

Introduction: the genesis of *Revista Bioética*

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The late 1980s was marked by a succession of political and social events in the country, which motivated the Federal Council of Medicine (CFM) to face challenges by committing, initially, to design a new Code of Medical Ethics¹, with the inclusion of chapters that address the clamor of society—such as “Chapter VI: Donation and transplantation of organs and tissues” and “Chapter XII: Medical research”—with the collaboration of federative entities.

In 1989, the federal autonomous public institution had its members renewed with representations from all states and the Federal District, in the enormous task of implementing, in line with parliament, laws that would complement the country's legal framework after the promulgation of the Federal Constitution on October 5, 1988². Still in 1989, in a democratic act that had been much awaited by 140 million Brazilians since the end of the military dictatorship, election was held for the first civilian president of the Republic, with the elected candidate sworn in on March 15, 1990, which constituted vain hope for the nation.

This was the context faced by CFM members at the time, preserving atavistic deontological principles, without losing sight of what was happening in other countries on the continent, especially in the field of applied ethics. Among the peers, there was a reverberating certainty that no professional category could be an exclusive protagonist in the solution of the various moral conflicts.

To this end and in partnership with the legislative branch, it collaborated in the design of standards, defining the legislation of the Unified Health System (SUS), but taking the initiative to anticipate parliament in defining technical and ethical criteria for the development of resolutions on brain death (1991), as well as in the task of offering society the ethical criteria for assisted

reproduction (1992), in addition to defining relevant deontological issues that followed the advent of HIV/AIDS, with confidentiality being one of the most debated principles.

It was not uncommon that various political initiatives would lead to the presence of parliamentarians in CFM assemblies to discuss the most pressing issues, focusing on the pluralism of ideas in the field of ethics. After the opening of space for discussions with Mercosur member countries, there was a perception that the medical colleges of neighboring countries were seduced by bioethics, maintaining very advanced partnerships with centers dedicated to this new multidisciplinary mantra, both with Anglo-Saxon and European countries, the cradles of the new knowledge starting from the early 1970s.

Therefore, there was the convenience of creating a journal dedicated to bioethics in the country, with a two-decade delay. Amid the discussion of this issue with Gabriel Oselka, former president of CFM, in mid-1992, it was decided to involve Ivan de Araújo Moura Fé, chairman of CFM at the time, in the advocacy for the creation of the journal called *Bioética*, under the sponsorship of CFM. He embraced the idea and committed to present the proposal to the board and, if approved, submit the project to consideration in assembly.

Despite the justifications of those responsible for the project, in the assembly to deliberate on the subject, several board members expressed themselves in favor of the creation of the journal, provided that it received the name of *Ética Médica*. With the skillful advocacy of the CFM chairman for the creation of the journal, with autonomy of the Editorial Board (EB) and its multidisciplinary character, the title of the journal was then endorsed as *Bioética*.

At the end of this meeting, an expanded meeting was scheduled with Crescêncio Antunes, vice-chairman of CFM, the following week, with Francisco

Costa, Joaquim Clotet, Délio José Kipper and Genival Veloso de França, in the Board's library, at the time headquartered at Edifício Venâncio 2000, in Brasília. On the occasion, a core definition of the EB was proposed, also discussing circulation, periodicity, content proposal, cover and formatting, among other topics. Initially, a run of 6,000 copies and biannual periodicity were established.

There was a need to overcome another obstacle: the federal board members would be replaced with invited professionals from different fields of knowledge, although there was still a majority of physicians in the composition of the EB. It was argued that the position of editor should always be held by a current CFM board member. In addition, those invited to compose the EB should be approved or even suggested by the assembly, at the proposal of the journal's editors.

It should be noted that, due to lack of structure and shortage of employees in the institution, the board authorized outsourcing professionals to perform different tasks, not forgetting that any hiring could only be carried out through a public tender, which required time, as the editors' goal would be to launch the first issue of the journal in May 1993.

