

Lecture Program for Dr. Joseph Millum

ALLOCATING SCARCE RESOURCES: WHO BENEFITS?

Learning activity: teleconference discussion **Date:** January 4, 5 and 6

Duration: 90 minutes per teleconference

Module Objectives: at the end of this teleconference participants will be able to

- identify various approaches to allocating health resources
- recognize the distinction between the principles of utility and justice
- identify various interpretations of justice, including Rawlsianism, radical egalitarianism and libertarianism, along with the similarities and differences between these approaches
- analyze both sides of the debate around having health care providers make resource allocation decisions

Teleconference lecturer: The teleconference lecture will be given by Joseph Millum, Ph.D. – is Staff Scientist, Clinical Center Dept. of Bioethics & Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, USA. Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Toronto. Post-doctoral fellowship at the UoT Clinical Center Department of Bioethics before taking up his present position. One of his key research areas is priority setting for global health.

- Wednesday, January 4th, is 12 – 1:30 pm
- Thursday, January 5th at 1:00 – 2:30 pm
- Friday, January 6th, at 8:00 – 9:30 am

Preparations for the teleconference

Readings – Norman Daniels 1994 (Daniels, N., (1994). Meeting the challenges of justice and rationing. *Hastings Center Report*, 24(4), 27-29); optional – Gibson et al. 2005 (Gibson, J. L., Martin, D. K., & Singer, P. A. (2005). Evidence, economics and ethics: resource allocation in health services organizations. *Healthc Q*, 8(2), 50-9.)

Video lecture Robert Veatch – Resource Allocation https://youtu.be/YY5Q6vI_IVM

Video Presenter: Robert Veatch

Overview: This module considers the question of how scarce health care resources ought to be allocated based on various interpretations of the principle of justice. Robert Veatch begins with the case of a public health officer who must decide to whom a particular screening test should be given. After presenting the case in question, Veatch returns to the two-by-two table of ethical principles that he introduced earlier in this series. Concentrating on the principles operating at the social level, Veatch takes a closer look at the idea of social utility and the implications of utilitarianism for distributing resources. Veatch then contrasts the principle of utility with the

principle of justice, going on to describe two interpretations of justice: that of the very influential thinker, John Rawls, and that of radical egalitarianism.

After illustrating the debate between these two perspectives, Veatch turns his attention briefly to the libertarian perspective of justice. Veatch concludes his presentation by considering various approaches for resolving conflicts between principles and then by responding to the question of whether health care providers ought to be put in the situation where they have to make micro level resource allocation decisions.