establish and nourish connections and a sense of community. I think the NIH CC Department of Bioethics excels at this! As you may remember, we love to gather to eat and to have tea, and are committed to a strong and vibrant community. I strongly believe that our bonds as a community also help us to produce excellent and impactful research, attract extraordinary (and nice) fellows, and provide high-quality consultation to the CC and NIH community.

### **Happenings in the Department of Bioethics**

Many notable things are happening. Here are just a few:

First, the CC Board of Scientific Counselors reviewed the department in April 2019 (after the need to reschedule a snowed out date in January!).

*Continued on next page*

## ROBERT STEEL (PHD): THE ETHICS OF HIV CURE RESEARCH

Here at NIH, the Office of AIDS Research has made research toward an HIV cure one of its strategic research priorities. And there have been exciting developments in the field of cure research, some of which have been widely reported: for instance, the apparently successful cure of “the Berlin patient,” Timothy Ray Brown. But despite its laudable goal, ethical concerns persist surrounding the burdens that research participants must assume in the course of HIV cure research. Cure research can be risky. It is highly experimental. And for people who are already well controlled on anti-retroviral medication, their prospect for medical gain from “being cured” is limited.

Recently I have been working on a project investigating just these concerns—with my time funded by a fellowship provided jointly by the Office of AIDS Research, the Office of Intramural Training and Education, and the Office of Intramural Research. In this project, mentored jointly by Christine Grady and Dave Wendler, I have attempted to bring clarity to the levels of risk that are acceptable in HIV cure research and the conditions that justify that risk.

I argue that we should assess the ethical acceptability of particular set of research risks by checking them against the perspective of a potential participant. We should ask: is there anyone for whom participation in this trial with these risks makes sense, given their interests and values? And would it be possible, using available methods, to recruit only those people for whom participation genuinely makes sense? I suggest that given available evidence about altruism in the HIV community, it is reasonable to suppose that cure researchers will be able to answer “yes” to both these questions even in the case of some quite risky research. So, I argue, even quite risky research can be acceptable—or, at least, if it is unacceptable, it is not for the reason that it mistreats its participants.

## CHRISTINE'S CORNER, CONTINUED

I am happy to say that the reviews were extremely positive. The reviewers recognized the breadth and quality of important research we do, the strength and reputation of our fellowship program, and the reach and impact of our consultation service and other activities. They made recommendations to the CC and NIH that would expand support for the department. We are now good for another four years...

Second, we are excited to have three new exceptional faculty members:

1. Annette Rid joined us in September 2018 through an agreement with Georgetown, and we hired her as a member of our group in March 2019. As you may know, Annette is a physician, with a PhD equivalent in bioethics. She was formerly a postdoctoral fellow here at NIH, and has recently been Associate Professor in Bioethics and Society at King's College in London. Her work covers a number of areas including international research ethics, research with pregnant women, social value and risk in research, and others. Annette will serve as our liaison with the Division of AIDS/NIAID.
2. Holly Taylor is joining us in June. Holly is coming to us from Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, where she is a core faculty member and also an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Bloomberg School of Public Health. Holly has a PhD, is trained as a social scientist, and uses a variety of methods to explore topics important to research ethics, including work related to IRBs, informed consent, recruitment of women and minorities, the delivery of ancillary care to research participants, as well as public health approaches to infectious diseases.
3. Saskia Hendriks will be transitioning from a postdoctoral fellowship to a member of our faculty. Saskia is an MD, PhD from the Netherlands. Her research includes conceptual and empirical work on ethical and social issues related to emerging technologies, especially emerging reproductive technologies, including stem cell based fertility treatments and prenatal therapy. Recently, Dr. Hendriks has broadened her scope to include emerging technologies in neuroscience. She will engage in neuroethics research and continue work with the NIH BRAIN initiative. Saskia will divide her time between the Department of Bioethics and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Office of Scientific Liaison Neuroethics Program, with the goal of formalizing our neuroethics collaborations with NINDS.

