

General introduction

In the multidisciplinary arena where biomedical advances and ethical principles meet, bioethics is emerging as an indispensable field of critical reflection. This book is conceived as a comprehensive exploration of the ethical dilemmas raised by contemporary advances in the life sciences and medicine. Through a rigorous academic approach, we aim to provide a robust analytical framework for examining the complex ethical issues that arise at the intersection of biomedical research, clinical application and emerging technologies.

The field of bioethics, characterized by its conceptual richness and societal relevance, requires a thorough understanding of the philosophical foundations, underlying ethical principles and practical implications of scientific research on human beings and ecological systems. The book covers a wide range of topics, from ethical considerations in genomics and biotechnology to the moral issues surrounding artificial intelligence in healthcare, from ethical dilemmas at the end of life to questions of justice and equity in access to healthcare.

Each chapter is structured to offer a detailed analysis of theoretical frameworks and contemporary debates, enriched by case studies that illustrate ethical issues in real, tangible contexts. The aim is to cultivate a nuanced, multi-dimensional understanding of bioethical issues, facilitating a critical appreciation of the challenges posed by the integration of technological innovations in healthcare.

Aimed at an academic audience, including health science students, researchers and professionals in the field, this book aims to stimulate in-depth ethical reflection and promote scientific and clinical conduct informed by rigorous moral considerations. As a discipline, bioethics plays a crucial role in mediating the tensions between the possibilities offered by science and the ethical imperatives of society, ensuring that biomedical advances are made with respect for human dignity, individual autonomy and the common good.

This book is therefore intended as a significant contribution to the ongoing dialogue between science and ethics, offering informed perspectives and in-depth analyses that are essential for navigating the complex and ever-changing landscape of modern bioethics.