

BACKGROUND

EDUCATION	<i>Doctor of Philosophy</i>	<i>Expected 2027</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Philosophy and Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto (with Collaborative Specialisation in Bioethics) “<i>Doctoring Decision-making: Can limiting treatment options promote autonomy?</i>” Supervised by: Andrew Franklin-Hall, Amy Mullin, Brendan De Kennessey, Sunit Das 	
	<i>Honours Bachelor of Arts (with High Distinction), University of Toronto</i>	<i>2021</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double major in International Relations and Bioethics (Philosophy) 	

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS	Canada Graduate Research Scholarship-Doctoral (CGRS D), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Faculty of Arts and Science Top Doctoral Fellowship (FAST) Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) Massey College Junior Fellowship	<i>2024–2026</i> <i>2021–2025</i> <i>2023–2024</i> <i>2021–2027</i>
---------------------------	--	--

RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS	AREA OF SPECIALISATION: Bioethics AREAS OF COMPETENCE: Ethics, Political Philosophy
-----------------------	--

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED
ARTICLES
(FULL LENGTH)

(* denotes co-first
authorship.

- Chen, Stacy S.** 2025. “A ‘Code-Switching’ Model for Healthcare Communication.” *Healthcare Management Forum*, 38 (4): 391–94. (in special issue on healthcare ethics) [\[Link to article\]](#)
- Brenna, Connor T. A.*, **Stacy S. Chen***, Matthew Cho, Liam G. McCoy, and Sunit Das. 2023. “Steering Clear of Akrasia: An Integrative Review of Self-Binding Ulysses Contracts in Clinical Practice.” *Bioethics* 37 (7): 690–714. [\[Link to article\]](#)
- Chen, Stacy S.**, Sunit Das. 2022. “‘What Are My Options?’: Physicians as Ontological Decision Architects in Surgical Informed Consent.” *Bioethics* 36 (9): 936–39. [\[Link to article\]](#)

4. McCoy, Liam G., Connor T.A. Brenna, **Stacy S. Chen**, Karina Vold, and Sunit Das. 2022. "Believing in Black Boxes: Machine Learning for Healthcare Does Not Need Explainability to Be Evidence-Based." *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 142 (February): 252–57. [\[Link to article\]](#)
5. **Chen, Stacy S.** 2024. "The Harms of Imagining the Ideal." *Canadian Journal of Bioethics* 7 (1): 50. [\[Link to article\]](#)
6. **Chen, Stacy S.**, Connor T A Brenna, Joost Mollen, and Sunit Das. 2025. "Which Risks Can Undermine Benefits in Research?" *The American Journal of Bioethics* 25 (5): 86–88.
7. **Chen, Stacy S.**, Connor T. A. Brenna, Matthew Cho, Liam G. McCoy, and Sunit Das. 2024. "The Name of the Game: A Wittgensteinian View of 'Invasiveness.'" *Journal of Medical Ethics* 50 (4): 240–41.
8. **Chen, Stacy S.***, Liam G. McCoy*, Samuel Forster, Connor T. A. Brenna, Nir Lipsman, and Sunit Das. 2022. "Continuums of Capacity, Binaries of Guilt: The Sociopolitical Role of Neuroethics in Criminal Justice." *AJOB Neuroscience* 13 (1): 25–28.
9. **Chen, Stacy S.** 2024. "Global Health Impact: Extending Access to Essential Medicines, Written by Nicole Hassoun." *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, January, 1–4. (*Book review*)
10. The Oxford Handbook of Ethics of AI: An Annotated Bibliography. (*An ongoing collaboration among faculty and students affiliated with the Ethics of AI Lab, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, contributor from September 2019 to July 2020*).

NON-PEER
REVIEWED
(SHORTER;
COMMENTARIES;
OTHER)

FORTHCOMING

11. (*Invited*) Chapter on Ethical Considerations in Neuro-Oncology, in upcoming volume of the Handbook of Clinical Neurology, with Sunit Das.

