Project Title: Thinking about starting breast cancer screening: a decision aid for women aged 40 years

Code: SPH9

Host School/ Institute
Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine, Sydney School of Public Health

Address: Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine, Sydney School of Public Health, Edward Ford Building, Camperdown Campus NSW 2006

URL: http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/velim/

Personal Supervisor: Dr. Christopher Mayes

Phone: 02 9036 3428

Email: christopher.mayes@sydney.edu.au

Co-supervisors: Dr. Wendy Lipworth

Project Type: Literature Review, Qualitative and Ethical Analysis

Project Category: Education, Bioethics

Project Keywords:
1. Medical education
2. Economy of influence
3. Conflicts of interest
4. Bioethics

Project Description:

Over the past 20 years bioethicists and the medical community have examined the influences the shape, form and sometimes conflict with the goals of medical practice and research. However, less attention has been given to the commercial influences on medical students before they become medical practitioners and researchers.

The focus of this project is to map the influences shaping the norms, goals and interests of medical students in Australia. By creating a taxonomy of the different types of influences, the successful application will collaborate with the supervisor and co-supervisor to conduct an ethical analysis of the findings.

There are three phases to this project. First, review the academic literature discussing influences of medical students. Second, audit the policies regulating commercial, political and professional interaction with medical students at Australian universities. Third, an ethical analysis of the implications of influence on medical students that draws on the findings from phases one and two.

On completion of this project the successful student will have developed academic research skills, gained an understanding of bioethical analysis and co-authored a research article. This project will feed into a National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) funded project – Addressing Conflicts of Interest in Public Health and Biomedicine: Enhancing Professional Integrity and Safeguarding the Public’s Health.