Medical Controversies and the Law

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This seminar is geared to students interested in pursuing a career in either medicine or law. The subject matter to be covered includes some of the most difficult areas of law where legal decisions regarding medical issues present real challenges. Participating students can present their opinions on many of these unsolvable medical dilemmas and will be able to select FOUR topics for our discussion from the following:

1) Euthanasia and physician assisted patient suicides (with consideration of the present laws on this subject that exist in several states such as California and Oregon).
2) When does a physician or therapist have a right to violate the physician or therapist/patient privilege of confidentiality (e.g. the use of the Tarasoff v. Regents of the Univ. of Calif. case as background).
3) Legalization of Illegal Drugs and the opioid dilemma.
5) Organ transplants and criteria for decision-making in this area where organ availability is limited.
6) Genetic Engineering and Stem Cell Research
7) Human Drug Experimentation
8) The Death Penalty and Methods Employed in Terminating the Life of the Convicted and Sentenced Criminal.
9) Surrogacy and Use of Stored Frozen Embryos/Sperm/Ova.
10) The validity and concerns about medical conditions possible acquired from vaccinations.