

Editorial

The Federal Council of Medicine (CFM) will be promoting in September 7 and 10, 2011, jointly with the Brazilian Bioethics Society (SBB) the First Brazilian Congress on Clinical Bioethics, which will be held in Brasilia concomitantly with 9th Brazilian Congress on Bioethics. The importance of this innovative initiative by CFM and SBB needs to be recorded, in as much as it responds to changes in the scope of the discipline in past years due to incorporation of social dimension within bioethics analytical scope, both by theoretical trends that have emerged, particularly but not exclusively in Latin America, and by the stimulus which the UNESCO *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights* brought to transdisciplinarity, proposed as an inherent methodology to this field.

Clinical ethics, heir of the traditional bioethics developed since 70's based on Beauchamp and Childress' Principlism, principle-based theory, currently discusses biomedicine impact on social life, particularly concerning health/disease process. Clinical bioethics uses biomedical clinic and research scenario to discuss human values and perception, guiding health professional's action in work practice inter-subjective features to approach a wide range of topics that go from therapeutics' cloning to assisted conception, regarding arising problematic, as well as reflection on death and dying, in discussing orthotanasia, euthanasia, palliative care, and abortion, which are persistent topics.

Clinical ethics proposes, based in the Principlism, but reaching out for other trends in world bioethics, a reflection funded in normative features of health sector professions, particularly in medical deontology, counterpointing these frameworks, critically and reflexively, to the legal basis and psychosocial analysis of the collective dimension, from current values such as freedom, equity, difference and equality, as expressed in the Human Rights. Thus, becoming a field for reflection on the core of professional practice (located in the confluence between technique and human inter-relationship), clinical bioethics became indispensable to professional training focused, currently, just in technique transmission.

Therefore, this branch of bioethics reflects and responds to the need of knowledge transmission on the subjective features of social relations in Professional scope, contributing for agents acknowledge the features of their social role, and be aware of their speaking corner in the inter-relationships, in the social dynamics and structure. Such awareness allows actor to become agent not just in applying their technical knowledge, but, as well, in the ethical standpoint of their Professional practice, guided to applying the Idea of respect to alterity in social life.

To descry and reflect on the subjective dimensions of the professional relationships, to understand its meaning and to act consciously in the establishing a humanist and humanized professional practice is crucial to enhance Professional training, since it contemplates the inherent feature to health professional's activity, which consists in a technical procedure applied to ethical realm, the human being. CFM considers that turning visible such "object" is a subject, it is crucial to improve medicine that, in turn, will be able to fulfill its role efficiency and effectiveness already evidenced and, still, with effectiveness that can be achieved with mastering of the human dimension of clinical practice.

To develop physician's skill to see the human being and be able to recognized his specificity, core feature in Professional practice, it is bioethics major contribution to medical training. To foster such contribution becomes one of CFM own objectives which, thus, decisively turns toward constant capacity building and improvement of Brazilian physicians, and consolidating its participation in the buildup of a democratic and plural society.

To support this opportunity to contribute toward enhancement of Brazilian health professionals is one of *Revista Bioetica* goals. Thus, editors and the editorial board are proud to present in articles published in this issue debates targeted to clinical bioethics side by side with example of plurality and scope of bioethical reflection that, we are confident, will contribute to enhance democracy and social justice that we hope to achieve in our country. A fruitful congress for all,

The editors