

## PLATO Philosophy Fund Application

Project Title: High School Bioethics Summer Academy

Dates for Project: 6/1/19 to 9/1/19

Amount of funding requested: \$2,300

Project Personnel (Division of Medical Ethics, Department of Population Health, NYU School of Medicine):

- Kelly McBride Folkers, MA, Associate Director of the High School Bioethics Project, Research Associate
- Angela Turi, Research Assistant
- Arthur L. Caplan, PhD, Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor and Director of the Division of Medical Ethics

1. Please describe the project, including any work that has already been done to develop it. (500 words max)

The High School Bioethics Summer Academy is the most recent product of the [High School Bioethics Project](#), an educational outreach program integral to the Division of Medical Ethics at the New York University School of Medicine. What was initially created to produce freely available online teaching tools has evolved into a multi-faceted venture that enjoys school sponsorships and extends annual student internships.

As a means of continuing to promote the growth of the program and to test new content, the High School Bioethics Project administrators conceived a High School Bioethics Summer Academy: a three-day educational experience that would invite high school students to learn about bioethics from seasoned professionals within the field.

Over the course of the three-day program, participants will engage in an integrative bioethical experience designed to provide a robust introduction of the discipline to young students who may or may not have had any prior exposure. Not only will students learn the fundamental elements of bioethics through comprehensive introductory presentations, they will be exposed to a wide range of specific bioethical content, varying from a presentation on the history of food regulation to a talk on current vaccine ethics and policy.

2. What is the purpose of this project? (500 words max)

To foster the mission of the High School Bioethics Project, the High School Bioethics Summer Academy serves to encourage students to think critically about the ethical implications inherent in the curriculum that they learn in typical life science classes. We believe that having contact with bioethical topics at a high school level will equip students with essential decision-making skills necessary for dealing with the ethical dilemmas and policy choices ahead of them as citizens and in their careers.

One of our main objectives in offering this unique experience is to extend the opportunity to learn about bioethics to students from low-resource schools. We know from prior experiences that by offering students an opportunity to learn about science and medicine

from a bioethical perspective, students will find themselves motivated to further pursue STEM education in their undergraduate education and beyond.

In hosting such a special opportunity, in which young students can interact with those at the forefront of bioethics, we wish to set an educational precedent that encourages other institutions to follow suit. The Academy's ultimate purpose is found in its catalytic potential.

3. Who will benefit from the project, and how? (500 words max)

In recognizing the lack of bioethical topics in most existing high school curricula, especially in under-resourced schools, we hope to impact the way they think about the life sciences in their high school education. Our goal is for students to take what they learn in the Academy back to their life sciences classroom in the academic year by fostering a greater discussion of bioethics with their fellow classmates. While the ultimate goal is to enhance STEM education for individual students who attend the Academy, we hope that students will make their educators aware of their experience and, in particular, the High School Bioethics Project's modules available for free online.

To ensure the most productive discussion amongst participants, interested students will be required to outline their reasons for attending the Academy via a formal application. In an effort to make sure the educational experience is as effective as possible, we are looking to keep the participant count modest, ultimately seeking an intimate group of 20 high school students from the greater New York City metropolitan area.

As evidenced in the past successes of the Project, we anticipate that our efforts will create a highly motivated cohort. In hosting opportunities for students to learn about bioethics, we hope to be a model for others. For us, the High School Bioethics Summer Academy is a stepping stone in achieving our ultimate goal of concretizing bioethical discussion in the high school classroom. In this way, we believe that many more than just the select number of Academy participants will benefit from this project as we view the Academy as a "pilot project" for future, larger endeavors aimed at both students and teachers.

4. What is the plan for developing and implementing the project? Include a timeline.

January-March 2019

- Submit PLATO grant application
- Plan logistics, including dates of academy
- Create schedule of speakers and topics
- Create application through Google Forms
- Assemble committee of Division faculty and staff that will review applications
- Advertisement via contact list, Division site, and list serves

April

- Academy applications due by April 1

- Committee meets second week of April to review applications and schedule student interviews
- Finalize list of speakers, curriculum, and advance readings

May

- Release acceptance notifications to successful applicants
- Establish contact with participants regarding transportation, food, and other financial needs

June/early July

- Send out initial readings and orientation information
- Academy to be hosted end of June/early July

5. What other funding sources have you explored for this project?

We are not seeking any other funding sources for this project.

6. Please list your budget, including any amounts from other sources.

We have requested a total of \$2,300 for the Academy. We will not know the transportation needs of the participants until we have completed enrollment. As such, we have requested this sum so that we can accommodate any student who lives in or adjacent to the five boroughs of New York City. Any funding that is not used to accommodate Academy participants will go toward costs associated with maintaining and expanding the High School Bioethics Project website and content.

We have requested a food budget so that we can alleviate any financial or logistical concerns that students may have about participating in the Academy. As we hope that students from low resource schools will participate, we want to eliminate as many financial barriers for individual students as possible.

	Per person (one way)	Per person (round trip)	Per day (per 20 participants)	Length of academy (for 20 participants)
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Metrocard	\$2.75	\$5.50	\$110	\$330
<b>FOOD*</b>	\$31.19	-	\$623.80	\$1,871.40
<b>Breakfast</b>	\$10.54	-	\$210.80	\$632.40
<b>Lunch</b>	\$11.58	-	\$231.60	\$694.80
<b>Snack</b>	\$6.75	-	\$135	\$405
<b>Beverages</b>	\$2.32	-	\$46.40	\$139.20
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPLIES (and emailing)</b>				
Folders	\$2	-	\$40	-

\*Europa Café catering