Third, our programs continue to thrive. We welcomed three IRB interns from Zambia, Nigeria, and Indonesia in the fall of 2018. We plan to engage in a deeper evaluation of this successful and competitive program this summer. Our wonderful current fellows are all headed for great things in their post-fellowship endeavors. We have selected 7 (!) excellent fellows for Fall 2019 from a large and competitive pool. We went to Penn to participate in the 5th Mid- Atlantic Regional Bioethics Fellows Workshop. Our JBC topic for this semester is gene editing. We are still attracting large crowds for Ethics Grand Rounds and the human subjects' course. **Continued on next page.**

## CHRISTINE'S CORNER, CONTINUED

Fourth, our consultation service continues to be in demand, and the range of questions raised never ceases to bring up new issues and challenges. The intramural IRB structure has been completely overhauled, and new regulations and technologies are keeping us on our toes.

Finally, I am still working with the NIH Coordinating Committee on Bioethics Research and Training, which aims to promote and coordinate funding for bioethics research across the NIH. Although funding for bioethics research remains challenging, several NIH ICs in addition to the NHGRI ELSI program do support some bioethics research. The NIH BRAIN initiative, for example, continues to fund neuroethics R01s and training grants. The NIH published a call for bioethics supplements to existing grants, which hopefully some of you applied for.

I hope that each of you is healthy, happy, and productive. We love to hear from you about your many adventures and accomplishments. You are always welcome to visit, join us for tea, give a talk, collaborate with us on a project, or check us out on twitter (@NIHBioethics)!

Warm wishes, Christine

## INTERVIEW WITH MATTHÉ SCHOLTEN, CONTINUED



Most concretely, I worked on a decision tree for the enrollment of persons with dementia or mild cognitive impairment in research during my stay at the NIH Department of Bioethics. I started developing the decision tree in collaboration with colleagues in the project ENSURE (2016-2019), an international and interdisciplinary project on supported decision-making and capacity

assessment in the context of dementia research. The aim of the decision tree is to provide guidance to members of institutional review boards and dementia researchers on how to structure the informed consent process for studies likely to include persons with dementia or mild cognitive impairment and to ensure that proper safeguards apply when research participants are unable to give consent. At the NIH Department of Bioethics, I collaborated with Scott (Kim) on this project and he greatly helped me with meticulous comments on the prototype of the decision tree and the draft of the manuscript as well as with interesting and insightful discussions about informed consent, competence to consent and research ethics more broadly. One decisive change that we made was to structure the decision tree not merely logically but also chronologically, which resulted in separate trees for the ethical review process and for the informed consent process of various study types. I also had the opportunity to present the decision tree in a Work in Progress session and the feedback and suggestions I got there enabled me to make important improvements to the decision tree and the manuscript.

More information about our research projects in Bochum can be found here: [https://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/malakow/ethic\\_psych/projekte/index.html.en](https://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/malakow/ethic_psych/projekte/index.html.en)

### **Q: What are your plans for the near future once you go back to Germany?**

There was little time to recover from my jet lag, as in the two weeks after my return to Europe the presentation of the game "Kennste?"

and the international workshop “Human Rights and Mental Health” took place. Now that these two projects are completed, I will prepare the final publications for the ENSURE project in the coming months so that I can focus on the SALUS project afterward. The SALUS research group is an independent research group sponsored by the German Ministry for Education and Research with close connections to both the Institute for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine and the Department of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Preventive Medicine. We are all young researchers from a wide variety of disciplines and I’m very excited about all the studies we planned. A project website on which we will share our research outputs will be launched soon ([www.ethicsinpsychiatry.com](http://www.ethicsinpsychiatry.com)). 2019 will also see the publication of a German clinical guideline on informed consent to medical treatment for persons with dementia, for which I served as a member of the expert and author group. The guideline contains concrete recommendations for supported decision-making and capacity assessment in persons with dementia, and we will give presentations at various conferences to inform clinicians about the guideline and support them in implementing it in their clinical practice.

