



center for
christian bioethics

INSIDE LOOK

WINTER 2021

“A Scholarly Conversation” Podcast Series



Janice De-Whyte, PhD
Assistant Professor, Theology Studies
LLU School of Religion



Hazel Ezeribe, BS,
MA class of 2021, MD class of 2022
Graduate Assistant,
LLU Center for Christian Bioethics

Race, Religion, and Reproduction

Listen to the latest episode of the Center’s podcast featuring Graduate Assistant Hazel Ezeribe interviewing Dr. Janice De-Whyte who is a pastor, biblical scholar, and professor at the LLU School of Religion. Dr. De-Whyte discusses the intersection of gender, healthcare, and religion by examining the cultural significance of childbearing in the Old Testament. The conversation also touches on the impact of this intersection on black women in particular and how we might address these issues.



Listen on [Apple Podcasts](#)
or on [Spotify](#).

An Inside Look at the Adventist Bioethics Consortium

by Nicolas Belliard, Graduate Assistant

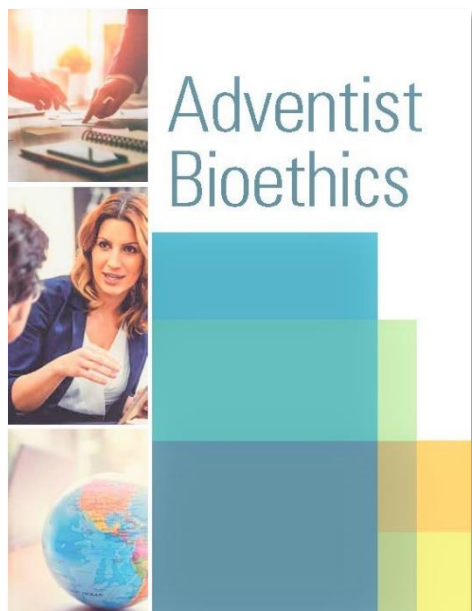
While many of the supporters of the Center for Christian Bioethics are actively involved in the Adventist Bioethics Consortium (ABC), there are some who may not be aware of the purpose or role of the ABC. Even for readers who are aware of what the ABC does, there may be an unfamiliarity of when the Consortium started and what its history has been. This editorial is intended to provide information about the Adventist Bioethics Consortium.

In April of 2016, a conference for Adventist healthcare leaders was held on the Loma Linda University campus. The conference was titled *Adventist Bioethics in the 21st Century*. The purpose of the meeting was for the Adventist health systems to learn from each other about each organization's approaches to clinical ethics. The conference was also intended for the collaboration and sharing of approaches to challenges encountered among the health systems. Additionally, the conference was planned with the hope of enriching the connections between the Adventist Church and the various Adventist health systems in order to create greater

The annual meetings of the Adventist Bioethics Consortium have been hosted by Adventist healthcare systems in North America. The Consortium has grown to include several other institutions including Adventist HealthCare Ltd. (Australia), Universidad Peruana Unión, Andrews University, the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, and the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Much like the Adventist Health Policy Association, all participating organizations contribute financially to support the Consortium.

In 2017 the ABC conference was hosted by the Kettering Health Network, over the course of two days. In 2018, the conference was held at the North American Division headquarters and also hosted by Adventist HealthCare, with the theme of Ethics of Faithfulness for 21st Century Adventist Healthcare. The fourth ABC conference was hosted by Adventist Health at their new headquarters in Roseville, CA and featured a growing number of sessions. The 2020 annual ABC was scheduled to be hosted by AdventHealth at their University in Orlando, Florida. However, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated postponement of the conference.

Each year, the Consortium has continued to grow and provide Adventist healthcare systems, universities, and church leadership with resources, shared knowledge, and bioethical conversations to benefit each organization. Even as the pandemic has reshaped the way in which the ABC has functioned, it has not impeded its work. From the onset of the pandemic, the ABC has continued to host online webinars discussing such topics as triage ethics during a pandemic. More recently, the ABC held a three-part series titled *Bioethics in Action: Highlighting Work Across the Consortium*. The next webinar, titled *Health Disparities and Racial*, is scheduled for February 24, and will be held in collaboration with the Adventist Health Policy Association. The postponed 2020 conference has been rescheduled as a virtual event on May 3-5, 2021. The theme for the conference is *Ethics for the Ministry of Healing*.



