

941. Evolution Of An AEMB-Led Ethics Session For The BMES Fall Meeting

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Alpha Eta Mu Beta (AEMB) is the biomedical engineering honor society founded in 1979. Requirements for AEMB membership include "distinguished scholarship, activities, leadership and exemplary character." In 2004, Jerry Collins, chair of the BMES Ethics Committee, and Herb Voigt, national president of AEMB, presented to the BMES Board of Directors and to the AEMB membership a plan to establish a student-organized, student-led session on a biomedical engineering ethics topic of relevance and importance. The first session was held at the 2005 BMES National Meeting in Baltimore. Organizing chairs were AEMB members Teresa Murray, recently appointed to the BMES Ethics Committee, and Brent Satterfield of Arizona State University. The theme of the session was "The Bioethical Challenges of Digital Health." Keynote speaker was AEMB member Celeste Null, Biomedical Engineering Manager of Intel's Digital Health Group, who reviewed Intel's strategy and bioethics efforts in digital health. Groups led by AEMB members discussed aspects of the use of digital techniques in data acquisition and record keeping. One unanimous conclusion of the group was that insurance organizations not be allowed to use data from digital databases to exclude individuals from insurability. This year's keynote will be Jay West, Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder of Arcxis Biotechnologies, and the topic is "Biosensors And The Potential For Ubiquitous Sensing." Funding for the 2005 session came from a variety of private organizations and individuals. The National Science Foundation will sponsor the 2006 session.