UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

ETHICS IN SCIENCE

Lecture Series

The Decision to Put David Vetter in the Bubble

James H. Jones, Ph.D., University of Arkansas (emeritus)



Wednesday, April 16, 2014 11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. University of Houston 232 Philip G. Hoffman Hall



David Vetter was born with a rare disease that destroys the immune system. Moments after birth, he was placed in an isolator that maintained a germ free environment. The medical scientists who cared for him were unable to find a cure or devise a strategy to free him from isolation. Consequently, David spent all but a few days of his 12 years of life trapped inside this bubble, unable to touch or be touched. His brief period of freedom came when he was dying and too ill to enjoy it. Professor Jones approaches this as an important case study in human experimentation, analyzing the complicated decision to place David in the isolator and the relevant ethical issues.



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