January 12, 2012: “Ethics and Patient Compliance”
Dr. Douglas Olsen, Nurse Ethicist, National Center for Ethics in Healthcare and Associate Professor at the Uniformed Services University (USA) gave a presentation which shed the light on the ethical considerations related patients’ lack of compliance with treatment recommendations which were considered in light of moral obligations to both provide optimum treatment and respect patients’ lifestyle and treatment choices. In addition, Dr. Olsen examined the psychology of risk assessment as a possible source of differences between patients’ and clinicians’ appraisals of the effects of poor health behaviors. The presentation reviewed the principles of respect for autonomy and beneficence in relation to justifications for overriding a patient’s stated wishes. Suggestions for approaches arising from relational ethics and for considering the degree and type of influence that can ethically be used with patients when forced treatment is not appropriate were offered. The lecture took place in SB 101 and was followed by Qs and As.