**Q: What has your experience at the NIH Department of Bioethics been like?**

It has been absolutely wonderful to visit the NIH Department of Bioethics. The department is characterized by a remarkable combination of philosophical skills and thorough knowledge of clinical reality. Walking through the hallway, one will pick up from conversations about fundamental issues in normative ethics on the one end of the hallway and conversations about concrete ethical problems that occurred during a research study and were addressed in an ethics consultation on the other. Being trained in philosophy and interested in clinical ethics, I immediately felt at home. What also contributed to this feeling was the warm welcome by staff and fellows. I think that the department’s knowledge about a great variety of research protocols and the fine nuances of research ethics is impressive and makes the NIH Department of Bioethics a unique place in the world. The close collaboration between tenured staff and fellows seems very fruitful and it is great to see fellows join staff on clinical rounds and jointly hold ethics consultations. The journal club, which enables researchers to stay on top of their field, and the extent to which everyone is involved in decision-making were important take home messages for me. And last but not least, the cherished tea time showed me once more that real science is so much more than reading and writing. All in all, it was a marvelous experience!

## INTERVIEW WITH ANNETTE RID, MD, PHD

Department member Annette Rid speaks about recently joining the department faculty, the projects she's working on, and her role as liaison to the Division of AIDS.



**Q: What were you doing prior to joining the Department of Bioethics faculty, and why were you interested in coming here?**

Before moving to the Department, I was an Associate Professor of Bioethics & Society in the Department of Global Health & Social Medicine at King's College London. Together with my colleague Silvia Camporesi, I ran a bioethics Masters in what was at its core a social science department – a really unique opportunity. Still, I was longing to be in a place where bioethics was at the center of everyone's work. I still have to pinch myself sometimes that I'm now part of the terrific academic community that is the Department. I really don't know any other group that is as

vibrant, rigorous and supportive of each other's work.

**Q: As a former postdoctoral fellow in the department, what's it like returning?**

Having been here as a fellow, between 2007-2010, definitely eased my transition. Many things are much like they were when I was here, in particular the emphasis on exchange and "combative collegiality". We still have regular work-in-progress seminars, colloquia and seminars, ethics grand rounds... And, of course, daily tea! Some things have changed as well. For example, the IRB internship didn't exist ten years ago. I also have more responsibilities now, serving as an attending on the Consult Service and the liaison to the Division of AIDS at NIAID, for example. This is really exciting. And a little daunting at times.

**Q: What are some of the projects you're currently working on?**

I'm mostly working on three projects. The first looks at a range of questions about the ethics of conducting research during humanitarian

emergencies. For example, I've talked to the humanitarian organizations involved in clinical trials during the Ebola epidemic and asked them how they think standard ethical principles for research relate to the norms governing humanitarian practice. My second project explores values other than cost-effectiveness in healthcare priority-setting. I'm working with Vicki Charlton to systematically analyze, and scrutinize, what values the UK National Institute of Health and Care Excellence uses in its health technology assessment process. Hopefully this will lead to a better understanding of what Norman Daniels calls "relevant reasons" in priority-setting. I've also started a new project on the social value of research: whether it is a necessary requirement for ethical research, what it is, who should judge it, how, and so on.

**Q: Tell us about your role as liaison between our department and the Division of AIDS at NIAID.**

At the Division of AIDS, I regularly provide input into research protocols under review and

respond to consultation requests. For example, we have been discussing the standard of prevention in HIV vaccine trials in the age of pre-exposure prophylaxis. I also organize seminars, try to build – along with others in the department – bioethics capacity in low- and middle-income countries and conduct research of interest for the Division. I will likely start a

new project on the role of community health workers in research in low- and middle-income countries later this year.

