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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A. Undergraduate

1982-1986	Franklin and Marshall College Lancaster, PA
Degree	BA, summa cum laude, 1986 Honors in Mathematics for Senior Thesis
Major	Mathematics

B. Graduate

1986-1990	Harvard Medical School Boston, MA
Degree	MD, 1990

C. Postgraduate

1990-1993	Massachusetts General Hospital Boston, MA Residency in Primary Care Internal Medicine Program Director: Dr. Michael Barry
1993-1995	University of Pittsburgh Medical School Pittsburgh, PA Fellowship in Medical Ethics and General Internal Medicine Program Director: Dr. Robert Arnold

APPOINTMENTS AND POSITIONS

A. Academic

7/95-present	University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
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Assistant Professor of Medicine

CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE

A. Specialty Certification

American Board of Internal Medicine 1993

B. Medical Licensure

Pennsylvania 1993

IV. MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Massachusetts Medical Society -- 1990 to 1995

American Medical Association -- 1990 to present

American College of Physicians -- 1992 to present

Society for General Internal Medicine -- 1994 to present

Psychosocial/Humanities/Ethics Workshop Selection Subcommittee, member, 1998

Society for Health and Human Values/

American Society for Humanities and Medical Ethics -- 1994 to present

Pennsylvania Medical Society -- 1994 to present

American Academy of Physician and Patient -- 1995 to present

V. HONORS

Best Pre-Course, Society of General Internal Medicine

National Annual Meeting 1999

Williamson Medal, undergraduate commencement speaker 1986

Phi Beta Kappa (junior year) 1985

Stanley Craig Memorial Prize,

"for qualities of character esteemed by the faculty" 1986

Stuart Prize in Mathematics 1986

Kershner Scholar in Mathematics 1986

Person Prize, "to the pre-medical student with the highest average in the sciences" 1986

Schiffman Prize, "to the pre-medical student with the highest cumulative average" 1986

Lewis Memorial Prize in Physics 1982

Black Pyramid Senior Honor Society 1985

PUBLICATIONS

A. Refereed Journal Articles

1. Roter DL, Larson S, **Fischer GS**, Arnold RM, Tulsy JA. Experts practice what they preach: a descriptive study of best and normative practices in end of life discussion.

Arch Intern Med. In press.

2. Tulsky JA, **Fischer GS**, Rose MR, Arnold RM. Opening the black box: How do physicians communicate about advance directives? *Ann Intern Med.* 1998;129:441-449.
3. **Fischer GS**, Tulsky JA, Rose MR, Siminoff LA, Arnold RM. Patient knowledge and physician predictions of treatment preferences after discussion of advance directives. *J Gen Intern Med.* 1998;13:447-454.
4. **Fischer GS**, Alpert HR, Stoeckle JD, Emanuel LL. Can goals of care be used to predict intervention preferences in an advance directive? *Arch Intern Med.* 1997;157:801-807.
5. Alpert HR, Hoijtink H, **Fischer GS**, Emanuel L. Psychometric analysis of an advance directive. *Medical Care.* 1996;34:1057-65.
6. Ubel PA, Zell MM, Miller DJ, **Fischer GS**, Peters-Stefani D, Arnold RA. Elevator talk: observational study of inappropriate comments in a public space. *Am J Med.* 1995; 99: 190-94.

B. Editorials and Book Chapters

1. **Fischer GS**, Arnold RM, Tulsky JA. Talking to the Older Adult about Advance Directives, *Clinics in Geriatric Medicine.* 2000.
2. **Fischer GS**, Tulsky JA, Arnold RM. Communicating a poor prognosis, in Portenoy RK, Bruera E (Eds): *Topics in Palliative Care, Vol 4.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
3. **Fischer GS**, Arnold RM: Referral to a specialist at another hospital, in Iserson KV, Sanders AB, Mathieu D (Eds): *Ethics in Emergency Care*, 2nd Ed. Tucson, AZ, Galen Press, Ltd, 1995.
4. **Fischer GS**, Arnold RM. Measuring the effectiveness of ethics education (editorial). *J Gen Intern Med.* 1994;9:655-56.

