

# BIOETHICS IN A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

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# **BIOETHICS IN A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE**

*Edited by*

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and

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**SPRINGER-SCIENCE+BUSINESS MEDIA, B.V.**

A C.I.P. Catalogue record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN 978-90-481-5872-0    ISBN 978-94-015-9706-7 (eBook)  
DOI 10.1007/978-94-015-9706-7

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*Printed on acid-free paper*

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© 2001 Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht  
Originally published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in 2001  
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2001

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## PREFACE

Writing, completing and producing a book often is a long-term project. The first ideas to develop this book were discussed at a time (1991) when the Department of Ethics, Philosophy and History of Medicine was established at the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Like in other universities, the department has emerged because three separate units have been combined. Willing to explore the potentials of all three disciplines, plans have been made to concentrate on ethics in health care but with a major emphasis on the philosophical background and historical development of moral notions and ethical problems. Staff and faculty of the department collaborated in this effort to create and elaborate such a broader approach to bioethics. This textbook is the result of this ongoing effort.

In 1992, the Department initiated an annual European Bioethics Seminar. This five days intensive programme aimed at providing an encompassing introduction into the major approaches and topics of bioethics. However, the focus also was on typically European issues and perspectives in present-day bioethics. Over the years, many colleagues have contributed as teachers in these seminars, lecturing on important topics, and as moderators in small group sessions, discussing clinical cases and analysing practical problems. Approximately two hundred students have participated, from different countries. Teachers as well as students have benefitted from the exchange of cultural experiences and moral views. Reading materials have been developed in these seminars, and these have been perfected during years of educational use. These materials finally have been brought together in this book. The annual seminar, initiated through the organisational talents of Jos Welie, have since 2000 been incorporated into a more extensive educational programme, the European Master in Bioethics. This programme offers 16 courses on all major subjects of bioethics. It is a cooperative endeavour of the universities of Nijmegen, Leuven, Padova, Madrid and Basel.

I am of course indebted to many colleagues who have contributed to the annual seminars and are now cooperating in the Masters programme. Most of them have graciously contributed to this textbook. I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of several colleagues who provided information about bioethics resources in their countries, in particular Bela Blasszauer (Hungary), Pierre Boite (France), Eugenijus Gefenas (Lithuania), Jozef Glasa (Slovak Republic), Sefik Gorkey (Turkey), Lennart Nordenfelt (Sweden), Renzo Pegoraro (Italy), Zbigniew Szawarski (Poland), Pavel Tischenko

(Russia), Lora Vidic (Slovenia), Joachim Widder (Austria), Henrik Wulff (Denmark). The finishing touch of the materials included in this book was possible because the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, Creighton University, Omaha (USA) awarded me a senior visiting fellowship. The academic atmosphere and tranquillity, as well as the superb infrastructure of one of the most beautiful ethics buildings in the world, provided the opportunity to complete the whole manuscript. I am particularly grateful to Ruth Purtilo, Director of the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, for hospitality, encouragement and friendship. Writing of a book is impossible without adequate secretarial and administrative support within the enterprise as whole. I want to thank Valesca Hulsman for the editing and revision of the language, and in particular Marian Poulissen for her unstinting supply of assistance throughout this and numerous other pieces of work.

Nijmegen  
July 2001

Henk ten Have



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