



# 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Pediatric Ethics Conference

The Edges of Pediatric Ethics: Boundaries, Frontiers,  
and Transitions

April 30- May 1, 2026

Anschutz Health Science Building  
Donald M. Elliman Conference Center  
1890 N Revere Ct, Aurora, CO 80045

*In-person attendance only; breakfast and lunch included.*

## Provided by

Children's Hospital Colorado  
CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities  
Continuing Medical Education Department

Scan to register.



Center for Bioethics and Humanities  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



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# 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Pediatric Ethics Conference

## Overview

This year's ethics conference examines ethical challenges at key points of change in pediatric care. The first day focuses on transitions across the pediatric continuum, including neonatal transitions into pediatrics and adolescent transitions out of pediatric systems, with attention to continuity, equity, and shared decision-making. The second day explores the ethical impact of new and emerging technologies on children and pediatric medicine, addressing how innovation shapes care delivery, data use, and clinical decision-making. Together, the conference provides a focused forum for navigating ethical practice during periods of transition and technological advancement in pediatrics.

## Objectives

Following the presentations, attendees should be able to:

- Discuss supportive decision making in medically complex adults
- Apply ethical principles to guide decision-making for patients with prolonged hospitalizations.
- Implement best practices for ethical and confidential communication with patients via EMR messaging.
- Integrate ethical and clinical considerations to optimize care for medically complex adult patients.
- Discuss the ethical implications of designing and developing custom VR experiences for pediatric use cases.
- Evaluate adolescent capacity and consent to ensure ethical and legally compliant care decisions.
- Apply ethical frameworks to guide care decisions for fetuses and neonates with complex medical conditions.
- Analyze ethical considerations in pediatric genetic testing to inform disclosure and treatment decisions.

## Learner Outcome

Participants will gain enhanced knowledge and practical strategies to navigate complex ethical challenges in pediatric healthcare, including sustainability, behavioral health, trauma-informed care, and the intersections of ethics, policy, and law, enabling them to improve decision-making and advocacy in their professional practice.

## Continuing Education Credit

Registration, attendance, sign-in and submission of the evaluation, including a written response to questions related to any change in practice that you may make as a result of learning that took place at this activity, are required for successful completion and receipt of the certificate of attendance. Claim only those hours you attend.

**Medical:** Children's Hospital Colorado is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Children's Hospital Colorado designates this live activity for a maximum of 12 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**Nursing:** Children's Hospital Colorado is approved with distinction as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by Colorado Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This educational activity for 12 nursing contact hours is provided by Children's Hospital Colorado.

### ASHA:



Other: A general certificate of attendance will be given to all other care providers.

# Agenda

## Thursday, April 30, 2026

7:30 a.m.	Sign-In and Breakfast Provided
8:00	Welcome and Conference Overview
8:15	Ethical Considerations for the Care of Extended Stay Patients <i>Kaley Curtis, PhD, Lauren Gallanis, PhD, Mel Hauck, LCSW, Amanda Short, MS</i>
8:45	Panel for Ethical Considerations for the Care of Extended Stay Patients <i>Kaley Curtis, PhD, Lauren Gallanis, PhD, Mel Hauck, LCSW, Amanda Short, MS</i>
9:30	Break
10:00	Inpatient EMR Messaging Ethics: Balancing Safety, Efficiency, and Professionalism <i>Amy Willis, MD</i>
10:45	Social Media and Communication Boundaries in an Age of Digital Communication <i>Brian Jackson, MD, MA, FAAP, HEC-C</i>
11:30	Q&A for Speakers
11:45	Lunch Provided
12:45 p.m.	Medically Complex Adult Patients <i>Dan Wood PhD MB.BS FRCS Urol</i>
1:30	Adolescent Consent <i>Amy Sass, MD</i>
2:15	Break
2:45	Medically Complex Fetuses and Neonates <i>Heather Straub, MD FACOG</i>
3:30	Q&A for speakers
4:00	Evaluation & Adjourn

## Friday, May 1, 2026

7:30 a.m.	Sign-In and Breakfast Provided
8:00	Welcome and Conference Overview
8:15	Problematic Technology Use: The Clinician's Role <i>Megan Moreno, MD, MEd, MPH</i>
9:00	Ethics of Pediatric Genetic Testing, Disclosure, and Treatment <i>Curtis Coughlin II, PhD, MS, MBE</i>
9:45	Break
10:15	Use of Gaming and Technology in Healthcare <i>Abraham Homer, MS</i>
11:00	Q&A for speakers
11:30	Lunch Provided
12:30 p.m.	Pediatric Grand Rounds: Children and Technology <i>Megan A Moreno, MD, MEd, MPH</i>
1:30	Break
1:45	Resiliency Activity
2:45	School Technology Panel
3:45	Evaluation & Adjourn



## Faculty

### **Curtis R. Coughlin II, PhD, MS, MBE**

Associate Professor, Section of Genetics and Metabolism Track  
Director, Clinical Sciences Graduate Program  
Clinical Ethicist, Children's Hospital Colorado  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
*Receives funds from Alnylam Pharmaceuticals as part of a sponsored research agreement.  
Served as a consultant for Alnylam Pharmaceuticals (divested).*

### **Kaley Curtis, PhD**

Psychologist  
Psychiatry Consultation-Liaison Service

### **Lauren Gallanis, PhD**

Licensed Psychologist, Pediatric Mental Health Institute Children's Hospital Colorado  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry  
University of Colorado School of Medicine

### **Mel Hauck, LCSW**

Manager  
Behavioral Health Level 8 Inpatient Medical Unit  
Children's Hospital Colorado

### **Abraham Homer, MS**

Gaming Technology Supervisor  
Extended Reality Program  
Children's Hospital Colorado

### **Brian M. Jackson, MD, MA, FAAP, HEC-C**

Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Co-Director, Bioethics and Humanities Trail  
University of Colorado School of Medicine  
Department of Pediatrics, Section of Pediatric Critical Care CU  
Center for Bioethics and Humanities Associate Faculty Medical Director of Clinical Ethics  
President-Elect of the Medical Staff  
Children's One PICU Medical Director  
Children's Hospital Colorado

### **Megan A Moreno, MD, MEd, MPH**

Vice Chair of Academic Affairs  
Academic Division Chief of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine  
PI: Social Media and Adolescent Health Research Team (SMAHRT)  
School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison

### **Amy Sass, MD**

Associate Professor  
Pediatrics-Adolescent Medicine  
Children's Hospital Colorado

### **Amanda Short, MS**

Associate Clinical Manager  
Behavioral Health Level 8 Inpatient Medical Unit  
Children's Hospital Colorado

### **Heather Straub, MD FACOG**

Associate Professor, Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Clinical Science Graduate Program Faculty  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Faculty affiliate to the Center for Bioethics and Humanities  
University of Colorado School of Medicine

### **Amy Willis, MD**

Assistant Professor  
Pediatrics-Pediatric Hospital Medicine  
Children's Hospital Colorado

### **Dan Wood, PhD, MB.BS, FRCS (Urol)**

Professor of Surgery  
Chair of Adult Congenital Surgery, Department of Surgery, CU  
School of Medicine  
Associate Program Director, Urology

*Serves on the Executive Committee for  
Neurogenic Bladder Research Group*

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