A. Published Abstracts

1. **Fischer GS**, Arnold RM, Melcher J, Tulsy JA. A comparison of expert and non-expert communication styles when discussing advance directives. *JGIM*. 1998;13 suppl: 92.
2. **Fischer GS**, Tulsy JA, Rose M, Arnold RM. Opening the black box: an analysis of discussions about advance directives. *JGIM*. 1996; 11 suppl 1:115.
3. **Fischer GS**, Tulsy JA, Arnold RM. Ability of physicians to predict patient treatment wishes after advance directive discussions. *JGIM*. 1995; 10 suppl 4:108.
4. Tulsy JA, **Fischer GS**, Rose MR, Arnold RM. Patient knowledge after advance directive discussions. *JGIM*. 1995; 10 suppl 4:114.
5. Tulsy JA, **Fischer GS**, Rose MR, Arnold RM. Patient preferences for "futile" treatments after advance directive discussions. *JGIM*. 1995; 10 suppl 4:115.
6. **Fischer GS**, Alpert H, Stoeckle JD, Emanuel LL. Comparison of physician and patient choices and stability in the medical directive. *JGIM*. 1994; 9 suppl 2: 93.
7. **Fischer GS**, Alpert H, Stoeckle JD, Emanuel LL. Relationship between goals and treatment preferences in advance directives. *JGIM*. 1994; 9 suppl 2: 93.
8. Ubel PA, Zell MM, Miller DJ, **Fischer GS**, Peters-Stefani D, Arnold RM. Elevator talk: observational study of inappropriate comments in a public space. *JGIM*. 1994; 9 suppl 2: 99.

D. Other Publications

1. **Fischer GS**. The limitations of secular medical ethics. *Community Ethics: The Newsletter of the Consortium Ethics Program*. 1995; Vol. 2, No. 1, p.4.
2. **Fischer GS**, Arnold RA. Ask the ethicist (case comment involving requests for 'futile treatment'). *Lahey Hitchcock Clinic Medical Ethics Newsletter*. 1996; Vol. 2, No. 3.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. TEACHING

National Meeting Workshop Presentations

Communicating with Patients at the End of Life, Full day precourse. Faculty: RM Arnold, JA Tulsy, JA Billings, SD Block, **GS Fischer**, TE Quill. SGIM

Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 29, 1999. (24 Internists)

Communicating with Patients at the End of Life, Full day precourse. Faculty: RM Arnold, JA Tulsy, JA Billings, SD Block, **GS Fischer**, L Forrow, RM Frankel, TE Quill, CF von Guten. SGIM Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 23, 1998. (Approximately 30 internists)

Talking the Talk: Discussion about Advance Directives. Coordinator: GS Fischer. Faculty: **GS Fischer**, RM Arnold, JA Tulsy, L Forrow. SGIM Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 24, 1998. (30-40 internists)

"Talking the Talk: Discussions about Advance Directives." Faculty: JA Tulsy, a RM Arnold, **GS Fischer**. SGIM Annual Meeting, May 2, 1997. (30-40 internists)

The Doctor-Patient Relationship and Medical Ethics Curriculum, Course Director

Fall 1996-2000: Six to seven 4-hour seminar sessions devoted to teaching primary care internal medicine interns communication skills and medical ethics. Half of each session was devoted to discussion of a pertinent topic in medical ethics, based on assigned readings. The doctor-patient relationship portion involved review of videotaped encounters between the interns and either simulated or actual patients, and brief lectures on basic skills based on assigned readings. I coordinated the course, selected the readings, taught three medical ethics seminars and all doctor-patient seminars, and invited guest lecturers. Participants: 6 primary care interns

Medical Ethics and Society (9/3/97)

Delivered lecture with Mike Devita and Robert Arnold on Advance Directives to the second-year class.

Medical Interviewing (6/95 - present)

Involves two to three categorical internal medicine interns each month. Course was designed by Dr. Rosemarie Conigliaro and me initially. It involves an introductory session with lectures on basic interviewing skills, and three sessions in which each intern reviews videotaped encounters with actual clinic patients individually with an instructor.

How to be a Resident (Fall 1996-2000)

Small group facilitator in his one-day course designed to teach internal medicine residents how to be more effective in their new roles. Group contains 6-10 residents.

Medical Ethics Elective (1995-2000, faculty instructor)

Teach one three-hour seminar on Conflict of Interest to fourth-year medical students (10-13).

