University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Patricia Price Browne Prize in Biomedical Ethics

Joseph J. Fins, M.D., M.A.C.P. - 2015 Recipient



Joseph J. Fins, M.D., M.A.C.P. is Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. Dr. Fins also serves as the E. William Davis Jr., M.D. Professor of Medical Ethics and is a professor of medicine, of medicine in psychiatry and of healthcare policy and research. Additionally, he is an attending physician and director of medical ethics at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he is the founding chair of the hospital's ethics committee. Dr. Fins also serves on the adjunct faculty of The Rockefeller University, where he is a senior attending physician at The Rockefeller University Hospital and co-directs the Consortium for the Advanced Study of Brain Injury at Weill Cornell and Rockefeller University.

Dr. Fins current scholarly interests include ethical and policy issues in brain injury and disorders of consciousness; palliative care; research ethics in neurology and psychiatry; medical education and methods of ethics case consultation.

A prolific author, his book credits include A Palliative Ethic of Care: Clinical Wisdom at Life's End (2006). A forthcoming book, titled Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics and the Struggle for Consciousness, will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2015. He is a co-author of the landmark 2007 Nature paper describing the first use of deep-brain stimulation in the minimally conscious state.

Dr. Fins is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2013, he was elected an Academico de Honor of the National Royal Academy of Medicine in Spain, one of only 18 so honored worldwide. Other awards and honors he has received include a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in Health Policy Research, a Soros Open Society Institute Project on Death in America Faculty Scholars Award and a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Visiting Fellowship. He has received additional grant support from the Dana, Buster and Katz foundations, among others.

Dr. Fins was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and he currently serves on the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law by gubernatorial appointment. He also serves on the New York State Palliative Care and Education Council by appointment of the health commissioner. Dr. Fins is a master of the American College of Physicians as well as a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and was appointed to Germany's Council of the Europaische Akademie. He also is an elected member of the American Clinical and Climatological Association and Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society.

Dr. Fins will receive the Prize and present Pediatrics/Medicine
Grand Rounds "Brain Injury and Disorders of Consciousness"
Wednesday, May 13, 2015
12:15pm—1:15pm
Rainbolt Family Auditorium
Samis Education Center
1200 Children's Ave., Oklahoma City, OK