

# O'Neill Institute

for National and Global Health Law

Georgetown Law • Georgetown Nursing & Health Studies

**cordially invites you to**

***“Ethics of Public Health Surveillance”***

with

**Dr. Angus Dawson, Senior Lecturer of Ethics and Philosophy  
Centre for Professional Ethics, Keele University**

Dr. Dawson will discuss the ethical justification of surveillance as a core methodology for public health. First, surveillance is distinguishing from the related concepts of screening and research. Second, it is argued that there are a number of possible reasons to support the use of surveillance, but these must be articulated and defended: surveillance contributes to the monitoring, maintenance and improvement of population health; it provides the opportunity to detect and assess the current scale of health problems, as well as the effectiveness of any interventions to address them; and it is of key relevance in priority-setting decisions. Such justifications for surveillance are powerful. However, a number of ethical concerns have been raised as surveillance activities may override or threaten some important ethical considerations. Dr. Dawson will outline a framework to aid deliberation by persons/committees required to consider ethical issues related to proposed surveillance activities in public health.

**Dr. Angus Dawson** is Senior Lecturer in Ethics & Philosophy, at the Centre for Professional Ethics, Keele University, UK. His background is in philosophy, but he has specialized in teaching ethics to health care professionals for most of the last fifteen years. His main research interests are in public health ethics (particularly vaccinations and issues related to lifestyle choices) and the use of empirical evidence in moral arguments (particularly in relation to problems in gaining informed consent in clinical trials). He is joint Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford University Press (OUP) journal, *Public Health Ethics* and joint coordinator of the International Association of Bioethics' Public Health Ethics Network. He has been involved in research projects funded by the CDC, WHO, European Union and the Public Health Agency of Canada on a range of issues related to public health ethics. He has published eighty papers and is editor or co-editor of five collections of original papers mainly on topics in public health ethics, including (with Marcel Verweij) *Prevention, Ethics, & Public Health*, OUP (2007) and Dawson, A. (ed.) *Public Health Ethics: Key Concepts and Issues in Policy and Practice*. Cambridge University Press (in press).

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011 • 3:00 – 4:30 PM  
Georgetown Law  
McDonough Hall, Room 160  
600 New Jersey Ave., NW Washington, DC 20001**