



**Different Landscapes  
Similar Views?**

*Health Ethics in  
the Rural Context*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Welcome and opening remarks**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Introduction to conference theme**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**“Doing ethics”**

- Is it the same in rural and urban contexts?
  - If so, what’s the same?
  - If not, what’s different?
- Are these similarities and differences ethically relevant?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**“Doing ethics”**

- What can we learn in rural settings that will help us improve health care ethics (regardless of our location)?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What we know...**

- Interest in the ethics of rural health care
  - Locally
  - Nationally
  - Internationally

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What is commonly discussed**

- Much focus on “local” issues
- Tend to address role of physicians (primarily) in smaller communities and the ethical challenges that arise

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What is commonly discussed...**

- Issues related to:
  - Confidentiality
  - Boundary issues – multiple relationships
  - Truth-telling
  - Limited resources

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What is commonly discussed...**

- Frequency of these types of ethics issues
- Level of stress and moral distress that health care providers experience as a result

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Some key questions...**

- What is left out?
- What are the underlying assumptions?
- Do we need to take a closer look?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What is left out?**

- One example:
  - A real analysis and consideration of the value of community support
    - More than just an afterthought?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What are the underlying assumptions?**

- Urban implies an 'ethics of strangers'
  - Most of what we learn/teach in health care ethics is based on this
- Rural implies an 'ethics of familiarity'
  - How do we negotiate health care issues in contexts where we "can't leave"?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Do we need to take a closer look?**

- See the “rosy” rural picture
  - Slower, easier pace of life



*...But pity the rural 'country bumpkins'*

- Whose health outcomes are worse

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Do we need to take a closer look?**

- Concern about stereotypes and implicit negative framings about rural settings
  - An ‘urban-bias’ may mean we miss key opportunities to re-examine our ideas about health care ethics

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**So?**

- We invite you to reflect on the conference question:

*Different Landscapes, Similar Views?*



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---