Ethics Grand Rounds - Thursday, April 14, 2011

Time: 12 Noon

Where: Huyck Auditorium

Title: The Spanish Flu 1918: The Epidemiology of the Deadliest Plague in History

Presenter: David Pratt, MD

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

1. Describe the state of health in the US at the time the Spanish Flu struck.
2. Answer and critically discuss the following questions:
   --Why was it called the Spanish Flu?
   --How does influenza spread?
   --How the Spanish Flu influenced the American public health response to the H1N1 epidemic in 2009?

Dr. Pratt is a board certified internist with sub-specialty certification in pulmonary medicine and preventive medicine. He has both a medical degree from Tufts and a master’s degree in public health from SUNY Albany. In 2009 he completed his preventive medicine residency also at SUNY Albany. His early training in public health was with the Centers for Disease Control. He worked for the CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer assigned to the Hawaii Department of Public Health. Dr. Pratt’s other work experiences include assignments with the World Health Organization in 1974 to work on smallpox in India and in 1984 in the Expanded Program on Immunization based in Geneva, Switzerland. He was also Medical Director at General Electric Energy for 12 years, dedicating much of his time to primary prevention of coronary heart disease and promoting wellness. He has more than 50 peer reviewed medical publications.

He is currently The Commissioner of Public Health Services for Schenectady County, New York.