The Committee on Philosophy and Medicine has undergone changes in membership over the last year. Fritz Allhoff (Western Michigan University), Loretta Kopelman (East Carolina University), Kevin McDonnell (St. Mary’s College and Notre Dame), and I (Kutztown University of Pennsylvania) joined the committee on July 1, 2007. We were then joined by Richard Dees (University of Rochester) and James Nelson (Michigan State) on July 1, 2008. Kenneth Richman (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Boston) has continued to serve as a member of the Committee, and Robert Baker (Union College and Mt. Sinai) completed his last year of a three-year term of service on June 30, 2008. I would like to thank David DeGrazia, the former Chair, for his help in the transition and Lee Brown, Ben Rich, Gary Seay, and Robert Baker for their many years of dedicated service.

There has also been a change in editorialship of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and Medicine*. After many years, Rosamond Rhodes (Mt. Sinai) decided to step down as co-editor. She began editing the *Newsletter* in 1995 and continuously served as an editor of the *Newsletter* and *ex officio* member of the Committee until the end of last year. She contributed tremendously to the working of the Committee, including organizing seven special sessions at APA meetings. Her imprint and legacy will remain. Fortunately, for the Committee and field, Mark Sheldon (Northwestern), who joined her as co-editor of the *Newsletter* in 2001, will continue to serve in this capacity. He is now joined by Mary Rorty (Stanford), as co-editor. Both will continue to serve as *ex officio* members of the Committee. The *Newsletter* has been an excellent source for current information and work in the field. We are confident that this will continue under their direction.

The Committee has continued its collaboration with the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities by sponsoring a session on “Genetic Testing of Minors for Adult-Onset Disorders” at the annual ASBH meeting on October 18–21, 2007, in Washington, D.C. Mary Rorty chaired the session, which featured Ray Frey (Bowling Green), Loretta Kopelman, Kevin Kovach, and Bonnie Steinbock (State University of New York, Albany). This meeting also provided the opportunity for a number of us on the Committee to meet and discuss plans for future activities.

In December 2007, Robert Baker organized and chaired our session on the “Philosophical Foundations of Bioethics” at the Eastern Division Meeting of the APA in Washington, D.C. Tom Beauchamp (Georgetown) and Bernard Gert (Dartmouth) discussed the differences and
commonalities between a “principles approach” and common morality theory as foundational for bioethics. The other speakers, Rebecca Kukla (Carleton), D. Micah Hester (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences), and Laurence McCullough (Baylor), emphasized alternative perspectives on the foundations of bioethics, including empiricism, narrative ethics, pragmatism, and the “uncommon morality” of the medical profession. Papers by D. Micah Hester and Laurence McCullough were published in the Spring 2008 edition of the Newsletter.

At the 2008 Central Division Meeting of the APA, Kevin McDonald chaired our timely panel on “Physicians at War: The Dual Loyalties Challenge.” Papers were presented by Fritz Allhoff (Western Michigan), Michael Davis (Illinois Institute of Technology), Matthew Wynia (American Medical Association Institute for Ethics), Marcus Adams (Western Michigan University), and Justin List (Loyola University, Chicago – Stritch School of Medicine). Their articles will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

The topic for our session at the 2008 Pacific Division Meeting, which I chaired, was “Persons, Human Organisms, and Bioethics.” It featured papers by Marya Schechtman (University of Illinois at Chicago), David Shoemaker (Bowling Green), David Hershonov (University at Buffalo, SUNY), and Mary Anne Warren (Professor Emeritus, San Francisco State University). By convening this session on the metaphysics and bioethics of persons, we hope to have brought together philosophers working on more theoretical issues on the ontology of persons and those occupied primarily with the practical cases in bioethics. The panel was interested in exploring how alternative views of the nature of the relationship between persons and human organisms affects the evaluation of bioethical cases at the beginning and end of life, and conversely, how ethical and practical considerations may be relevant to deciding among alternative theories of personhood and the relation between the person and human organism. There is some degree of disconnection between philosophers engaged in more theoretical work on morality and the metaphysics of persons and those engaged primarily in bioethics. We hope that the session and publication of the papers in a future edition of the Newsletter will help to bridge this gap.

Continuing our collaboration with the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities, we will sponsor a panel on “Common Morality Revisited” at the 10th Annual Meeting of ASBH on October 23-26, 2008, in Cleveland, Ohio. Common morality theory has been accepted as the basis of bioethics by a number of eminent philosophically trained bioethicists, including Tom Beauchamp, James Childress, Bernard Gert, Ruth Macklin, and Robert Veatch. The theory has also evolved since its formulation in the 1970s. Tom Beauchamp (Georgetown), and Bernard Gert (Dartmouth) will present their latest versions of common morality theory, and John Arras (University of Virginia) will provide critical commentary. Robert Baker (Union College and Mt. Sinai) will act as moderator.

At the 2008 Eastern Division Meeting on December 27-30, 2008 in Philadelphia, we will sponsor a panel on “Ethical and Conceptual Issues in the Classification and Treatment of Mental Illness.” The speakers will be Dominic Murphy (California Institute of Technology), Claire
Pouncy (Temple University), and Jennifer Radden (University of Massachusetts, Boston). Kenneth Richman will chair and moderate the discussion. This topic is of particular and immediate concern, given the increased use of psychoactive drugs in young children and the increasing suspicion with which the public views pharmaceutical companies. We hope that the session will go beyond familiar criticisms of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* to explore foundational issues and their connection to bioethics.

The Committee welcomes suggestions for special sessions at the divisional meetings and other ways that it can better serve the membership and broader community.