



WALTER H. CAPPS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
ETHICS, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC LIFE

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N E W S R E L E A S E

**Stuart J. Youngner**  
**“Decisions at the End of Life:  
The Illusion of Control and the Sense of Responsibility”**

**Thursday, March 6 / 8:00 p.m. / Free**  
**McCune Conference Room**  
**6020 Humanities and Social Sciences Building, UCSB**

S U M M A R Y F A C T S

- **Stuart J. Youngner, M.D., Chair, Department of Bioethics, Susan E. Watson Professor of Bioethics, and Professor of Psychiatry, Case Western Reserve University**
- **“Decisions at the End of Life: The Illusion of Control and the Sense of Responsibility”**
- **Thursday, March 6 / 8:00 p.m. / FREE**
- **McCune Conference Room, 6020 Humanities and Social Sciences Building, UCSB**
- **Information: Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB (805) 893-2317**
- **Digital copies of press materials available at <http://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/news/press-releases/>**

**Event Description:**

More than 2 million people die every year in the United States, almost always in the presence of life-sustaining medical technology. An overwhelming consensus exists that sometimes the choices posed by medical technology make death the least worst alternative. Yet, choosing death or letting go is often a painful and contentious business. Dr. Youngner will explore some of the ways our society and others are coping with this unavoidable dilemma.

**Speaker Profile:**

Stuart J. Youngner received a B.A. from Swarthmore College and an M.D. from Case Western Reserve University where he is Susan E. Watson Professor and Chairman of the Department of Bioethics. He did an internship in Pediatrics and a residency in Psychiatry at University Hospitals of Cleveland and subsequently received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study medical ethics at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University.

Dr. Youngner serves on the editorial advisory boards of the *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, the *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, and the *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics*. He has been elected a Fellow of the Hastings Center and the American Psychiatric Association and has been certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He has served as a consultant to the United States Congress Office of Technology Assessment, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Institute of Medicine, and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Dr. Youngner has testified before the United States Congress. He served as President of the Society for Bioethics Consultation from 1994-1997 and is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and was given the organization's Distinguished Service Award in 2000. He co-directed a national task force that examined the need for standards for ethics committees and clinical ethics consultation. He is the on the Medical Board of Trustees and ethics committee of the Musculoskeletal Foundation. He has served as as Board Member of the Association of Bioethics Program Directors since 2011.

Dr. Youngner is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in biomedical ethics and has published and spoken on topics including: decisions to limit life-sustaining treatment, ethics committees, physician-assisted suicide, advance directives, definitions of death, and ethical issues in organ and tissue retrieval and transplantation. He has published over 90 articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. He is the editor or coeditor of nine books, including *The Definition of Death: Contemporary Controversies* (Johns Hopkins University Press). His latest book, *Physician-Assisted Death in Perspective: Assessing the Dutch Experience*, was published by Cambridge University Press in July, 2012.

**Sponsor:**

This event is presented by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB.

**For more information, call  
UCSB Walter H. Capps Center for the  
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at (805) 893-2317**

**Editor: For color images,  
please call Dr. Leonard Wallock**