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED
PRESENTATIONS

- (*Upcoming*) "A Capacity-Sensitive Approach to Disagreement", *June 2026*
Institute of Medical Ethics (IME) Conference, Bristol, United Kingdom.,
- "Competent until contradictory", Institute of Medical Ethics (IME)
Conference, London, United Kingdom. *July 2024*
- "Multi-cultural healthcare systems and the role of family and
familiarity in medical interpretation", Institute of Medical Ethics
(IME) Postgraduate Bioethics Conference (PGBC), hosted by the
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom. *June 2023*
- "Barriers and biases: Informed consent with family members as
medical interpreters" Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical
Association (CPA), Toronto, ON, Canada. *May 2023*

- “Lowering the high epistemic barriers to entry in medicine to promote pluralism and patient trust” Bioethics in Society (BIOS) Conference, hosted by the Research Center for Clinical Ethics (CREC) of the University of Insubria, Como, Italy. *October 2022*

 INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Do patients implicitly agree to treatment?”, National University of Singapore (NUS) Philosophical Bioethics Workshop, Singapore, Singapore. *June 2025*
- “The ethics of medical interpretation by untrained family members”, Ethics rounds, Champlain Centre for Health Care Ethics, Ottawa ON, Canada. *May 2025*
- *(Prepared but did not attend. Presented by co-panellist.)* Symposium on Population Health Ethics: Measuring and Modeling Injustice organized by Carina Fourie. American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific. San Francisco, USA. *April 2025*
- “Patience and patients: How can we address unreasonableness in medical decision-making?” Ethics and Political Philosophy Group, University of Toronto, Toronto ON, Canada. *December 2023*

 EXPERIENCE

TEACHING

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Teaching Assistant: Grader, Ethics, Genetics, and Reproduction *Jan–Apr 2026*

Teaching Assistant: Grader, Science Fiction and Philosophy *Jul–Aug 2025*

Teaching Assistant: Tutorial Leader, Bioethics *Jan–Apr 2025*

Teaching Assistant: Grader, Introduction to Political Philosophy *Jan–Apr 2022*

TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Invited Guest Lecturer, FCD918/ RTA 918/MP8918 Ethics in Media *February 2022*

- Presentation: “Bioethics, Media Ethics, and the Problem of Pluralism.”

ACADEMIC WORK

Lead, “Interdisciplinary Bioethics” Working Group, funded by a grant from the Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto *2025–2026*

Board member, Health Sciences Research Ethics Board *May 2024–present*

Facilitator/ethicist, UofT Temerty Faculty of Medicine MD Program
Ethics and Professionalism Seminars *Jan 2023–present*

OTHER RELEVANT
EXPERIENCE

ST MICHAEL’S HOSPITAL *Jun–Aug 2023*
Shadowing student in clinic

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Research Assistant to Dr. Sunit Das. *Jan 2020–present*
Working on projects related to physician-patient relationships,
informed consent and autonomy, neuroscience and neuroethics,
ethics of AI.

Research Assistant and Copyeditor for Professor Arthur Ripstein. *Nov 2022–*
For Hussain, Waheed (2023). *Living with the Invisible Hand:* *Jan 2023*
Markets, Corporations, and Human Freedom. New York, US: OUP
USA. Edited by Arthur Ripstein & Nicholas Vrousalis.

Research Assistant and Copyeditor for Professor Markus Dubber at the *Sept 2019–*
Centre for Ethics. *Sept 2020*
Responsible for editing of manuscripts, research and preparation for
seminars, and facilitation various lectures and events at the Centre
related to topics such as pedagogy, ethics of AI, medical ethics, and
law.

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL
Research Assistant and Copyeditor for Professor David Weisstub *Jan–July 2021*
Congress coordinator for International Academy of Law and Mental
Health (IALMH). Copyeditor for volume on ethics of suicide (Brian
Mishara; David Weisstub) and edited volume on medical ethics.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
Research Assistant to Professor Reuben Wong *2017–2019*
Assisted on data collection and organisation for two projects, on: (i)
Singaporean foreign affairs, (ii) ASEAN–EU relations.

