

BIO

Kristi L. Kirschner, MD is a Clinical Professor in the University of Illinois College of Medicine (UICOM) Department of Medical Education, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation. She is currently the subtheme leader for Health Humanities for the UICOM curriculum taskforce and overseeing the development and enhancement of Health Humanities Programs within the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Dr. Kirschner's academic interests include medical humanities and bioethics with a particular focus on disability issues and marginalized populations; the training of health care professionals about health humanities, bioethics and disability; and health care access for people with disabilities including reproductive health services. She also is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Disabilities and Human Development at UIC where she worked with Carol Gill PhD and Teresa Savage PhD RN, to create the Certificate in Disability Ethics in 2003.

As background, she is a physician specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with particular interest in the needs of patients with complex neurological disabilities, including adults with spina bifida, neuromuscular diseases and cerebral palsy. She is a 1986 graduate of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, and returned there in 1994-1995 as a fellow at the Maclean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. She completed her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in 1990 at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and was an attending physician there until December of 2009. Concurrently, she was also on the faculty of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, most recently as Clinical Professor in Medical Humanities and Bioethics, and of PM&R. She was the founding director for the Donnelley Family Disability Ethics Program at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and served in this role from 1995-2009. She was also one of the founders of the RIC Women with Disabilities Center and served as the medical director from 1991-2009.

From 2010-2019 she practiced at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital on the westside of Chicago, a safety net rehabilitation hospital. Given her interests in health care access and social justice she helped to create the Community Care Alliance of Illinois (CCAI) in 2012, a not-for-profit Chicago-land managed care plan serving seniors and adults with disabilities in Medicaid and Medicare Advantage. Though CCAI was not able to survive the Illinois Medicaid rebidding process in 2017, she remains committed to working on solutions for better quality care for patients with complex conditions in publicly funded insurance systems. She has served on the board of Access Living of Chicago, the local independent living center, and is currently a trustee of Devices4theDisabled, a not-for-profit medical equipment recycling program. In 2019, she left clinical practice to work on structural solutions in health reform.

## Education

University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (1986)

Internship in Internal Medicine, Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago (1986-87)

Residency in PM&R McGaw Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (1987-1990)

Fellowship in Clinical Medical Ethics at MacLean Center, University of Chicago (1994-95)

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