Health Law Clinic: Alternative Dispute Resolution Course (2/97), guest lecturer

Teach one one-hour session presenting a medical perspective on advance directive documents to six law students.

Outpatient Precepting (1996-present)

Precept internal medicine residents who practice in my office (University Center) two four-hour sessions a week, and developed curriculum for the residents who practice at University Center. Previously, precepted primary care internal medicine residents at the Falk Clinic.

Ward Attending (1994-present)

Attend on the Internal Medicine service one month a year, teaching house staff, students, and/or physicians assistants.

Pre-Clinic Conference (1995-present)

Half-hour conference on an internal medicine topic given to internal medicine residents before clinic. My topics have included peripheral neuropathy, temporal arteritis, prevention, smoking cessation. Each topic is presented twice to a total of about 10 interns or residents. Generally two topics a year.

Center for Medical Ethics (1993-present)

Facilitate various ethics case conferences for medical students and residents in internal medicine, pediatrics, critical care, and ob-gyn. Conferences are one hour long. I facilitate approximately 30 conferences a year. (10-15 participants per session).

Medicine, Ethics, and Society (1994,1995), small group facilitator

Course is designed to introduce first and second year medical students to the interaction between medicine and social, legal, and ethical issues. Small group discussion is based on assigned readings and cases.

Physical Diagnosis

Taught physical diagnosis to first and second year medical students (1994-1995).

Continuing Medical Education Lectures

Giving bad news, Seneca Place Skilled Nursing Facility, Pittsburgh, PA, October 31, 2000

Talking about Advance Directives, UPMC-Southside Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA, June 29, 2000

The Nuts and Bolts of Advance Directives, Ethics for Lunch, St. Francis Medical Center, Pittsburgh PA, Feb 23, 2000

Panel Discussion entitled "Four Stories of Jewish Healing," in conference entitled "The Four Worlds of Jewish Healing: Integrating Medical, Psychological, Social, and Jewish Spiritual Approaches to Healing," Jewish Education Institute, Oct 17, 1999.

Patient Self-Determination Celebrating the Gift of Aging, Little Sisters of the Poor, Pittsburgh, PA, October 7, 1999.

Breaking Bad News Indiana Hospital, Indiana, PA, May 5, 1999.

" Elevator Talk" Joseph F. Mulach Lecture Series, St. Clair Hospital, St. Clair, PA, February 17, 1995

Advance Directives: A Practical Approach Washington Hospital, Washington, PA, January 6, 1999.

Elevator Talk: How Patient Confidences Are Divulged St Clair Hospital, St. Clair, PA, September 2, 1998.

Communicating with Dying Patients St Francis Hospital, with Dr. Arnold, September 15, 1998.

Telling Families and Patients Bad News -- Workshop as part of the one-day course 7th Annual Current Controversies in Medical Ethics. Ethical Issues in Palliative

Care: What do patients want? What do patients need? University of Pittsburgh, April 27, 1998.

Setting Advance Directives Faculty Development Seminar, Division of General Internal Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, March 25, 1998

The Nuts and Bolts of Advance Directives Ethics Grand Rounds, St. Francis Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, February 25, 1998.

Interview Techniques for Difficult Situation -- Updates in Internal Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, November, 1997.

"Advance Directives" Jewish Association on Aging, Pittsburgh, PA, April 16, 1997.

"Discussions about Advance Directives: Theory and Practice" Ethics Grand Rounds, Shadyside Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA, April 8, 1997.

"Advance Directives and DNR Orders" -- Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA, March 13, 1997.

Drafting Effective Advance Directives Pennsylvania Bar Association Annual Meeting, Panel Discussion, May 2, 1996.

"Discussions about Advance Directives: Theory and Practice" -- Sewickley Valley Hospital, Sewickley, PA, October 22, 1996.

"Advance Directives: Doctor-Patient Dialogues -- Ethics Committee, Shadyside Hospital, February 21, 1996.

"Ethical Aspects of End-of-Life Decisions" -- Symposium on Trends and Treatment of Trauma '95, Tri-State Trauma System, May 9, 1995.

"Advance Directives: What's Old; What's New" -- Grand Rounds at Butler Memorial Hospital, April 5, 1995.

