



CONTACT LETTER for Health Educators
Addressing the Moral Distress of PICU Teams

April 5, 2016

Dear Colleague:

Our research team has produced a film called **“Just Keep Breathing”**, as part of CIHR-funded research into Moral Distress among Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) teams, with further support from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. Drawing on first-hand accounts of moral distress in practice, this film explores the ethical and team issues that PICU health professionals encounter.

We are inviting Canadian health sciences educators to view the film (via a free “online streaming” link that will be provided through an email) **and then to provide feedback about the film and its potential as a pedagogical tool** (via an online discussion group). Our hope is that the film and the feedback will contribute to national dialogue about ethical and team issues facing Canadian paediatric critical care professionals and the moral distress that can arise for any healthcare professional.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Pamela Brett-MacLean by email at <pbrett@ualberta.ca>, using “Participation: Addressing Moral Distress” in the subject line of the email. You will be sent a link to the film. You will choose one of two online discussion groups to join as best fits your convenience. Discussion Group 1 will take place on Monday, April 25, 2016 at Noon [Mountain Standard Time (MST)]. Discussion Group 2 will occur on April 26, 2016 at Noon [Mountain Standard Time (MST)]. We expect that a discussion group will last about 1 hour, but you will be free to leave it at any time.

Adobe Connect, accessed through the University of Alberta is the secure web conferencing software we are using for the discussion. Joining your selected discussion group will involve simply using a URL link sent to you by email. This link will take you directly to the discussion. It will be necessary to use a computer with a microphone or to attach a microphone to the computer used. Only the audio, not the video option of the conferencing software will be used by participants during the discussion.

Participation in these discussion groups is limited to educators in the health sciences disciplines. Involvement is entirely **voluntary**. When a participant joins the discussion via the Adobe Connect teleconference, it will be assumed that they are consenting to be a participant in the discussion.

As well as asking for feedback about the film, **we will be asking about its pedagogical value and what additional learning resources you believe would augment the value of the film as an educational tool.** In addition, **we will present to you a list of recommendations made by PICU professionals and by paediatric healthcare administrators and policy makers, also**



participating in this research project, on ways pre-service students can be better prepared for the realities of practice. We are interested in your thoughts on the plausibility of these suggestions and in any other ideas which you may wish to share. **The suggestions you make will be recorded, transcribed, and made anonymous.**

We know of no **major risks or benefits for participating** in the discussion groups. You may find it rewarding to discuss ethical practice issues with colleagues and/or identifying ways of resolving them. We are also aware, however, that this discussion may remind you of unpleasant past experiences. You do not need to share anything you do not feel comfortable openly discussing with others. We also ask that if you find yourself distressed at any point, you inform the moderator.

We recognize that participating in this discussion involves a commitment of your time and we appreciate this contribution to the research. **In appreciation for your participation, you will be offered the gift of an open Vimio link to the film or a DVD of the film for your personal use.**

If you have any questions about the film or these discussion groups, please feel free to contact us at wendy.austin@ualberta.ca or pbrett@ualberta or by calling 1-780-492-0980. If you have concerns about this research project, please contact the University of Alberta's Research Ethics Office at Board at 1-780-492-0459.

We hope that you will join us.

Thank you,

Wendy Austin, PhD, RN
Pamela Brett-MacLean, PhD

Faculties of Nursing and Medicine & the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

The research team members of this project are:

Wendy Austin, PhD, RN, Prof. Emeritus, Nursing & Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta (UA)

Daniel Garros, MD, FRCPC, Clinical Professor of Paediatrics, Medicine, UA; Intensivist, Stollery Children's Hospital PICU

Pamela Brett-MacLean, PhD, Director of Arts and Humanities, Health and Medicine Program, Medicine, UA

Erika Goble, PhD, Research, NorQuest College, Edmonton, AB

Timothy Anderson, MFA, Playwright; Screenwriter

The members of the Advisory Group of the project are available upon request.