**Q: What are you most excited about being a member of the department?**

This is easy to answer: it's such a privilege to have access to such a terrific group of scholars and people who are generously

sharing ideas and engaged in each other's work. I'm also super excited to be based at the NIH and in DC, with more opportunities for collaboration with scientists, policy-makers and fellow bioethicists than I could ever pursue, and to actively engage in the Department's international work.

## INTERVIEW WITH STEVEN PEARSON, MD, MSC, FRCP

We spoke with Department member Steve Pearson about his upcoming departure, looking back, and what's next.

**Q: What types of projects have you worked on during your tenure here?**

I've worked on a variety of topics related to decisions that bridge between the generation of evidence on medical interventions, the assessment of that evidence, and its incorporation in policy decisions related to pricing and insurance coverage. That's a pretty broad area, and I also love working with fellows to find a way to build upon what they find most interesting, so my research topics have included issues as diverse as requiring clinical trial participation to receive coverage for a new intervention, ethical criteria to judge the merits of a requirement to participate in a wellness program as part of insurance, the ethics of insurance policies that require use of a less expensive (but possibly less effective) treatment option before a more expensive option, and financial conflicts in clinical guideline development.

**Q: How has your work at ICER informed your work here, and vice versa?**

I see ethical questions arise every single day in the work I do through ICER. Often these questions do ultimately center around how to capture the "value" of treatments for patients and integrate that along with social values in decisions about appropriate pricing and coverage. But there are so many other issues related to procedural justice and the role of power and money in health care generally. These experiences have reinforced my faith that the rigor and the methods of bioethics have much to offer our society as we grapple with the age-old challenge of every health system to provide the best care it can with the (limited) resources provided. My learning here in the Department has allowed me to see common themes across time and different health systems; it has taught me how not to settle for a policy argument that is largely based on a failure to clarify terms and think through consequences in a systematic fashion. And it has left me with a residual optimism that there are bright young people coming into the field who share a passion for intellectual rigor tied to a commitment to make a positive difference for people when they are most vulnerable. That's been very sustaining and helpful given that ICER also gives me a window into some of the worst motives and behavior among individuals and entire companies.

**Q: What have you enjoyed most about your time as part of the department, and what will you miss the most?**

You can probably guess from my answer just above! I will miss the chance to throw down a problem and have people dissect it in a brilliantly collaborative fashion. I'll miss learning about ways of thinking and reflecting on what is right behavior from such different perspectives. But I think I'll miss most the sense of regeneration and progress inherent in the fellows we faculty have the honor to support in their progress.

**Q: From your perspective, what are some of the greatest challenges the bioethics and health policy fields will face in the near future?**

I think that bioethics will be busy in the years ahead! There is no doubt that technological advances will create brand new questions that will challenge our very sense of self – resuscitated pig brains! How we apply that technology to the human condition will be an ongoing area of challenge, particularly given the inequality inherent in our society and its distribution of resources. I also anticipate that the US will face ever more clear choices about the trade-offs inherent in a market-based health system that is not grounded in a fundamental right to health care. From a generational stand point I do think that the ACA represents the age in which universal coverage became the clear target for the US. The next generation will have to figure out how to pay for it in a sustainable way, and that will force us to confront the opportunity costs and deeper issues of justice and mercy in ways that will be new for us. Bioethics will be needed more than ever to help inform that societal dialogue. I can't wait!

**Q: What's next for you?**

Well, for one thing my colleagues at ICER will have to get used to having me there every day, will may be a serious organizational culture shock! Personally, this will be an exercise in downsizing, which my wife and I are honestly looking forward to. But when I get up to Boston this summer I will also be exploring the bioethics landscape up there to see how I might contribute. Teach medical students? Work with folks to create ways for those with bioethics interests across Boston to come together? Not sure yet. But what will remain the same will be my deep sense of appreciation for what I've learned here and I'll be looking for ways to forge bonds between the work I do with ICER and the broader work you all do here.

