"PRICING AND ACCESS TO DRUGS 
IN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLDS"

ABOUT TODAY'S SPEAKERS

Dr. Ronald Duska  
Lamont Post Chair of Ethics and the Professions  
Director, James. A. and Linda R. Mitchell Center for Ethical Leadership, The American College

Topic: "Do Pharmaceutical Companies in a Free Market System Have a Moral Obligation to Assure Patient Access to Their Drugs?"

Abstract: There is a difference between charity and obligations of justice. While firms in a capitalist system do not have a duty to act charitably or "do good," they do have an obligation to treat others according to norms of justice. Justice requires not only that we avoid harming of others; it also requires on some occasions that we act to prevent harms. This latter obligation of justice entails that companies have a duty to provide positive assistance to those in dire, mortal need, especially when there is not likely to be sufficient assistance coming from other sources.

* * * * *

Ronald F. Duska, Ph.D., has held the Charles Lamont Post Chair of Ethics and the Professions at The American College since 1996. He also is the director of the James A. and Linda R. Mitchell Center for Ethical Leadership at the College, which sponsors a yearly forum on ethical leadership that brings together prominent chief executives from financial services companies with internationally prominent business ethicists.

Dr. Duska is an author or editor of numerous books and articles on philosophy and business ethics. His most recent books include The Ethics of Accounting and Ethics for the Financial Services Professional (2003). He is currently working on a collection of his writings, Essays in Business Ethics. Dr. Duska's articles on philosophy and business ethics include: “Losing Soul,” “Ethics and the Risk Manager,” “The Future of Cheating in Financial Services,” and “Enron, 9/11, and Harry Potter: Implications for Financial Service Professionals,” among others.

Dr. Duska has taught at numerous universities, including The Wharton School at Penn and the University of Virginia, where he is a senior fellow of the Olson Center. He is also a consultant on business ethics, offering continuing education seminars and workshops on business ethics in the financial services industry. For ten years, he served as the executive director of the Society for Business Ethics, which publishes the prestigious Business Ethics Quarterly. He also serves on the executive board of The Academy of Business Education and the Pennsylvania State Board of Accountancy. Dr. Duska earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Northwestern University, where his primary research was in the area of ethical theory.