

# A LOOK INTO THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND LEGAL CHALLENGES OF BIOETHICS

*It is more important to identify the historical context in which bioethics arose and the During the s many issues of abstract, academic concern to bioethics scholars were legal doctrines before their widespread acceptance in medical ethics. ... Capron Alexander M. Looking Back at the President's Commission.*

The Hasting Center Report, founded in , carried articles on ethical issues in medicine, the life sciences, and the professions. The propensity in the U. What are the general goals of bioethics? What is bioethics about? Must we have full moral status throughout our existence? AIDS is another biomedical challenge shot through with ethical dilemmas. Casuistry and virtue ethicsthe bottom-up approacheswere rediscovered and refined in order to examine complex bioethical issues. Purdy, L. Charles Darwin: Voyaging. Micro problems arose with each intervention. It is a special form of theorization. New York: Oxford University Press, This distribution of authority is a key technique of bioethics governance. It was by no means the case that all scholars working in the field wanted to work in a multidisciplinary way and disagreement continued over the role of empirical evidence in bioethics; and while some took the view that integration was possible and desirable, differences remained over what form integration should take. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. I shall not analyze the content of the debates on the different issues. The aims of this paper are to demonstrate that thinking about bioethics as a governance practice will enhance our understanding of such activities and to draw attention to some features of this approach that merit further consideration, thus sketching an agenda for further study. Other countries quickly followed suit. This has already started to happen with every discovery of genetic links to disease. Throughout the survey of specific literature from the late s on, I detected recurrent themes that can be grouped under six discussion headings: 1 what is bioethics and what should it be? These two rather different approaches share the insight that the nature of argumentation in bioethics is shaped by the circumstances in which it emerges. Respecting End-of-Life Treatment Preferences. The relationship between bioethics, biopower and biopolitics has not been analyzed in this article and remains to be studied in the future. Its terms of reference, as yet unchanged, require it: To identify and define ethical questions raised by recent advances in biological and medical research in order to respond to, and to anticipate, public concern; To make arrangements for examining and reporting on such questions with a view to promoting public understanding and discussion; It is also charged with publishing reports on these matters and making representations to appropriate regulatory or other bodies.