

Taking Medical Ethics Seriously

Alfred I Tauber, MD

September 13, 2004

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Atchley Loeb Conference Room
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
622 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032

Dr. Tauber is Professor of Medicine and Professor of Philosophy as well as Director of the Center for Philosophy and History of Science at Boston University. He challenged us with questions of how to effectively educate medical students to implement sound ethical decisions. His seminar addressed that medical centers, as well as medical communities, need to reevaluate and critique the ways in which ethical decisions are made in the hopes that we may all take medical ethics seriously. The event turned out to be stimulating, especially as audience interactions proffered realistic dilemmas including placing a student's 'Ethics Evaluation' in the patient's medical records, and the likely reactions to this addition by hospital administration and risk managers.

Dr. Tauber explained that the condition of ethical decision-making is complicated and has many layers, yet said that a structure and process must be implemented to alleviate stress and suffering by patients, families, and even those in the medical community caring for the patient and family.