

Public health by its very nature is one of the most interdisciplinary fields. Moreover, clinical ethics involves a number of disciplines including sociology (medical), psychology, health education, communication, biology, and clinical medicine. As a result, the research team supporting Ruth in this project, both at KSU and WellStar Health System, represents these different disciplines and works closely together to maintain a cohesive project. This project addresses two major research themes. The first is human development and well-being. Many believe well-being is only the absence of disease; however, well-being also includes physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual components. Secondly, this project addresses the theme of biomedical and health services. With advances in biotechnology often used to sustain or prolong life, ethical considerations have not kept up. It is imperative for patients to feel heard regarding their specific need and wants regardless of race, gender or socioeconomic status making this research study even more relevant.