

EDITORIAL

Wisdom that listens, innovation that respects: bioethics as a critical consciousness of our time

José Hiran da Silva Gallo¹, Dilza Teresinha Ambrós Ribeiro², José Humberto Belmino Chaves³, Giselle Crosara Gracindo¹, José Antonio Cordero da Silva^{4,5}, Maria do Carmo Wanssa⁶, Laiane Moraes Dias⁷ e Alessandre Gomes de Lima^{8,9}

1. Conselho Federal de Medicina, Brasília/DF, Brasil. 2. Conselho Regional de Medicina do Acre, Rio Branco/AC, Brasil. 3. Universidade Federal de Alagoas, Maceió/AL, Brasil. 4. Universidade do Estado do Pará, Belém/PA, Brasil. 5. Centro Universitário Metropolitano da Amazônia, Belém/PA, Brasil. 6. Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Velho, Porto Velho/RO, Brasil. 7. Hospital Universitário João de Barros Barreto, Belém/PA, Brasil. 8. Universidade Federal do Acre, Rio Branco/AC, Brasil. 9. Centro Universitário Uninorte, Rio Branco/AC, Brasil.

For decades, bioethics has been a bridge between biomedical advances and moral foundations that sustain human coexistence. However, the challenges of the 21st century call for more than theoretical reflection: they demand sharp ethical discernment, an attentive ear to vulnerabilities, and an unwavering commitment to innovation that honors the boundaries of human dignity. In this context, *Revista Bioética* stands as a plural and dynamic space for thought, offering readers a collection of texts that encourage critical, reflective, and transformative engagement with contemporary reality.

Published for over three decades by the Brazilian Federal Council of Medicine, *Revista Bioética* serves as a key reference for ethical reflections in health, with the particular distinction of being linked to the official body that regulates medical practice in the country¹. Its origin as the first Brazilian journal devoted exclusively to ethical issues in the management of life underscores its pioneering role. Since then, the publication has expanded and earned a place in highly regarded international databases, including SciELO, Latindex, LILACS, DOAJ, Redalyc, and SCOPUS²—an achievement that grants its global visibility and strong academic recognition.

Bioética's international credibility is reaffirmed by its inclusion in the Scimago Journal Rank (SJR), which assesses the impact and influence of academic journals based on SCOPUS data³. The most recent indicators reveal the growing prominence of the journal in the international academic landscape:

- **SJR (2024):** 0.279
- **h-index:** 10
- **Classification by field:**
 - Q2 in Philosophy (positioning itself among the most relevant journals in the field)
 - Q3 in Social Health Sciences
 - Q3 in Medicine (miscellaneous)

Being ranked among the leading journals in Latin America focused on bioethics and the philosophy of health is not merely a technical recognition; it is a clear indication of the impact the journal has had as a platform for connecting knowledge, values, and public policies. In a global context marked by increasingly complex

moral dilemmas, such recognition strengthens the journal's role as a reference for researchers, healthcare professionals, and policymakers seeking to ground their decisions in solid and up-to-date ethical principles.

This volume highlights emerging topics such as application of artificial intelligence in healthcare, use of electronic consent in biomedical research, sharenting, and public sharing of surgical procedures on social media⁴. These issues not only inform but also challenge the foundations of professional ethics in times of rapid technological change. In light of this, bioethics must act as both a compass and a safeguard—not to hinder progress, but to guide it according to non-negotiable principles such as justice, autonomy, dignity, and non-maleficence⁴.

Other articles emphasize the central role of empathy and virtues in clinical practice. Topics such as breaking bad news, palliative care, advance directives, and the use of cadavers in medical education reveal persistent gaps in both training and care practice. In such cases, bioethics goes beyond normative theory and emerges as ethics lived in the encounter with others⁵.

There is also a call to rethink bioethics as a social project. Discussions around Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3), the absence of bioethics in basic education, and reproductive rights highlight the transformative potential of the field. When disconnected from structures of inequality, bioethics is at risk of becoming an empty discourse⁶.

The issue also offers readers a meta-reflection on the very foundations of bioethics. Approaches such as experimental bioethics and insights drawn from analytical psychology expand critical awareness about the paradoxes, contradictions, and epistemological limits of the field. In this context, ethical innovation demands both humility in the face of complexity and courage to embrace the tensions that challenge established models⁷.

These reflections do not aim to provide ready-made answers. Rather, they invite committed listening, ethical responsibility, and transformative action. May each reader, while engaging with these pages, find not only knowledge but also the necessary discomfort to re-enchant healthcare practices with a living, plural, and genuinely human ethics.

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José Hiran da Silva Gallo – PhD – presidencia@portalmedico.org.br

 0000-0002-1848-7270

Dilza Teresinha Ambrós Ribeiro – PhD – dilza.ribeiro@portalmedico.org.br

 0000-0001-8180-4008


José Humberto Belmino Chaves – PhD – jhbchaves@uol.com.br

 0000-0003-2704-6538


Giselle Crosara Gracindo – PhD – ggiselle@portalmedico.org.br

 0000-0001-5328-4308

José Antonio Cordero da Silva – PhD – corderobel4@gmail.com

 0000-0002-4403-5665

Maria do Carmo Wanssa – PhD – mcdwanssa@yahoo.com.br

 0009-0009-5091-2466

Laiane Moraes Dias – PhD – laianemoraes@hotmail.com

 0000-0002-6714-1970

Alessandre Gomes de Lima – PhD – alessandregomes@hotmail.com

 0000-0002-2030-1586

Responsible editor – Dilza Teresinha Ambrós Ribeiro