
Surgical Ethics

Alberto R. Ferreres
Editor

Surgical Ethics

Principles and Practice

 Springer

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Preface

This textbook *Surgical Ethics: Principles and Practice* is devoted to disseminate the foundations and implications of ethics in the surgical arena, the so-called surgical ethics. Theoretical ethics attempts to understand the underlying grounds, assumptions, and concepts of ethical systems; meanwhile, practical ethics is related to the application of ethical standards in everyday surgical practice and care. This book attempts to provide acting surgeons in the different fields with a thorough and deep practical insight of the field of ethics as well as tools for solving ethical conflicts in everyday care.

Surgery is characterized by some unique features: it harms before healing, penetrates the patient's body, and thus is highly invasive; decision-making is performed many times under conditions of uncertainty and is prone to risks, errors, accidents, complications, and sequelae. Thus, surgery is a moral practice, and as such, the surgeon becomes a moral fiduciary agent for his or her patient. Trust is paramount to build an effective and beneficial patient-surgeon relationship, placing the patient at the center of our fiduciary care.

Ethics lies at the core of surgical professionalism: surgeons should not only achieve surgical competence and diligence but also need to be ethically and morally reliable. In this way, an outstanding quality of care will be offered to all members of our society.

I want to specially thank all the coauthors, leaders in their fields, who have done an amazing job. Their collaboration has been outstanding, and without their participation, this book would not be in your hands today.

My eternal gratitude to Dr. Carlos Pellegrini, a true beacon in my academic life and instrumental in allowing me to contribute to this field at the University of Washington, Department of Surgery. He and his wife Kelly have been long-standing friends, mentors, and supporters.

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Buenos Aires, Argentina

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