This workshop will provide participants an opportunity to explore the contours of the established framework for decision making in the neonatal context, drawing on an historical overview of the cases that gave rise to the framework – from Baby Doe to Baby K – and applying the framework to actual cases. We will give specific attention to questions such as: What does it mean to make decisions in a baby's best interest? Who ought to have the authority to make a best interest judgment? What is the proper scope and limit of parental authority when it comes to making life and death decisions for neonates? What happens when the health care team disagrees with the parents' assessment of what would be in their baby's best interest? What has been gained and what has been lost in the move from medical paternalism to shared decision making in the neonatal context? What do we make of the different perceptions parents and NICU staff often have of a baby's quality of life or degree of suffering? What are some strategies that can be used to more effectively address ethical dilemmas when they arise in the NICU?

**Susan Rubin, PhD**
Co-founder of The Ethics Practice, a firm providing bioethics education, research, and clinical consultation

Dr. Rubin has served as a consulting ethicist in a variety of settings, including the national Kaiser Permanente system, helping to set up, train, and support the ongoing work of ethics committees and providing educational and consultation support for healthcare professionals, institutions, and organizations.

Dr. Rubin received her B.A. in political philosophy and socioeconomic policy problems from James Madison College at Michigan State University and her M.A. and Ph.D., both in philosophy and bioethics, from The Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University.

She is author of When Doctors Say No: The Battleground of Medical Futility, co-editor of Margin of Error: The Ethics of Mistakes in The Practice of Medicine, and author of numerous articles. She is also co-chair of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities Clinical Ethics Task Force.

**Francie Hornstein, LCSW**

Ms. Hornstein has worked for forty years in the area of women’s reproductive health and parenting. She received her MSW at UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare and for the last 11 years has been the NICU social worker with the Kaiser Oakland NICU Team. Francie served on the Ethics Committees at Alta Bates/Summit Medical Center and is currently a member of the Kaiser Oakland Ethics Committee. She has a special interest in ethical issues in reproductive technology, babies at the edge of viability; and in joint decision-making between patients/families and medical teams in medical settings.