

Bioethics

Bioethics (from Greek *bios* - life and *ethos* – mores, ethos) is a branch of applied ethics, In a broader sense bioethics encompasses all moral problems pertaining to relationship between man and all living organisms

A characteristic feature of bioethics is interdisciplinarity, because it involves philosophy and ethics, medicine, psychology, law and ecology.

Division of bioethics

General

Special

Clinical bioethics

History of Bioethics

Started 6th BC when experiments were conducted on prisoners

5th BC Hippocrates presents the Hippocratic oath (taken by healthcare professionals swearing to practice medicine ethically). The founder of medical ethics and author of the first medical Codes of Ethics (the so-called Hippocratic Oath) . Greek philosopher, a founder of medical school.

The first ethical code was officially adapted by the **American Medical Association** in 1846

AVMA: Principles of Veterinary medical Ethics

History of bioethics

-The term bioethics was first used in 1972

-term to refer to a new field devoted to human survival and an improved quality of life

-the broad terrain of the moral problems of the life sciences, ordinarily taken to encompass medicine, biology, and some important aspects of the environmental, population and social sciences

- Van Rensselaer Potter

André Hellegers (1926-1979) - an application of ethics in medicine and biomedical research

-became the ethics of medical practice and theory

The scientific community decided to make rules and regulations:

1947 Nuremberg code

1979 Belmont Report

report created by the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research

The Belmont Report consists of 3 principles

Respect for person

Principle of Beneficence

Justice

1991 Council for International Organization of Medical Sciences

Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects, sometimes informally referred to as *CIOMS Guidelines*,

Basic Bioethics Principles - 4

RESPECT for people's rights

Autonomy

Dignity

BENEFICENCE: Benefits must be proportionate to risks

Potential harm = potential good

Basic Bioethics Principles

JUSTICE: The even distribution of benefits and risks throughout society

NONMALEFICENCE: Do no harm

Experiment must stop if causes harm.

Ethics of reverence for life

Albert Schweitzer

It expresses necessity of reverence for life and deals with relationship between man and other live beings.

It asserts and appeals: When it appears necessary to damage any life one should know to what degree it is inevitable.

It contemplates on the role and suffering of experimental animals. It is not satisfied by reasoning that one could unreasonably torture any live being. If it appears inevitable to sacrifice its life for our benefit we should at least try to relieve it from suffering and pain and do not trifle with its good and life.

The man ought to do the greatest good for every live being. He should not tolerate any pain that cannot be justified or can be prevented. One must not close one's eyes and thing that suffering from which he averted does not exist.

Schweitzer's cannon :

„To understand an animal as a live being means to know dimensions of life, life existentialism and reverence for life“