MEMO

From: Jason Scott Robert, Director, Bioethics, Policy, and Law, ASU

To: Prospective mentors for Applied Ethics and the Professions MA applied projects

I am writing to introduce the Biomedical and Health Ethics track of the MA in Applied Ethics and the Professions at Arizona State University. Based in the School of Life Sciences, this professional degree program provides a strong foundation in the life sciences, as well as in ethics, history and philosophy of science, science and technology studies, law, and policy. In lieu of a research-based thesis, students undertake an experience-based applied project, typically in a clinical, laboratory, or policy setting.

As I am sure you know well, moral values infuse medicine, healthcare more broadly, and public and population health more broadly still. The pursuit of health is deeply embedded in a variety of personal, social, cultural, and political contexts, which affect the effectiveness of our efforts to achieve healthy outcomes for patients and populations. Through coursework and other experiences, MA students will deliberate individually and collectively about a wide range of issues and problems in contemporary medicine and the history of medicine, acquire familiarity with a range of methods and outcomes of ethical inquiry, develop advanced critical normative reasoning and judgment capacities, and cultivate effective communication skills for academic, clinical, and policy contexts.

The purpose of the applied project is to enable students to put into practice what they learn in the classroom, while simultaneously expanding their knowledge base through practical experience. Students initiate the search for an appropriate applied project, and then work with a prospective applied project supervisor to develop a specific project with clear learning objectives and evaluation metrics. There is considerable flexibility in deciding upon the scope and nature of the applied project, but the project should require a substantial portion of the student’s time (10-20hrs/week), engage a host of ethical considerations, and be of value to the site and supervisor.

The applied project supervisor assumes the following responsibilities: s/he plans the learning outcomes with the student (project goal, description, deliverables), oversees the student’s activities, and assesses the student’s performance during the internship experience. In addition to regular supervisory meetings with the student, the supervisor and student will also meet for a formal midterm and final evaluation.

I am hopeful that you will consider hosting one of our MA students – please feel free to contact me at jsr@asu.edu should you have any questions.