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The Basics of Bioethics

By Robert Veatch



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This brief summary of the issues of biomedical ethics provides a balanced, systematic, unbiased framework designed to help health professionals and lay people understand and analyze a wide range of topics that are currently controversial in medicine or that are likely to arise in the future. Broad in scope, it considers ethical systems from various religious and secular traditions, including those of non-western cultures such as Asian religious and secular traditions. Topics include the history of codes of ethics; the definition of death, abortion, animal rights and welfare; problems in deciding what will benefit patients; confidentiality, truth-telling, informed consent; the care of the terminally ill; genetics, birth technologies; and problems of social ethics, including resource allocation, organ transplant, and human subjects research. For use in allied health fields.



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Editorial Review

Review

"As a leader and pioneer in the field, Veatch is very solid in terms of accuracy." — Kyle Fedler, *Ashland University*

"I've used the Veatch book in teaching bioethics in short courses to non-philosophy audiences: medical students, physical therapy students, physician assistants, etc. They like it very much. It is readable, accessible, and interesting. The examples are well-chosen and memorable. The topics are well-chosen and coverage [is] appropriate. The presentation is balanced and thought-provoking." — Leslie Pickering Francis, *University of Utah*

From the Back Cover

Robert M. Veatch provides an introductory, comprehensive discussion of the major issues and theories in biomedical ethics. Developed from his own courses taught in schools of medicine and nursing, as well as undergraduate philosophy and religion courses, Veatch's text presents a systematic comparison of bioethical theory and examines the major issues faced in clinical and health policy settings.

New to the Second Edition!

- New opening chapter summarizing ethical theory as precursor to work in bioethics
- Completely updated treatment of new developments in bioethics, including laws on euthanasia in The Netherlands, a discussion of the Gelsinger Case (on gene therapy), and stem cell research
- New chapter on methods for resolving conflict among competing ethical principles
- All-encompassing chart detailing four major questions in ethics and their respective answers
- New chapter on virtues in the health professions

About the Author

Robert M. Veatch, Ph.D., is Professor of Medical Ethics and former director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, where he is also professor of philosophy and adjunct professor in the medical school. He has taught medical ethics at Georgetown, Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, Union College, and St. George's University School of Medicine. He was formerly Associate for Medical Ethics at the Hastings Center and is a registered pharmacist.

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