[Click here to view the ABC prospectus](#)

understanding and shared purpose regarding ethics in health care. At the end of the day, the possibility of an annual conference was discussed. Due to the support of the health systems present, the Adventist Bioethics Consortium was born.



Faculty Scholar Spotlight: Jukes P. Namm, MD, FACS, FSSO, HEC-C

Recently, we had an opportunity to talk with Dr. Jukes Namm, a surgical oncologist, who is director of the General Surgery residency program at Loma Linda University Health (LLUH). He is also a clinical ethicist, who recently accepted an appointment as Director of the Clinical Ethics Service for LLUH. Dr. Namm completed a general surgery residency at Loma Linda University before attending the University of Chicago for a fellowship in surgical oncology. It was during this fellowship that he also completed an ethics fellowship at the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. Mentorship from surgical ethicist pioneer Peter Angelos and networking opportunities with clinical ethicists such as Mark Siegler provided Dr. Namm with a strong background in medical ethics. Dr. Namm graciously agreed to an interview for this edition of *Inside Look*.



What are unique perspectives surgical ethicists offer?

Dr. Namm: Many bioethicists and philosophers have discussed why the surgeon-patient relationship is unique, and I think that the main point is the vulnerability of the patient, the responsibility of the surgeon, and the expectations for the interaction. And so, it is really a high-stakes environment and so it is really important that people who are writing or framing the ethical considerations really truly understand the clinical implications of what happens between the surgeon and the patient.

I also think it is important to have surgical ethicists because we need diverse representation from all fields of medicine, all different disciplines, and not just physicians but also nursing, social work, case management, etc. because I think there are ethical considerations in everything that everyone does. Surgeons are notorious for being very busy and have traditionally not had the time or made the time to be involved with ethics. But I think that is all the more reason why we need more surgeons in these discussions regarding clinical ethics.

In your article published in the [World Journal of Surgery](#), you talked about the tension between surgical innovation and ethics. Could you expand a bit on that idea?

Dr. Namm: It is interesting because there are very clearly defined ethical guidelines regarding clinical research using human subjects. Ever since the Nuremberg trials or the Tuskegee syphilis experiment, there have been ethical guidelines encoded in our federal laws. But the problem with research is that it is a very cumbersome process, and some may argue, not very efficient. But we have intentionally sacrificed speed to ensure patient safety, which I think is the right thing to do. However, that is where innovation comes in.

There is a degree of flexibility and surgical judgement on the part of the surgeon, to do what is best for the patient. Often times, you don't really know what you will encounter until you enter surgery because the anatomy might be slightly different. So, in the operating room, there is a little bit of latitude for surgical judgement and it's not really research if a surgeon chooses one mesh over another, say, in a hernia repair. Overall, I think innovation has helped patients dramatically, such as the innovations surrounding minimally invasive surgery. However, there have been downsides when innovation has gone unchecked. For example, with laparoscopic surgery, everyone jumped on board very quickly and it wasn't until later that we realized there was an increased complication rate compared to normal open surgeries for bile duct injuries. And so, we as the ethics community have the task to make sure that ethics keeps up with innovation, because otherwise, innovation will always be half a step ahead of ethics.

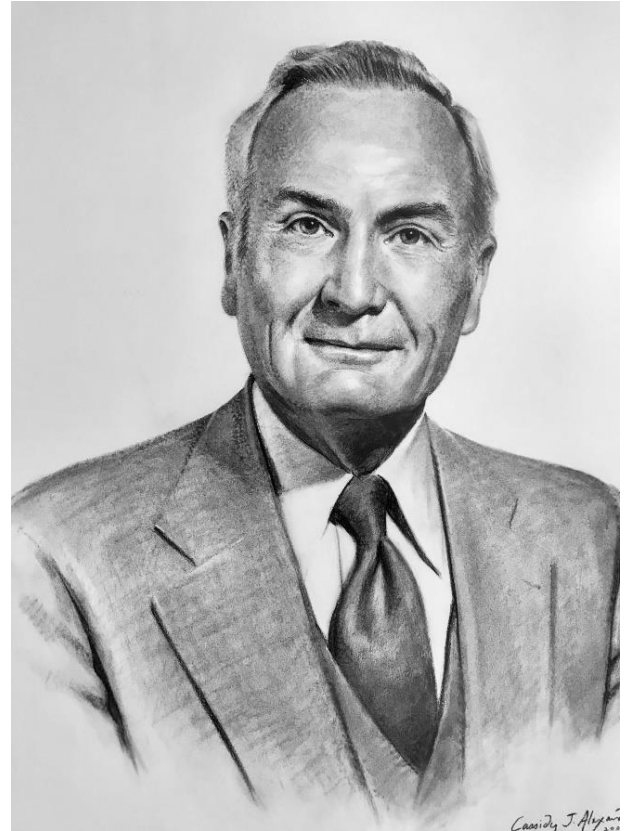
What future issues do you foresee within surgical ethics?

