Holly Fernandez Lynch, JD, MBE, is the founder and co-chair of AEREO: The Consortium to Advance Effective Research Ethics Oversight. AEREO brings together 70+ experts in Institutional Review Boards (IRBs), research ethics, and empirical methods to advance the shared mission of evaluating and improving the effectiveness of systems for protecting human participants in research. Current projects focus on developing a system of IRB precedent, understanding the scope of IRB expertise and perspective, studying how IRBs protect vulnerable participants, and examining the IRB’s role in promoting justice, among others.

Dominic Sisti, PhD, applies the approaches and methods of medical ethics to understand and meet the challenges of mental health care across clinical, research, and policy contexts. One of his research interests is mental health in incarcerated individuals. Dr. Sisti works with an interdisciplinary group of researchers made up of clinicians, policy experts, and prison reformers to develop a novel line of bioethics research that examines ethics and policy questions in correctional mental health care.

Zeke Emanuel, MD, PhD, served on then President-elect Joe Biden’s Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board. This board worked with state and local officials to determine the public health and economic steps necessary to get the virus under control, to deliver immediate relief to working families, and to address the unequal impact of the pandemic on communities of color and other disadvantaged groups. Dr. Emanuel also worked with a group of global experts and our department’s Matthew McCoy, PhD, to develop the “Fair Priority Model,” which provides the framework for just global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Emily Largent, JD, PhD, RN, and Jason Karlawish, MD, who has a secondary appointment in the Department, wrote an influential JAMA Neurology Viewpoint on the challenges that arise when Alzheimer’s disease clinical trials end early. This viewpoint was covered in The New York Times and resulted in a National Institute on Aging-supported work group that Dr. Largent co-chairs to identify interventions to improve communication with and supports for participants when clinical trials end early.

Our Impact in Medical Ethics

Steven Joffe  Ezekiel Emanuel  Autumn Fiester  Emily Largent  Holly Fernandez Lynch  Matthew McCoy

Jon Merz  Jonathan Moreno  Pamela Sankar  Harald Schmidt  Dominic Sisti  Anna Wexler