

What Does It Mean Both to Live and Die Well?

Bowles Chapel Lecture Series 2025

Friday, January 31, 2025



The 39th annual Bowles Chapel Lecture presents “What Does It Mean Both to Live and Die Well?” featuring Lydia Dugdale, MD, MAR. Dr. Dugdale will help us explore this question out of concern for patients and families as well as for the health care professionals who care for them.

Registration: 8 – 8:30 a.m.

(The first 100 in-person attendees to arrive will receive a free copy of Dr. Dugdale’s book *The Lost Art of Dying: Reviving Forgotten Wisdom*.)

Session 1: The Lost Art of Dying Well (8:30-10 a.m.)

In the wake of the fourteenth-century Bubonic Plague, a text was published offering advice to help the living prepare for a good death. The *ars moriendi*—Art of Dying—made clear that to die well, one had to live well and described what practices best help us prepare. Today most Americans die in institutions, and many experience a highly medicalized dying process, which they say they don’t want. In this talk, Dr. Dugdale will draw from this medieval manuscript to ask whether we might revive the art of dying and discover anew how to live and die well.

At the conclusion of this session, the learner will be able to:

- Describe medicalized dying
- Consider the *ars moriendi*, an earlier model for dying well
- Discuss whether we might revive that model today

Session 2: The Lost Art of Dying Well

From Moral Injury to Moral Resilience and Beyond (10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

Healthcare professionals face many challenges, but the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented stress and moral injury to them. Professionals must work together to insist on health systems that allow them to care well for patients in healthy work environments. Ultimately, Dr Dugdale will show that all in health care have a role to play in helping our patients and ourselves rediscover the art of living well.

At the conclusion of this session, the learner will be able to:

- Describe moral injury as a concept
- Consider collective responses by health professionals to moral injury
- Examine how health care leadership might create systems changes to mitigate moral injury

Worship in Bowles Chapel: 12:15 – 12:45 p.m.

About Our Speaker:

Dr. Dugdale is the Dorothy L. and Daniel H. Silberberg Professor of Medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center and Director of the Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. She also serves as Co-Director of Clinical Ethics at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center and is a practicing internist. Dr. Dugdale’s scholarship focuses on end-of-life issues, the role for art in ethics, moral injury, and the doctor-patient relationship. She edited *Dying in the Twenty-First Century* and is author of *The Lost Art of Dying*. Dr. Dugdale attended medical school at the University of Chicago, completed residency training at Yale-New Haven Hospital and holds a MAR in ethics from Yale Divinity School.



About the program

This program is designed for chaplains, physicians, nurses, social workers and all health care professionals to foster a collaborative spirit and stimulate dialogue between medical and spiritual caregivers, the Bowles Chapel Lecture Series is intended to honor the Bowles family—Edna Henderson and William Victor Bowles and their daughter, Mary Frances Bowles Couper, who donated the chapel.

Program approved for LMFT, LPC, LSW and APC 3.0 CCEs.

Memorial Hermann Health System is accredited with distinction as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. 3.0 Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) contact hours will be provided for RNs. Attendance throughout the program and completion of a program evaluation are required for CNE credit.

The Memorial Hermann Health System is accredited by the Texas Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Memorial Hermann Health System designates this live activity for a maximum of 3.0 AMA PRA Category I Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. This activity has been designated by Memorial Hermann Health System for 3 credits of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

The Bowles Chapel Lecture will be hybrid: you may register to attend either in person or virtually. The lecture will be held in person at the Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital Campus, 7600 Beechnut, in the Wilson-Turner Auditorium located within Medical Plaza 2.

- For in-person registration, please call 713.222.CARE
- For virtual participation, register here:

https://memorialhermann.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XiOOe7LyQWCKI3toIVKdRg

