

**Internal Review Summary**  
**for the**  
**Internal Review**  
**of the**  
**Centre for Health Care Ethics**

*Respectfully submitted by the Internal Review Panel:*

Umed S. Panu  
Michel Bedard  
Nandakumar Kanavillil  
Ian Newhouse

June 11, 2012

**Centre for Health Care Ethics**  
**Internal Review Panel Meeting Notes**  
**April 5, 2012**  
**10:00 a.m. ATAC 5033**

Present: Umed S. Panu (Chair)  
Michel Bédard  
Ian Newhouse  
Nandakumar Kanavillil  
Cheryl Jaspers (Notes)

Guests: Jane Taylor - Director, CHCE  
Jaro Kokalik - Past Director, CHCE

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1. Members of the Internal Review Panel were briefed on the directives of the meeting and what is to be expected from the Director's Interview and Presentation.

2. Director Questions:

**Q:** Explain the CHCE's need for a second Bioethicist and what their role would be.

**A:**

- current Bioethicist is clinical-type Bioethicist
- aiming for the second Bioethicist to be a joint appointment with Lakehead University faculty member giving academic and research leadership to the CHCE.
- the current workload would be better handled by two Bioethicists.
- work with departments to see how the joint appointment can be a good fit and bring the Centre to a new level (academic/research)

**Q:** Define the different member-types of the CHCE.

**A:**

- **Research Affiliates:** faculty members/researchers benefit from Centre collaborations and help seek out grants. The CHCE promotes its research affiliates seeking project support by introducing them to institutional members.
- **Individual Members:** pay a membership fee, attend sessions, suggest topics and support the work of the CHCE
- **Institutional (23 members):** form the Advisory Council of the CHCE and are health care and educational organizations in Northern Ontario

**Q:** Research is not a large component of the CHCE and branding it as a 'Lakehead University Research Centre' may be damaging to its future. Such a branding makes the Centre fall under the purview of this committee and the harsh set of criteria laid out for true Lakehead University Research Centres. How do you intend to address the missing research component?

**A:**

- the CHCE's top priority is education
- the research component has not succeeded to their expectations
- terms of reference on the CHCE Mission Statement needs adjustment to include research
- wish to continue as a 'Research Centre' otherwise we shortchange ourselves if we omit research from the Centre
- we would fit the university mold with new joint appointment of bioethicist

- plan to bring a significant amount of research in the future
- justify our status as a research centre
- have been in existence for 14 years – this is the first review
- need some direction and feedback on what LU thinks the CHCE should be doing
- have to consider what is best for the Centre
- CHCE is ready for the changes and will capitalize on these opportunities in new research

**Q:** What is your research plan?

**A:**

- applied for a research chair in 2006, 2008, 2010 and an Endowed Chair in 2009 and made a 'research plan'
- research affiliates help focus the centre on specific research
- will provide a research plan after consultation with CHCE membership

**Q:** Why is there such a small involvement of LU faculty members in the CHCE?

**A:**

- research affiliate program in place to boost involvement and rectify the lack of LU faculty representation
- while Philosophy was originally the 'house department' of the CHCE, new faculty is not interested in the centre

**Q:** Are there any intentions for the CHCE to expand on the Ethics theme, i.e. not just health related ethics?

**A:**

- bioethics and law are very closely related at other universities
- may consider expanding to law with the opening of LU's new law school
- may seek other department linkages, e.g. engineering, forestry

After a brief discussion, the Director and Past Director left the meeting.

3. The CHCE was given one week's time to supply the Internal Review Panel with a written research plan following the gathering of the CHCE research affiliates meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. UPDATE: Research plan was received from the CHCE on April 16, 2012 and forwarded to Internal Review Panel Members.
4. Initial discussions by the Panel suggest that the CHCE may be allowed to continue in its current form with review again in 3 years time to track the progress on the new research plan/direction.
5. The Centre appears to be welcoming the opportunity to shift some of its focus to research.
6. The Internal Review Panel will meet following the receipt of the Research Plan to discuss the outcome of this review.

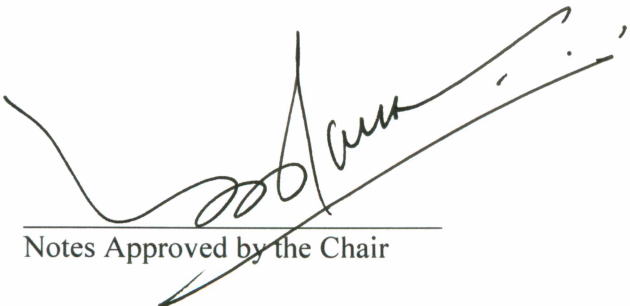
  
Notes Approved by the Chair

**Centre for Health Care Ethics**  
**Internal Review Panel Meeting Notes**  
**May 9, 2012**  
**2:45 p.m. ATAC 3004**

Present: Umed S. Panu (Chair)  
Michel Bédard  
Ian Newhouse  
Nandakumar Kanavillil (via teleconference)  
Cheryl Jaspers (Notes)