## 2017-2019 FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES



A GROUP OF OUR FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR FELLOWS IN PHILADELPHIA FOR THIS YEAR'S MID-ATLANTIC FELLOWS CONFERENCE.

**Hae Lin Cho** is a post-baccalaureate fellow in the Department of Bioethics. She graduated from Dartmouth College in 2017 with a major in Biology, and did her undergraduate research looking at the role of the immune system in melanoma at the Geisel School of Medicine. During the fellowship, Hae Lin conducted a hospital-based survey of patient and family experiences with ethical questions and concerns regarding their or their family member's clinical care, as well as studies on patient understanding and decision-making in clinical research. After the fellowship, Hae Lin will be attending Harvard Medical School.

**Jake Earl** is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Bioethics. Prior to arriving at the NIH, he completed his PhD in philosophy at Georgetown University. His dissertation project developed a novel account of procreators' moral obligations to parent their newborn infant children. At the NIH, Jake's

research addressed ethical and philosophical questions about medical innovation, procreation and parenthood, and HIV/AIDS. Currently, Jake is working as a clinical ethicist at Inova Health System.

**Saskia Hendriks** is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Bioethics. She has a BS in Liberal Arts and Sciences from Amsterdam University College, the Netherlands. She obtained her MD-PhD in 2017 at the University of Amsterdam. Saskia's thesis focused on the responsible clinical implementation of stem cell-based fertility treatments. At the NIH, she does empirical and conceptual work on the social implications and regulation of emerging medical technologies in reproduction and neuroscience. Saskia will be continuing her work in the Department of Bioethics, as well as at the Neuroethics Program at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

**Wynter Miller** is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Bioethics. She earned her JD from the University of California, Davis in 2017, where she focused on health and disability rights law and worked as a Senior Editor for the UC Davis Law Review. At the NIH, she worked on ethical issues in reproductive medicine. Currently, Wynter is a Clinical Content Editor and Writer at a health tech startup in San Francisco.

**Matthew Morgado** is a post-baccalaureate fellow in the Department of Bioethics. Shortly before joining the NIH, Matthew graduated with a triple major in philosophy, mathematics, and economics from the University of Chicago. His undergraduate research focused on forgiveness and on abstract algebra. At the NIH, Matthew is working on projects related to minimal risk assessment and end-of-life issues, particularly the concept of unbearable suffering. He will be pursuing a graduate degree in philosophy in the future.

**Hina Walajahi** is a post-baccalaureate fellow in the Department. She graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Public Health. Her undergraduate research projects focused on the tensions of cultural integration in community health settings and the role of competing, multi-disciplinary dialogues in influencing global health interventions, particularly in the case of female genital cutting. At the NIH, Hina hopes to explore these interests further and conduct research at the intersection of bioethics, cultural identity, and emerging biotechnologies. After the fellowship, Hina will be continuing her research on Institutional Review Boards at the NIH.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**Derek Braverman** will be taking a “little hiatus” from medical school starting August 2019, after his second year of medical school at Johns Hopkins University, to pursue a PhD in Philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis.

From **Remy Brim**, Vice President of Regulatory Policy and Strategy with BGR Group: *Hi Bioethics Team! Hope all is well. I'm still loving living in D.C. and recently embarked on my first foray into the private sector last summer. I'm enjoying the new perspective on policy in the life science industry and traveling all over the country for work!*

**Dena Davis** is continuing as the Presidential Endowed Chair in Health at Lehigh University, and reports “lots of great travel” to India, Ethiopia, Spain, France, and Belgium.

