

SPPH Ground Rounds: Dr. Jennifer Gibson, Oct 23, 2015, 9AM, Room B151, SPPH Building, 2206 East Mall, UBC campus

Title: 'Beyond Healthcare Ethics vs. Public Health Ethics: why we need new bioethics thinking to address today's wicked health problems.'

Abstract: In this presentation, I explore the intersection of healthcare and public health and its implications for bioethics thinking and practice. Using examples of 'wicked problems' emerging at this intersection -- such as Ebola, drug supply shortages, complex chronic disease, and 'big data' -- I argue that the traditional paradigms of healthcare ethics (with its focus on individuals) and public health ethics (with its focus on populations) are ill-suited by themselves to tackle these complex issues and that a new integrative bioethics is needed.

Dr. Jennifer Gibson is Sun Life Financial Chair in Bioethics and Director of the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics (JCB), Associate Professor in the Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation (IHPME), and Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto. Jennifer has a PhD in Philosophy (bioethics and political theory). Her research focuses on ethical governance and performance of health organizations and systems. Jennifer has served on government and health sector advisory committees on policy issues such as public health emergencies, critical care triage, drug funding and supply, and the Ebola response. Currently, she is co-chairing the Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician Assisted Death and the Governance Sub-Group of the WHO Ethics and Public Health Surveillance Guidelines Working Group. In addition to her research and service activity, she supervises graduate students in the Collaborative Program in Bioethics and teaches resource allocation ethics in the MHS program in Bioethics.