

AUTOPSY CENTER OF CHICAGO

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Diversity – Equity – Inclusion

Autopsy.Online

Summary

Autopsy.Online provides an ethically grounded clinical database that thoughtfully presents real and imperfect patients cared for within a real and imperfect health care system. Thus, the site presents a socially and emotionally centered model of human interaction, while functioning as a learning lab to explore student attitudes about people of different backgrounds and lifestyles.

The Teaching Content

Autopsy.Online goes far beyond technical and scientific didactics. Each case includes a history reflecting both patient life-choices, and provider decision-making. Our willingness to provide real-life scenarios allows for the discussion of how basic principles of engagement and human interactions in health care impact life and death. The provider-patient interactions described in the histories can be assessed for balance, fairness, value, listening ability, and human consideration. By gaining sensitivity to these issues, students can see the life and death impact of caring for people as humans; the benefit of treating one another -- regardless of differences -- as equals and as partners in care; and the dire consequences of not. The themes of diversity, equity and inclusion permeate each case.

The patients

While we do not control which family wishes to make a video donation, the site includes patients with a variety of ethnicities, patient background, and lifestyles. The cases themselves present a learning laboratory for educators to explore student attitudes and biases. The site allows for the kind of discussions no stylized digital resources could.

Structural Processes

All cases provide subtitles, in consideration of ADA requirements, and a growing number have foreign language subtitles. Audio discussion models equitable care, sensitivity to each patient, openness to questions, and overall respect for the life. Each case is consented. The site itself is a model of caring and inclusion for the viewers we teach and the patients we serve.