

DIALOGUE 159

“Right to Try” Laws and Access to Experimental Drugs

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12:00 p.m., Friday, April 10, 2015
RMSB, 4th-Floor Auditorium
A light lunch will be provided

The Florida Legislature is considering a bill that would allow dying patients to receive experimental treatments not yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration and outside the “compassionate use” process. Approved in five states, such laws are controversial. The Florida legislation (Senate Bill 1052) is based on a model drafted by the conservative Goldwater Institute. Advocates argue the FDA’s compassionate use process is slow and bureaucratic. Opponents hold that, despite its flaws, the process is necessary to protect patients from potentially unsafe and ineffective drugs, and from the “therapeutic misconception,” or desperate patients’ view that any study is better than nothing.

Dr. Ricordi is Stacy Joy Goodman Professor of Surgery, Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Microbiology and Immunology, and Director of the Diabetes Research Institute and Cell Transplant Program. Dr. Goodman is Professor of Medicine and jointly of Philosophy, Director of the Miller School’s Bioethics Program, and Director of its World Health Organization Collaborating Center in Ethics and Global Health Policy.

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