

2019

## Foreword

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### Recommended Citation

Mary Hannosh *Foreword*, 28 *Annals Health L.* (2019).

Available at: <https://lawcommons.luc.edu/annals/vol28/iss1/2>

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## Foreword

The *Annals of Health Law and Life Sciences* Editorial Staff is proud to present our Winter 2019 Issue. Each year, our Editorial Board seeks out articles covering important and contemporary topics within the health law community. This issue particularly furthers the *Annals* tradition of covering a broad range of current and intriguing topics within health law and policy. These selected pieces contribute to the continued recognition of *Annals of Health Law and Life Sciences* as one of the country's preeminent health law and policy journals.

The first article, authored by Sam Halabi, analyzes the impact of material transfer agreements on infectious disease research. Mr. Halabi discusses how important it is for researchers to have access to biological samples for infectious disease research and he further explains that the way to obtain these biological samples is through material transfer agreements. Halabi argues that these agreements are creating substantial barriers to the trade of biological samples and ultimately are posing threats to the development of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. After discussing these threats, Halabi offers solutions to address the negative consequences resulting from material transfer agreements.

The second article, authored by Obiajulu Nnamuchi, compares Nigeria's implementation of its social health insurance (SHI) system with that of other African countries. Dr. Nnamuchi posits that the SHI system is the best route to achieve universal health care. However, Nigeria's system has struggled to achieve success. By comparing Nigeria to Ghana and Rwanda, Dr. Nnamuchi discusses why implementing the SHI system can lead to success for some countries and failure for others. This comparison demonstrates why some countries are successful and shows how other countries, such as Nigeria, can learn from those success stories.

The final article, authored by Miles J. Zaremski, exposes how professional conduct programs' self-policing efforts often result in the unauthorized disclosure of Protected Health Information (PHI), which violates the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Mr. Zaremski explains that professional conduct programs use a patient's medical records to discipline the medical professional who provided an expert medical opinion in a medical malpractice claim. This use of the patient's medical records has not been authorized by the patient, nor does it fall within an exception to the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Additionally, Mr. Zaremski analyzes Illinois privacy law, which is more strict than the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Finally, Mr. Zaremski offers solutions that could allow for the lawful use of a patient's PHI in these specific hearings.

On behalf of the entire *Annals of Health Law and Life Sciences* Editorial Staff, I would like to thank Sam Halabi, Obiajulu Nnamuchi, and Miles Zaremski for contributing their extraordinary talent and knowledge to this outstanding issue. This issue is the manifestation of the authors' scholarship and passion, as well as their exceptional collaboration and professionalism. The Editorial Board and I would like to thank every member of the *Annals* team for their enthusiasm, commitment, and diligence throughout the editing process. I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to my colleagues on the Executive Board: Kaleigh Ward, Kara Simon, Allyson Thompson, Chloe Cunningham, Emily Boyd, and Lianne Foley. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our Senior Editors: Abigail Elmer, John Meyer, Jessica Sweeb, and Victoire Iradukunda. Finally, we would like to thank the amazing faculty at the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy for their continued support of our endeavors. The success of this issue would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

It is with great pride that we present the Winter 2019 Issue of *Annals of Health Law and Life Sciences*.

Sincerely,

Mary Hannosh  
Editor-in-Chief  
*Annals of Health Law and Life Sciences*