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GEORGE SMITH

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I am genuinely honored by the editors' invitation to contribute a few words to the dedication of this issue in honor of my friend and colleague, Professor George Smith, II. Our friendship dates to 1978 when I first assumed the Presidency of The Catholic University of America. From the outset our careers and personal friendship converged in our mutual interests in the identity and integrity of Catholic higher education, in the intersections of law with medicine in the burgeoning field of bioethics, and the then emerging impact of bioethics on public policy.

Professor Smith has a unique relationship with the *Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Public Policy*. He was the founding editor of the Journal and long time faculty advisor. His interest in students made the Journal genuinely a faculty-student project from the outset. It was my privilege to learn about his hopes for a student-faculty journal exploring the intersections between law and ethics as a scholarly endeavor. George often reminded Dean Steven Frankino and me of the way bioethics was bringing ethical issues into the political arena. He was acutely aware of its significance for today's lawyer.

George Smith is an internationally acclaimed scholar and a pioneer in cultivating the interdisciplinary study of questions in which law, medical ethics and bioethics intersect. Perhaps the most powerful testimony to his worldwide influence can be gleaned from the number and location of visiting professorships to which he has been invited. I have counted over 100 such appointments at prestigious universities in America, England, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Smith's publications range from medical legal aspects of cryonics, the nature of autonomous choices to genetics and the law, to name a few.

I owe much to Professor Smith's written work but most of all to the privilege of private conversations about how medicine, law and bioethics must stay in dialogue with each other. He has offered useful critiques of my own work and assisted me in understanding the intricacies of consent, futility, and conscience at the junction points between law and medicine. These conversations have been all the more enjoyable when framed by Smith's wit and practical good sense.

The legacy of Smith's scholarship, his interests in law students and his special concern for biomedical ethics will enrich the Journal for a long time to come.