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EDITORIAL

THE PLACE AND ROLE OF BIOETHICS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

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The contemporary world is in constant transformation, marked by scientific and technological progress that reshapes our understanding of life, health, and the human body. In this context, bioethics reaffirms its importance and interdisciplinary dimensions by providing the necessary framework to guide responsible research and practice. The bioethical framework directs scientific progress to serve humanity without compromising dignity, justice, or moral integrity, ensuring that the human being remains the true beneficiary and not merely a means for achieving scientific goals (Beauchamp & Childress, 2019).

Bioethics remains the moral compass of medicine and the life sciences. However, it continues to evolve in order to stay relevant and to respond effectively to contemporary challenges. Today, we witness developments such as genetic engineering, organ transplantation, medically assisted reproduction, and, increasingly, artificial intelligence finding its place in healthcare. All these raise questions not only about what can be done, but also about what should be done - whether everything that is possible is indeed necessary or beneficial for us as individuals and as a society. Thus, bioethics encourages critical reflection on the implications of these innovations, seeking to protect human rights and promote fair access to healthcare (Singer, 2011). For example, gene-editing technologies such as CRISPR/Cas9 represent major progress in genetics and offer hope for innovative and life-saving treatments. At the same time, they generate ethical debates to ensure a balance between scientific innovation, respect for human life, and social equality (ten Have & Gordijn, 2014).

Bioethics has diversified in response to the growing complexity of both science and modern social life. From its initial focus on issues in clinical practice, it has now expanded beyond medicine to address topics such as environmental ethics - which extends moral concern to ecosystems and future generations, big data (digital bioethics), biotechnology, and global health (Chadwick, 2012).

The importance of a proactive bioethical approach is increasingly recognized today. This approach analyzes the ethical, social, and legal implications of innovations from the earliest stages of research, guiding the responsible progress of science based on human dignity, equity, and global responsibility (ten Have & Gordijn, 2014; Beauchamp & Childress, 2019).

Social diversity also occupies a central place in the contemporary bioethical framework, recognizing the importance of intercultural dialogue and ethical pluralism, which encompass the moral perspectives of different cultures, religions, and communities (UNESCO, 2005). Bioethical decisions must identify a balance between the cultural diversity characteristic of globalization and universal ethical values such as respect for life and human rights (Gillon, 2003).

Bioethics, therefore, continues to evolve alongside the world we live in while remaining an essential endeavour and providing the framework of moral responsibility necessary for a human, inclusive, and equitable scientific progress, as well as for the ethical

management of modern social diversity (ten Have & Gordijn, 2014; Beauchamp & Childress, 2019).

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