More than 2 million people die every year in the United States, almost always in the presence of life-sustaining medical technology. An overwhelming consensus exists that sometimes the choices posed by medical technology make death the least worst alternative. Yet, choosing death or letting go is often a painful and contentious business. Dr. Youngner will explore some of the ways our society and others are coping with this unavoidable dilemma.

Stuart J. Youngner is Chair of the Department of Bioethics, Susan E. Watson Professor of Bioethics, and Professor of Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University. He is an internationally recognized scholar in biomedical ethics and has published and spoken on topics including: decisions to limit life-sustaining treatment, ethics committees, physician-assisted suicide, advance directives, definitions of death, and ethical issues in organ and tissue retrieval and transplantation. He is the editor or coeditor of nine books, including *End-Of-life Decisions: A Psychological Perspective*, *The Definition of Death: Contemporary Controversies*, and *Physician-Assisted Death in Perspective: Assessing the Dutch Experience*.

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