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1. After review of CHCE's submitted research plan requested by the Internal Review Panel at the previous meeting held April 5, 2012, the Panel members agreed that the CHCE would need at least 2 years to implement the research plan. Following this two-year period, the Centre should be reviewed again in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
2. The Panel unanimously agreed that while the CHCE's service component is extremely valuable to Lakehead University and the community, it is the research component of the Centre that is lacking.
3. The Internal Review Panel recommends continuation of the Centre but with a strong recommendation for improvement followed by another internal review in the operating year 2014-15 to ensure the Centre is heading in the right direction and working towards achieving their newly drafted research goals. The Panel gave the CHCE a split rating: the service component of the Centre was rated **EXCELLENT** and the research component was rated **UNSATISFACTORY**.



Notes Approved by the Chair





## Centre for Health Care Ethics

<http://bioethics.lakeheadu.ca>

Tel (807) 343-8126

Fax (807) 346-7935

[chce@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:chce@lakeheadu.ca)

*Striving to improve ethical  
quality of health care*

### INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Brain Injury Services of Northern  
Ontario (BISNO)  
Canadian Mental Health Association –  
Thunder Bay Branch  
Confederation College  
Dawson Court Home for the Aged  
Dryden Regional Health Centre  
Geraldton District Hospital  
Grandview Lodge Home for the Aged  
Lakehead Manor  
Nipigon District Memorial Hospital  
North West CCAC  
Northern Ontario School of Medicine  
Northwestern Health Unit, Kenora  
Pic River Health Centre  
Pinewood Court  
Pioneer Ridge Home for the Aged  
Red Lake Margaret Cochenour  
Memorial Hospital  
Riverside Health Care Facilities,  
Fort Frances  
Roseview Manor  
Sensenbrenner Hospital, Kapuskasing  
Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health  
Centre  
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Thunder Bay Regional Health  
Sciences Centre

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Health Care Institutions  
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N. Ellis                  J. Taylor  
J. Kotalik

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L. Pedri, MA  
D. Rabb, PhD  
J. Taylor, PhD

### DIRECTOR

J. Taylor, PhD

May 31, 2012

Dr. Umed Panu  
Chair, Research Centre Review Panel  
Lakehead University  
955 Oliver Road  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1

Dear Dr. Panu,

Thank you for giving the Centre for Health Care Ethics an opportunity to have its operation reviewed by the panel. We were gratified that there is recognition of the excellent work the centre has been doing for the last 14 years and of the many advancements in research ethics and health care ethics that have been fostered and led by the Centre. We found the experience helpful and we appreciate the opportunity to provide more documentation of our plans to emphasize research and pursue the mission *to foster the development of a vibrant research culture focused on enhancing the ethical quality of health care by committing to a research program of knowledge translation.*

Since submitting our research plan we have already:

- had a meeting of the current research affiliates, and
- approved the appointment of four more internal and six more external researchers
- hired a grant writer (research assistant)
- assembled a research team and a group of collaborators for our Aboriginal health project planning grant submission to CIHR
- interviewed and consented to the hiring for the shared bioethicist position
- decided to organize a centre research retreat
- published an article on (J. Kotalik) Controlling Pain and the Misuse of Opioids in the prestigious journal *Canadian Family Physician*, April 2012 vol. 58 no. 4 381-385
- attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Bioethics Society
- and continue to explore collaborative research opportunities with centres and departments both internal and external to the university

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In reviewing the notes that were provided and submitted in documentation of our meeting with the panel we noted a number of inaccuracies which we would like to communicate to you. These are not changes to our responses but are documented in the powerpoint we provided for each of the panel members. I have attached an edited version of the notes for your records, but would like to point out that CHCE was initially attached to the Department of Philosophy (not Psychology as recorded) and that although the notes indicate that we applied for a research chair 2 years ago, the actual history is that we made applications for Research Chairs in 2006, 2008, 2010 and an Endowed Chair in 2009. We understand the decision that our research output is unsatisfactory, however, we feel that the notes tend to underestimate some of the efforts that have been made in trying to foster research in ethics at Lakehead University.

In conclusion, we are happy to have time to pursue our research mandate and we would like to request two things of the subsequent review process. The current process requires us to submit an annual report at the end of June in preparation for review in the subsequent academic year. If it is at all possible, we would like to provide additional documentation in the following December, as the process of granting and progress of research, dissemination and publication takes time.

In addition, we would welcome some candid advice on what would constitute an improvement in our rating of unsatisfactory as we do not seem to have any documentation or grid that would help us in reaching a more satisfactory rating.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your review and for giving us a renewed mandate. We will strive to align our centre with the expectations of the research mandate of the university.

Sincerely,



Jane Taylor, PhD  
Professor Emerita  
Director

Att.

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