**Colleen Denny** is working as an Ob-Gyn in at Bellevue Hospital, the oldest public hospital in the country and part of NYU School of Medicine in Manhattan, and recently became the Medical Director of the Women's Clinic, which she reports “*is exciting and occasionally a little crazy.*” She also has “*weaseled [her] way onto the hospital's Bioethics Committee!*” and is interested in work related to reproductive health rights and access. From Colleen: *I live out in Brooklyn – visitors always welcome!*

**Greer Donley** is almost done with her first year teaching as Assistant Professor of University of Pittsburgh Law School. Her husband, Zeke, will be joining her back in Pittsburgh at the end of July just in time to welcome her first baby (due September). From Greer: *I'm looking forward to seeing many familiar faces at the ASLME conference in June!*

**Sarah Gollust** (pre-doctoral fellow, 2001-2003) is continuing her work as an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota and is enjoying being the mom of two increasingly big boys (5 and 8). Her research mainly concerns the intersection of media and politics in health policy, and she recently served as the guest co-editor of a special issue of the Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law on “Health and Political Participation.” She enjoys reconnecting with colleagues from NIH, and recently ran into Sam Horng (pre-doctoral fellow, 2000-2002) at a wedding in Los Angeles.

From **Rob Hughes**: *This is my fourth year on the tenure track at Wharton, and research is keeping me busy. I just published an article called "Paying People to Risk Life or Limb" that was inspired by the work of my NIH mentor, Alan Wertheimer. In more important news, my long-distance relationship (Philadelphia to Brooklyn) is about to become a long-distance marriage. Matt and I are getting hitched this July.*

**Stella Imot** is continuing her work as IRB Administrator at Makerere University School of Health Sciences in Uganda. She recently completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics from Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa, and hopes to get a scholarship opportunity to pursue a master's degree in Bioethics.

From **Akilah Jefferson**: *I am currently with UCSD and Rady Children's Hospital San Diego Department of Pediatrics. My main work is clinical in Allergy and Immunology. I am also doing clinical research focused on health policy, quality of life, and shared decision making in allergy and immunology. I am also a member of the Rady Children's Hospital Ethics Committee and hope to soon join their Ethic Consultation Service.*

**Arnon Keren** returned from a sabbatical year in London, and is now chairing a new honors undergraduate program in Philosophy and Psychology. He is also starting a new research project on testimonial skepticism funded by the Israel Science Foundation.

**Ivo Kwon** is continuing work as a Professor in the Ewha Woman's University, College of Medicine in South Korea, but recently moved offices due to the completion of the new medical school building.

**Emily Largent** is continuing her work as an Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania. From Emily: *It's been great to see so many alums as well as current faculty and fellows at various conferences and meetings over the last year!*

From **Rahul Nayak**: *I will be starting residency at MGH in Internal Medicine! Most recently, I have been working on the public-sector contributions to new drug development and the implications it has on access to medicine and drug pricing. On personal note, Rebecca and I got married last year! She's currently getting her PhD in infectious disease epidemiology at HSPH. And the department should be pleased to know they got a two-for-one deal as Rebecca has worked with alumni Nir Eyal and Annette Rid on the ethical issues in vaccine trial design in emerging epidemics.*

**Douglas MacKay** is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Policy at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has been using his post-doctoral training in research ethics to address the ethics of public policy research, particularly the ethics of the use of randomized controlled trials to evaluate policy interventions, and has recently published two articles on the topics (see below). He also gave the keynote address at the Public Issues and Public Reason Conference at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. His talk was titled, "Government Policy Experiments and the Ethics of Randomization."

- MacKay, Douglas and Chakrabarti, Averi. Forthcoming. "Government Policy Experiments and Informed Consent." *Public Health Ethics*
- MacKay, Douglas. 2018. "The Ethics of Public Policy RCTs: The Principle of Policy Equipose." *Bioethics* 32(1): 59-67.