Dr. Namm: I think it really is how we incorporate surgical innovation and technology into our practice while we continue to ensure the trust society has in the surgical profession. How do we implement and utilize technology safely? How do we teach it and train future surgeons? And how do we ensure equitable access to future technologies, so it's not just benefitting those who are wealthy and privileged, but rather, how does everyone, even globally, get access to these technologies. So, I think that will be our challenge.

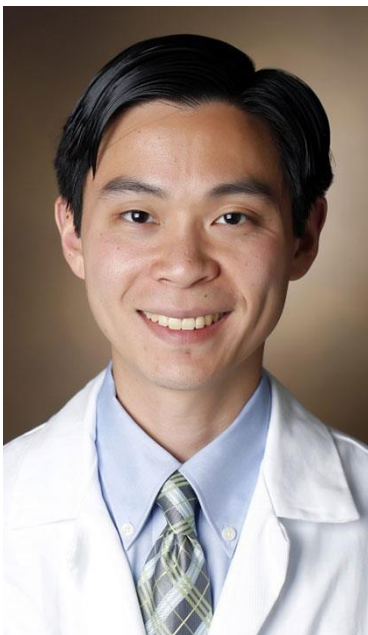


Jack W. Provonsha MD, PhD

Dr. Provonsha was Professor of Philosophy of Religion and Christian Ethics on the Faculty of Religion at Loma Linda University, where he taught from 1958 until 1985. Dr. Provonsha was a graduate of Pacific Union College (BA), Loma Linda University Medical School (MD), Harvard University (MA), and Claremont Graduate University (PhD). He was an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister as well as a physician. He served as a pastor in Utah, a missionary pilot in Alaska, and as a family physician. His wife, Margaret, was also a physician. Dr. Provonsha was an accomplished artist, sculptor, rock climber, hiker, and scuba diver who initially worked his way through school as a shepherd in Utah. Dr. Provonsha's vision for integrating religion, ethics, and medicine prompted the development of the Center for Christian Bioethics at Loma Linda University in 1983. He authored several books including *You Can Go Home Again*, *A Remnant in Crisis*, and *God is With Us*. In 2018 the Center published a number of his essays in a book titled, [*Making the Whole Person Whole*](#).



Upcoming 2021 Jack W. Provonsha Lecture: Kimbell Kornu, MD, PhD



Each year, the Center for Christian Bioethics honors its founder, Dr. Jack W. Provonsha, by hosting a distinguished guest speaker to explore topics related to religion, bioethics, and medicine. We are pleased to announce that on March 5, 2021, Dr. Kimbell Kornu of Saint Louis University will present a lecture titled, *Medicine Made Strange: Seeing Medicine's Power Through the Lens of Liturgy*. He will discuss the use of liturgy as an analytical tool for examining the nexus between medicine, society, and theology using examples in anatomical dissection, organ transplantation, and physician-assisted suicide. Dr. Kornu holds an M.D. from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and a Ph.D. in theology at the University of Nottingham. [Click here](#) to view a complete biography of Dr. Kornu. The lecture will commence at 9 AM, Pacific Time. Following the lecture, responses will be given by Dr. Grace Oei and Dr. Sigve Tonstad.

To view recordings of past Provonsha Lectures, [visit our website here](#).

For more information on the lecture, click the link below.

[LECTURE FLYER](#)



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