AMBI Faculty Paul Burcher, MD, PhD, Awarded Prestigious Fellowship

Albany Medical Center Ethicist Awarded Prestigious Fellowship from University of Chicago’s MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics

ALBANY, N.Y., March 18, 2014 —Albany Medical Center medical ethicist and obstetrician/gynecologist Paul Burcher, M.D., Ph.D., has been accepted as a one-year fellow at the internationally renowned MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Burcher will conduct research and write on clinical ethical issues while continuing to serve as an associate professor at the Alden March Bioethics Institute (AMBI) at Albany Medical College while treating patients as an attending physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Albany Medical Center.

Dr. Burcher has published on the doctor-patient relationship, physician empathy, and ethical issues in clinical obstetrics. He is currently involved in a research project studying cesarean section regret, in an effort to develop strategies to reduce dissatisfaction and regret among women who need to undergo cesarean section during labor.

“Dr. Burcher’s acceptance into the MacLean Center’s medical ethics program, one of the most prestigious in the nation, confirms that he is a clinical medical ethicist of the highest caliber,” said Bruce White, D.O., J.D., director of the Alden March Bioethics Institute and John A. Balint, M.D., Chair of Medical Ethics at Albany Medical College. “This is an honor for both Dr. Burcher and for AMBI.”

Dr. Burcher received both a Master of Arts and doctorate in philosophy from the University of Oregon. He completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Rochester, and received his medical degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He is a fellow of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Since 1981, the MacLean Center’s internationally renowned medical ethics fellowship program has graduated more than 320 fellows, many of whom hold endowed professorships and direct clinical ethics programs in the United States, Canada, Europe, and China. Current and former faculty and fellows have published more than 150 books in the field. Although most fellows have been physicians, the Center’s fellowship program has also trained nurses, social workers, legal scholars, theologians, social scientists and philosophers.