**Govind Persad** left D.C. for Denver to start as an Assistant Professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, was selected as a 2018-21 Greenwall Faculty Scholar in Bioethics, and finally published a much revised version of his pre-doc writing sample (on advance directives and dementia) as an extended essay in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. More importantly, he and Amy welcomed a new arrival in Sept. 2018, Julian Vivek Saltzman Persad. On a recent trip to DC, Julian (see left) enjoyed learning about the obligations his parents owed him. Please let us know if you are passing through Denver!

**Alex Rajcz** is currently a Professor of Philosophy at Claremont McKenna College, and his book *The Ethics of Universal Health Insurance* is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

From **Annette Rid**, our old-new addition to the Department of Bioethics at the NIH Clinical Center: *The last two years have been rather eventful for what is now the Rid family. (I'm still getting used to saying this.) Thomas and I both accepted new jobs in Washington, wrapped up in London, moved into a new home in DC, and welcomed Oskar just a few months later. I'm back in the Department trying to fill Seema's shoes as the liaison to the Division of AIDS - and love it. Please get in touch if you're coming to or through DC!*

**Lindsay Sabik** joined the Public Health faculty at the University of Pittsburgh in 2016 as an Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management. From Lindsay: *I am enjoying collaborating with colleagues here and elsewhere on issues related to Medicaid policy and cancer care for underserved populations in the U.S. If you find yourself in Pittsburgh, please let me know!*

**Jeff Sebo** launched the Animal Studies M.A. Program at NYU, as well as the Center for Environmental and Animal Protection at NYU as Clinical Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Affiliated Professor of Bioethics, Medical Ethics, and Philosophy, and Director of the Animal Studies M.A. Program, New York University. He also published two co-authored books: *Chimpanzee Rights* (Routledge) and *Food, Animals, and the Environment* (Routledge).

**Seema Shah** started a new position at Lurie Children's/Northwestern University Medical School in September 2018, and just had her first opportunity to invite an NIH alumna to present for ethics grand rounds. From Seema about the event: *"Vardit Ravitsky came out to Chicago on a cold February day to give a wonderful talk on the ethics of gene editing of human embryos. Vardit sparked a thought-provoking and fun conversation about how a culture that prizes innovation so highly creates incentives for scientists to push past ethical boundaries. It was such a treat to have her here!"*



From **David Shalowitz**, Assistant Professor of Gynecologic Oncology at Wake Forest School of Medicine: *Very excited to be taking on the role of Chair of the Committee on Ethics for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists through 2021! Happy to discuss any issues of interest with Department alumni!*

From **Roseanna Sommers**: *This fall I moved to Chicago to begin a two-year fellowship at the University of Chicago Law School. Seema Shah and I see each other on the regular and have even begun a collaboration that combines her expertise on medical decision-making involving children with my interest in running survey experiments on attitudes toward consent. We are also hoping to get a group together for the ASLME Annual Health Law Professors Conference, held in Chicago June 5-7. Please get in touch if you will be in attendance!*



*Here's a photo of me with Jerry Dworkin, who was a visiting scholar at the Department when I was a pre-doc. I visited him in Sacramento when I was in CA for the holidays. We hadn't seen each other since in about 8 years but he was just as delightful as I remembered. He gave me sage advice on my job market paper, which I will be presenting to the Department at a WIP to be held in June.*

**Connie M. Ulrich** published a book with Dr. Christine Grady on Moral Distress in the Health Professions in 2018. This was the first book to explore moral distress among health professionals and to discuss the conceptual and empirical attributes of the phenomenon.

From **Kacey Wulff**: *Hi everyone! I'm working out in Colorado helping stand up a new office, the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care (yes, that's the real name!) in the Governor's office. It's a dual role, and I'm also the deputy chief of staff for the Lieutenant Governor, who chairs this administration's health cabinet. The work is focused on cost as a barrier to access, and so we're working to reduce provider, insurance, state, and prescription drug costs through a variety of legislative and administrative actions. I'm also starting the Doctor of Public Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health this summer, which I'll do part-time concurrent with my job in Colorado. Wish me luck. =) Hope everyone is well!*