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

REVIEWER
Journal of Medical Ethics, BMJ
Bioethics, Wiley
Health Care Analysis, Springer Nature

Medicine, Health Care, and Philosophy, Springer Nature
 University of Toronto Department of Philosophy Graduate Conference

CHAIRED SESSIONS

2024 Inaugural Toronto Bioethics Workshop. “Autonomy in Algorithms?”.
2023 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA),
 Toronto, ON, Canada. Social and Political Philosophy session.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Canadian Philosophical Association 2021–present
 American Philosophical Association 2021–present

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Co-Chair Massey Grand Rounds, Massey College 2024–2025
Chair, Underrepresented Philosophy (UP) Caucus,
 Department of Philosophy 2023–2024

COMMUNITY AND
LEADERSHIP

Chair Massey Grand Rounds, Massey College 2024–2025
Member Temerty Centre for AI Research and Education
 in Medicine (T-CAIREM) 2024–present
Member Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and Disability Working
 Group led by Professor Marlene Goldman, University of Toronto. 2023–2024
Volunteer Noteworthy Music Program, UofT Medical Society 2022–2023
Volunteer Judge Ontario Ethics Bowl June 2022
Organiser “Vidhya” interdisciplinary journal club, Massey College 2021–2023
Member Massey Grand Rounds, Massey College 2021–present
Member Philosophy of Medicine Working Group, University of Toronto. 2021–2023
Member Ethics and Political Philosophy Research Interest Group,
 Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto 2021–present
Member Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YFPF) 2020–2021

SKILLS AND DETAILS

CERTIFICATIONS [TCPS 2: CORE-2022 \(Government of Canada research ethics certification\)](#)
 LANGUAGE COMPETENCY English (native), Chinese: Mandarin (working proficiency)
 CITIZENSHIP Canadian citizen, Singaporean permanent resident

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

When practitioners are presenting treatment options to a patient, the current process of informed consent ensures the ethics of this decision by requiring that the patient understands the risks and benefits of each treatment option and chooses the one best aligned with their values (Beauchamp 2011; Drolet and White 2012; Falagas et al. 2009; Grady 2015; Steinberg 2009). Herein lies a puzzle. The practitioner could conceivably describe all possible paths forward (from the most medically substantiated treatment option to an ineffective option to doing nothing, and everything in between), but time is limited. Present too many and the patient is bewildered. Present too few and the fear is this compromises the patient's autonomy. Thus, it seems that the practitioner must determine a set of options to present. How does one choose what to bring forward? My doctoral research describes this construction of the option set in clinical decision-making, and consists of three parts: a descriptive section, a normative section, and practical applications. I describe how the nature of the medical profession requires physicians to determine a subset of courses of actions to present to their patient, based on the medical knowledge that they acquire through their experience and training. My normative argument builds upon this descriptive section to argue that it is permissible to omit options if those options would tempt the patient to go against their genuine values, and that this omission can promote autonomy. Finally, I apply this argument to address how the current informed consent process is impacted, and how it can be improved. I propose a shift from privileging patient autonomy to recognising what I call the "implicit agreement" that underlies the practitioner-patient relationship which grounds assumed adherence to the medical field's norms and practices. This alleviates the burdens of measuring "true" patient understanding and captures the real-life scenario of "whatever you say, doc". This agreement simply asks whether the patient is willing to give over some control to their medical team, with the reassurance that their practitioner will adhere to the ethical standards set by their professional duties.

REFEREES

Professor Andrew Franklin-Hall
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Toronto
andrew.franklin.hall@utoronto.ca

Professor Amy Mullin
Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto
amy.mullin@utoronto.ca

Sunit Das, MD, PhD, FACS, FABNS, FRCS(C)
Professor and Keenan Chair in Surgery
Division of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto
sunit.das@utoronto.ca