

**THE DANIEL W. FOSTER M.D.
VISITING LECTURESHIP IN MEDICAL ETHICS**
(in Conjunction with Ethics Grand Rounds)

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 South Campus
D1.602, Noon–1:00, McDermott Plaza Lecture Hall

**THE CELESTIAL FIRE OF CONSCIENCE:
IS THERE A “RIGHT” TO REFUSE MEDICAL SERVICES?**

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Since the 1970s, both state and federal law have permitted physicians to abstain from performing abortions and (in most cases) sterilizations. In the past decade, however, a growing range of health care providers (including pharmacists, nurses and PAs) have argued for a legal and moral right to refuse a broader range of services (including contraception and assistance in dying) and to refuse in a broader range of ways (including referral to another provider). The result is a patchwork of state laws, some formalizing the right to refuse, and others requiring providers to comply with patient requests. And the federal government is implicated by virtue of HHS regulations governing institutions that receive federal funds. This presentation will survey legal developments and professional society guidelines, as well as rehearse the major arguments for and against a duty to provide services upon patient request.

Sponsored by
The Program in Ethics in Science and Medicine
and
The Office of Continuing Medical Education
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

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Target Audience: Physicians, faculty, residents, fellows, trainees, students, health care professionals. **Educational Objectives:** As a result of this series, participants will be able to: 1) Recognize perennial and emerging bioethical problems in clinical practice, research, public health, and health policy arenas. 2) Describe competing/contrasting viewpoints concerning these bioethical problems. 3) Demonstrate increased skills in analyzing and practically handling bioethical problems in the clinical, research, public health, and health policy arenas. **Accreditation:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. **Credit Designation:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. **Off-Label Uses:** Because this course is meant to educate physicians with what is currently in use and what may be available in the future, there may be “off-label” use discussed in the presentation. Speakers have been requested to inform the audience when off-label use is discussed. **Disclosure:** It is UT Southwestern’s policy that participants in CME activities should be made aware of any affiliation or financial interest that may affect the speaker’s presentations. Each speaker has completed and signed a conflict of interest statement. The faculty members’ relationships will be disclosed in the handout. ***Ethics Statement:** The presentation, “**The Celestial Fire Of Conscience: Is There A “Right” To Refuse Medical Services?**” ” has been designated by The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas for 1 hour of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.