

Dialogue 6

False Hope? Managing Pressure to Provide Experimental Therapy

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RAND Corporation

1:15 p.m., Friday, March 9, 2007 [note variant time]

Mailman Center for Child Development, Room 3023

—————> Lunch will be provided <—————
(No RSVPs required)

The use of bone marrow transplantation for breast cancer created a conflict between patient demand (reinforced by physician enthusiasm, litigation, media accounts, government mandates and entrepreneurial oncology) for access to a “promising” new treatment for breast cancer and the need for evaluation of that promise in randomized clinical trials. There is a tension between protecting the evaluative enterprise and providing a safety valve for responding to the legitimate needs of individual women. Pressure to provide poorly evaluated treatments can imperil patients and frustrate clinicians.

Dr. Rettig, a Senior Social Scientist at the RAND Corporation and a former professional staff member of the Institute of Medicine, has written extensively on clinical research, technology assessment in medicine, organ transplantation and end-stage renal disease. He is co-author of *False Hope: Bone Marrow Transplantation for Breast Cancer* (Oxford 2007), which documents the failure of the treatment.

Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly conferences. For more information, phone UM Ethics Programs at 305-243-5723 or send E-mail to ethics@miami.edu.

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