"Assessing Decisional Capacity" -- Ethics for Lunch at Forbes Regional Hospital, December 5, 1994.

The Second Jewish Medical Ethics Seminar: Clinton's Health Plan Ethics for Rationing: A Jewish Perspective, Shadyside Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA. November 21, 1993. Panelist in panel discussion

B. RESEARCH

1. Grants

"Evaluating health providers' communication with terminally ill patients using standardized patient scenarios." Principal Investigator, 10% effort, 9/96 - 6/98, Open Door Society, \$29,785.

"How do experts talk to their patients about advance directives." Co-investigator, Greenwall Foundation, co-investigator (designed protocol, helped collect data, analyzed data), 10% effort (not funded from the grant), 1996-1997), \$22,926 (\$10,000 to University of Pittsburgh group).

2. Research Lectures

Decisions about Advance Directives: Doctor-Patient Dialogues -- Ethics for Lunch, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, April 12, 1996.

3. Abstract Presentations

A comparison of expert and non-expert communication styles when discussing advance directives. Society of General Internal Medicine, 21st Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 24, 1998.

Opening the black box: an analysis of outpatient discussions about advance directives (poster). Society of General Internal Medicine, 19th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, May 3, 1996.

Ability of physicians to predict patient treatment wishes after advance directive discussions. Society of General Internal Medicine, 18th Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, May 4, 1995.

Do actual advance directive conversations fit an ideal "informed consent" based model? American Academy of Physician and Patient, Annual Academy Forum, San Diego, CA, May 7, 1995.

4. Journal Referee

Annals of Internal Medicine (2000,1999,1998,1997,1995)

JAMA (1995)

Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics (1999, 1996)

Journal of General Internal Medicine (1996, 1997,1998)

Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law (1997)

Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal (1997, 1998)

5. Extra-Mural Grant Reviewing

Reviewed grant application for VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Competitive Pilot Project Fund FY 1999.

Reviewed grant application for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Strengthening the Patient-Provider Relationship in a Changing Health Care Environment) Summer, 1998

6. Conference Participation

Member of the Squam Lake Conference which produced the document: Advance care planning: priorities for ethical and empirical research. Special Supplement, Hastings Center Report. 1994;24,6:S32-S36.

6. Current Research Interests

How do the experts approach discussions with patients regarding advance care planning? Investigators: Gary Fischer, Robert Arnold, University of Pittsburgh; James Tulsky, Duke University; Bernard Lo, UCSF. A study designed to analyze how experts in medical ethics and patient-doctor communication discuss advance care planning with their patients.

Use of standardized patients for teaching and evaluating communication skills needed for end-of-life care. Principle Investigator: Gary Fischer. Co-Investigators: Robert Arnold, University of Pittsburgh; James Tulsky, Duke University. Developing standardized patient scenarios and an evaluation tool to aid in teaching health care providers how to deliver bad news and elicit advance directives.

The effectiveness of faculty feedback of videotaped patient encounters. Evaluation of an educational initiative to improve residents' interview skills by providing feedback on videotaped patient encounters during the internship year.

The effectiveness of a short workshop to improve the communication skills of residents in the areas of delivering bad news and discussion advance care plans.

Trust in the doctor-patient relationship. Gary Fischer, Robert Arnold, University of Pittsburgh; James Tulsky, Duke University. Exploration of the role of trust in the doctor-patient relationship, particularly regarding end-of-life care. Conceptual exploration will lead to empiric research to determine what trust means to patients,

what is required to establish trust, and the utility of trust in the relationship.

C. SERVICE

1. University and Medical School

Medical Director, Ambulatory Clinic, General Internal Medicine, 7/99- present

Clinical Operations Committee, University of Pittsburgh Physicians, 1/00 to present

Department of Medicine Quality Committee, 7/00 - present

Medical Transcription Task Force, 3/00 to present

Electronic Health Record Retreat Participant 1/17/00

FAST Medical Student Advisor 1998-present

Ethics Consultation Service -- December, 1994 to present

UPMC Ethics Committee - 1998

Facilitator, Working Group on Performance Based Evaluation of Students, 6th Annual Curriculum Colloquium, May 19,1998

2. Community Activities

Hospital Appointments:

UPMC-Oakland

UPMC-Shadyside

Oakland VAMC