http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/27/a-boy-a-dog-and-a-decision/?ref=opinion&_r=0

*Bloomberg Business* includes an article: "These Are the Happiest Countries in the World; The U.S. ranks No. 15 among 158 countries in the World Happiness Report 2015" by Peter Coy.  
https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__bit.ly_KenPopeWorldHappinessReport&d=AwIFAg&c=-dg2m7zWuuDZ0MUcV7Sdqw&r=ilr9yRq05BE0IknXXToR0bu60thZm25akK9E7YMCr0mo&m=Bq9utRUNM9vn3nAnlfF6mKFua7cBqvW8FoV41-aLhg4&s=h6fo2bNoSCApKBNAmnjiB9R6MV2JuphIZx9tnkjBhYc&e=


“Bacteria making medicines [stronger] in wastewater outflows,” May 13, 2015, By Brian Bienkowski Environmental Health News  
Wastewater treatment plants not only struggle removing pharmaceuticals, it seems some drugs actually increase after treatment.  

http://nyti.ms/1GFlti

**Dr. Ronald Banner’s Reply:**
Dear Sandeep,
Thank you for sharing your latest article with me. As always, your articles raise important questions facing both practitioners and patients (and their family and friends) in healthcare in America.

We DO need to have a discussion about the competing values of autonomy and social justice, balancing allocation of scarce resources, cost, and “futility” with the patients’ and or their
surrogates' right to make the final judgement about quality of life. Hospital Ethics Committees, by involving a broad range of professional and community representatives, can help - more by the process used in the personal discussions amongst ALL those involved rather than by guidelines, although they can be of help, also. For me, the use of power, and the abuse of power, is the elephant in the room.

I have been privileged to read and hear Dr. James Kirkpatrick and his colleagues at Penn on the important subject of Palliative Cardiac Care; their process has changed my thinking about how to successfully negotiate these discussions, balancings, hearing others - in non-cardiac issues also - and I would welcome their response, and others' reactions, to your article.

Gratefully,
Ron Banner

Navajo Snack Tax Success A Model For Other Communities
http://www.law360.com/foodbeverage/articles/638201
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By Ama Sarfo
Law360, New York (April 07, 2015, 5:08 PM ET) -- The Navajo Nation recently became the first U.S. community to pass a controversial "junk food tax" in an effort to steer its citizens toward healthier food options. And if other jurisdictions want to follow in the nation’s success, they’ll need to tap into grassroots power and spin similar taxes as a positive, not punitive, measure, experts say.

http://www.nature.com/news/searching-chromosomes-for-the-legacy-of-trauma-1.15369

http://blog.bioethics.gov/2014/06/10/considering-how-neuroscience-could-influence-moral-decisions/

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“Homeless Families Endure Roaches, Mice and Failed Promises,”
http://nyti.ms/1JpRXms

“The Human ‘Superpredator’ is Unique – and Unsustainable, Study Says,” Amina Khan, Los Angeles Times, August 21, 2015