

# Bioethics Seminar

## Scientist: Babies' medical care should be decided by parents

By Carolyn Garcia  
Staff Writer

The government needs to stop dictating medical decisions about babies born with genetic handicaps and should give that right back to parents, a geneticist at the Temple Scott and White Clinic said Saturday. Sheila Dobin addressed the topic as part of a bioethics seminar held at Texas A&M and sponsored by Congregation Beth Shalom, the Jewish Women's Club and the Hillel Jewish Student Center.

Other issues discussed during the seminar were the development of an artificial heart, informed consent and patients' rights, and decision-making as a personal choice rather than an institutional one. "If they don't want to give the right back then they better have some way of covering the cost of these babies," Dobin said.

The cost per day in a neo-natal intensive care unit is about \$10,000, she said, and the government's contradicting policies are creating a di-

lemma for parents, hospitals, doctors and insurance companies.

"You've got one regulation that says you have to save every baby no matter what the handicapping condition, and you have another regulation that says you have to save costs," Dobin said.

"Who is going to pay for all these babies?" she said. "Parents can't, Medicaid doesn't, insurance doesn't and you have a limit to what your insurance will pay. Once the insurance

runs out, there is no one to pay for it."

Dobin said doctors must base their decisions about handicapped babies on "quality of life," according to a Health and Human Services code.

"The problem with the ruling is that it now takes parental decisions away from parents," she said. "We are now saving babies that are less than 1,000 grams in weight. They're premature infants, and the ruling

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Photo by Marcena Fadal

Panel members, from left to right, Dr. David Gross, geneticist Sheila Dobin, Dr. William Hyman and Rabbi Peter Tarlow discuss bioethics. The seminar was held Saturday in Rudder Tower.

## Prof discusses principles of patient rights

By Kim Roddy  
Reporter

The principles behind informed consent and patient rights were discussed Saturday by industrial engineering professor Dr. William Hyman at the bioethics seminar held in Rudder Tower.

"Each individual has the right to autonomous control over their body, and therefore they alone have the authority to decide all actions that might be undertaken at that time," Hyman said.

The concept of informed consent is that permission should be based on a full and understood disclosure of the procedure and risks of any proposed procedure or experiment, Hyman explained.

"Prior to undertaking any actions upon the individual, that individual must be made to be informed, and their permission received or denied," he said.

In applying ethics to the concept of autonomy, the problem lies with the question of who has control of one's body, he said.

"The ability to make an informed decision is not a substitute for confi-

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## Ethics of medicine discussed by rabbi

By Shannon Boysen  
Reporter

Moral and ethical issues surrounding patients' medical care choices were discussed by Rabbi Peter Tarlow in a bioethics seminar Saturday in Rudder Tower.

Tarlow, a graduate assistant in the sociology department and president of the Campus Ministers Association, used traditional models, including Jewish law and rabbinical authority, while presenting his views on personal decision-making.

Questions raised in the seminar concerned patients' rights to know all information about their medical condition and the practice of genetic counseling and testing.

"The entire medical establishment is on a quixotic journey, a journey to defeat death," Tarlow said. "The long-term consequences would be so horrendous, there would be a

