The Institute’s Administrative Director Leaves to Help Direct the University’s New Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Nicole Fowler, Administrative Director for the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics for the past six years and the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care since its inception in 2003, has been named Assistant Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), Education and Career Development Core. She will be responsible for the implementation of the Ph.D. Program in Clinical Research as well for overseeing 20 education programs being developed and implemented under the CTSI Education Core.

The CTSI at the University of Pittsburgh is one of the first 12 created at academic health centers throughout the nation by funding through Clinical and Translational Science Awards. It is part of a national consortium being created by National Center for Research Resources of the National Institutes of Health to “transform how clinical and translational research is conducted, enabling researchers to develop new treatments faster and deliver them to patients more efficiently and quickly.”

Nicole has a Masters Degree in Health Administration and Policy and is a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy and Administration. She will transition full time into her new role at the beginning of July.

More information on the CTSI is available at http://www.ctsi.pitt.edu/default.asp.

National Palliative Care Research Center awards Dr. Robert Arnold Pilot Support for his Critical Care Communication (C3) Project

The National Palliative Care Research Center has awarded Robert M. Arnold, M.D., Chief of the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics and Co-Director of the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care a two-year Pilot Project Support Grant. Together with funding from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, this grant will support Dr. Arnold’s Critical Care Communication (C3): Teaching Intensivists’ Communication Skills project. Dr. Arnold will examine ways to improve the ability of intensive care physicians-in-training (critical care fellows) to communicate effectively and empathetically about end-of-life topics. The aim of the project is to develop, pilot, and evaluate a comprehensive, evidence-based, ICU-specific training program in communication skills for critical care fellows, including a skills course and a portable curriculum.

Robert M. Arnold, M.D. is a Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and in the University’s Center for Bioethics and Health Law. He formed the Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics in 1997 and, in 2000, was named the first Leo H. Creip Chair of Patient Care, which emphasizes the importance of the doctor-patient relationship. He is the Director of the Institute for Doctor-Patient communication and Co-Director of the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care. He is clinically active in both HIV and palliative care.

Additional information about the National Palliative Care Research Center is available at http://www.nperec.org/.