Professor Shelton will review some of the major cases that gave rise to the debate over medical futility and also present some cases from his own experience as an ethics consultant. Various conceptual models of medical futility will be described and alternative strategies for managing this perennial problem in the clinical setting will be discussed. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

Professor Shelton has been at the Albany Medical College since 1994 teaching medical students and graduate students in bioethics, while doing clinical ethics consultations in the Albany Medical Center. His academic training is in philosophy, social work and clinical ethics.