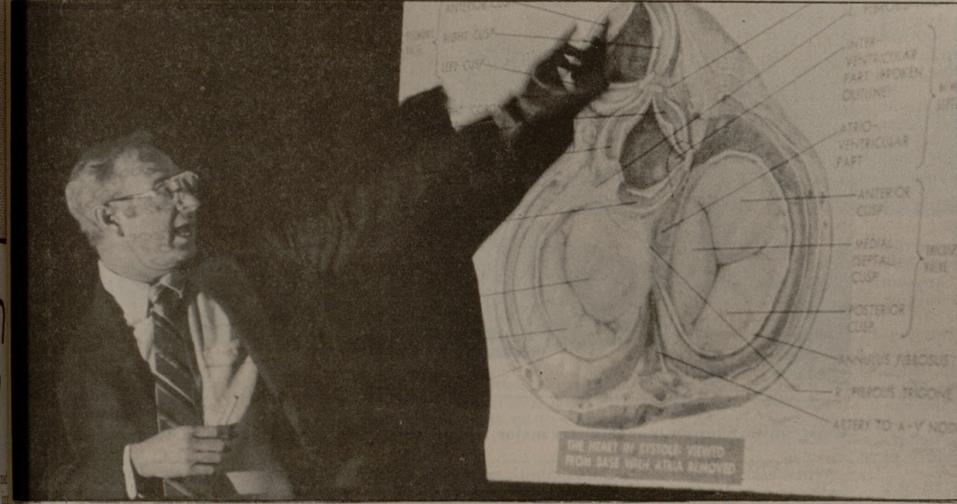
"Tower of Babel" like no one has ever seen."

While the other seminar speakers argued that patients have the right to know everything about their medical condition, including results of genetic testing, Tarlow said there are some situations in which the knowledge would only cause stress to the patient.

"Do we have the right to play God?" he asked. "It's difficult to expect any human to know all angles of all situations. Telling or not telling a person of what you think might or might not happen could very well put us in that very position."

Bringing up the issue of faith, Tarlow said the other speakers were making assumptions that people would be able to trust researchers completely and believe they never make mistakes.

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Dr. David Gross uses a diagram to discuss the development of the artificial heart.

Photo by Marcena Fadal

## Prof discusses artificial heart decisions

By Kellie Copeland  
Reporter

Ethical and financial questions concerning who should pay for the development of a completely artificial heart and how decisions should be made regarding who should receive one were raised by Dr. David

Gross, a Texas A&M professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology.

Gross was one of four speakers who discussed bioethical issues at a seminar Saturday.

Gross' lecture featured a slide presentation that showed functions of

the normal heart, the theory and evolution of the artificial heart, and the status of research being done on the heart.

Gross said the National Institute of Health has spent over \$5 million a

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# 1987 BUSINESS CAREER FAIR

## RECEPTION

for  
Career Fair '87

by Invitation Only

Monday, Feb. 2  
7:00 pm, Hilton

## Business Career Fair 1987 Corporate Booths

Tuesday, February 3rd

- Army & Air Force Exchange Service
- Chubb & Son
- Color Tile Super Mart
- Commonwealth Savings
- Conviser-Miller
- Curtis Mathes
- Dillard's of San Antonio and Fort Worth
- FirstCity Bank of Houston
- Foley's
- HEB Foods & Drugs
- Home Depot
- InterFirst Bank of Austin
- J.C. Penny Co.
- Joske's of Texas
- The Kroger Company
- Luby's Cafeterias
- Marshall Fields
- Mervyn's
- Neiman-Marcus
- Palais Royal
- Payless Cashways Inc.
- Touche Ross
- Randall's Food Markets
- Safeway Stores Inc.
- State Farm Insurance Co.
- Tom Thumb-Page
- Toys 'R' Us
- VALIC
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- Zale Corporation
- Brookshire Grocery Co.
- CONOCO NAP
- DOW Chemical, Marketing
- DOW Chemical, Comptroller
- Ernst & Whinney
- Peterson & Co.
- Seidman & Seidman
- Tennessee Gas Transmission Co.
- Tenneco Oil

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, February 3

9:30 am  
Middle East  
FRAN 352

11:00 am  
Latin America -  
International Finance  
BLOC 120

11:00 am  
Latin America -  
International Finance  
BLOC 120

1:00-2:00 pm  
International Business Reception  
BLOC 316 (MBA Lounge)

2:00 pm  
Europe & Soviet Bloc  
ZACH 128C

## 1987 Career Fair BANQUET

Tuesday, Feb. 3  
7:00 pm, Hilton

Speaker: T.J. Barlow  
Topic: Merger Mania