

National Institutes of Health

From 2001-2005, through my connection with Post-Polio Health International, I served as a member of the National Advisory Board for NIH's Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research. Here are PDFs of three overlapping lectures from that time. The developing material in them on the concept of health eventually worked its way into my book *Habilitation, Health, and Agency* (2012).

[Eudaimonistic Psychology](#) (2004) [Positive Psychological Health](#) (2004) [Medical Rehabilitation](#) (2005)

CHEST Meetings 2003, American College of Chest Physicians

While I was on the board of Post-Polio Health International (2000-2011) I also gave a number of presentations to bioethics committees and medical groups. Some of the more formal presentations survive, and three of those were given at a single medical conference. One of those, in particular, is connected to some of my philosophical work on good lives. It contains some graphs about distinct conceptions of the good life which I have used in various teaching contexts but never published. Here are links to PDF files of those three presentations. [Good Lives](#) [Justice for Caregivers](#) [Aging Presentation](#)

Essays and Talks for Post-Polio Health International

["Rehabilitation into Independent Living,"](#) ---1989. A contribution to the 30th anniversary issue of the *Rehabilitation Gazette*, Volume 29:1-2, pages 8-11. Charlotte Becker's contribution is on pages 12-13. The title of that issue was the implicit title of each essay in the series of personal accounts by polio survivors and their spouses.

["Sedation for Surgery"](#) – 2003. A personal account of how minimally invasive surgical techniques can yield good outcomes for people with neuromuscular disabilities who are dependent on at least nighttime use of mechanical ventilators.

[Disability, Diversity, and Reciprocity.](#) -- 2006. I include here the text that formed the basis of a 2006 presentation to the diversity committee of a large bank – then called Wachovia, but since folded into Wells Fargo. [The actual PowerPoint presentation is here.](#) it contains a lot of autobiographical pictures and clippings about the early days of my encounter with polio. In those early days (1952-1957), I was expected to make myself available for a lot of March of Dimes publicity efforts – first to support both patients and the effort to find a vaccine (before its arrival in 1955), and then to press for its use to end the epidemics in the US, which finally happened in a big series of drops from 1958-1961. After that, I did next to nothing about this in an autobiographical way for four decades – except for a radio interview for NPR's *All Things Considered*. In 2000, I began to do a good deal of work with Post-Polio Health International. I then considered accepting invitations like this one from Wachovia as part of my obligation as an officer of PHI.

(When I first moved to Roanoke in 1965, the local predecessor of Wachovia was called First National Exchange Bank. I like a bank whose name implies an exchange relationship with its customers, and is housed in a substantial four-story building downtown with a spacious, high ceilinged, main floor reminiscent of a big-city bank of the early 1900s. That building still stands, but every successive merger over the years has added more space in nearby new office towers. And some of the name changes have not been appealing. Dominion Bank, for example. The presentation to Wachovia was given somewhere in the twenty-three-story tower that Dominion built. No money changed hands.)

["Still Here, after All These Years"](#) – 2011. An essay arguing for the importance of long-term functional rehabilitation as a lesson learned vividly from the polio epidemics and unfortunately often forgotten – or pushed out of the picture – in more "modern" times.

["Developing a Personal Philosophy about Disability"](#) – 2014. A 15-minute video recording of an essay written for a PHI conference that I could not otherwise attend. The audience – evenly divided between medical professionals and post-polio folks, and numbering about 200 – would have understood the extent of my disability from my few sentences at the beginning. They would also know, given my age and failing voice and glassopharyngeal breathing, that the reason for my inability to travel to the conference was probably related to declining strength.