The first meeting of editors Sérgio Ibiapina and Gabriel Oselka was scheduled for mid-September 1992. At the time, there were already several persons who accepted the invitation to compose the EB. The opportunity was taken to meet with Tereza Hezim, responsible for the design and formatting of the publication. A professional of few words, she smartly selected the magenta color to highlight the cover of the first issue of the journal. It was defined that the graphic project should have two separate articles prepared by invited writers. It was also decided that the first symposium would be entitled "AIDS and Bioethics," under the coordination of infectious diseases specialist Guido Levi, who would be responsible for inviting the symposium participants with the respective articles.

In early October 1992, the EB of *Revista Bioética* met for the first time with the following composition: editor Sérgio Ibiapina Ferreira Costa; associate editors Gabriel Oselka and Balduino Barbosa de Deus; and members Antônio Carlos Mendes, Joaquim Clotet, Délio José Kipper, Franklin Leopoldo e Silva, William Saad Hossne, Sueli

Gandolfi Dallari, Genival Veloso de França and Marco Segre. It is timely to point out that, at the time, the assembly had not yet approved the resolution to create *Bioética*. Franklin Leopoldo e Silva was invited to write the article "Brief historical overview of ethics" and Joaquim Clotet was invited to write the article entitled "Why bioethics?". Both accepted the tasks, establishing a strict deadline for doing so. Concomitantly, Ivan de Araújo Moura Fé was invited to write the introduction to the inaugural issue. There was acceptance of the idea of including sections: Clinical Case, Bioethics and Law, Opinions, Bibliographic Update and Letters, activities under the responsibility of EB members.

It should be emphasized that the content to be published was not subject to any intrusion by the CFM board or assembly. There was a tacit commitment to full confidence in the role to be played by the editors. This can be considered a golden rule for the survival of any journal, that is, that it does not suffer any interference in its content.

Adversities should be noted. The passing of Balduino Barbosa de Deus, before the launch of the journal, had a major impact on the EB members. In the week prior to his passing, he accompanied the other editors to São Paulo with the purpose of reviewing the articles of the inaugural symposium ("AIDS and Bioethics") and adapting them, providing uniformity to the texts. After verbal communication to the CFM board, he was replaced with Jefferson de Vasconcelos Silva. Another difficulty was of a financial nature, at the time of the sequester of cash from autonomous corporate institutions, due to an economic measure adopted by the newly elected President of the Republic—a measure that usurped the autonomy of the Boards and made it impossible for the board members to move and pay the payroll of the civil servants. This issue was only resolved after a meeting between all chairmen of the federal autonomous institutions and the then Minister of Economy.

Two bioethics events on the continent were attended by the editors and EB members of *Revista Bioética*. In the late 1993, CFM was invited by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to be represented at the inauguration event of the Latin American and Caribbean Center for Health Sciences Information, in Santiago de Chile, in partnership with the University of Chile. Preceding the headquarters inauguration event,

the guests participated in a workshop, with the right to five-minute presentations by each delegate of the registered country, to show the bioethics activities in the country they represented. This was followed by a lecture by the American bioethicist James F. Drane, entitled "Preparation of a bioethics program: basic considerations for the Regional Bioethics Program of PAHO"³. I observed that the speaker used the word 'paper' and, at the end, I approached him to show the first issue of the journal; I requested the text to publish it in Spanish. Professor Drane's posture was of unprecedented elegance, only requesting a photocopy from the secretary of the University of Chile. Thus, I left the event venue with a copy of the text.

Another major event, with the participation of editors and members of the EB, was the II World Congress of the International Association of Bioethics, in Buenos Aires, in 1994, an opportunity that brought us closer to Professor Volnei Garrafa, a bioethicist, with a postdoctoral degree obtained in Rome, in the chair of Professor Giovanni Berlinguer. The opportunity was taken to invite Dr. Volnei to participate in the journal EB, who accepted the task, without hesitation, after having contributed the article entitled "The market of human structures," published in volume 1, issue #2⁴.

It is interesting that parallel activities, with participation in events in other countries, provided contacts with several bioethicists, such as José Alberto Mainetti and Juan Carlos Tealdi, with structured specialization courses in bioethics, *lato sensu* and *strictu sensu*, in Buenos Aires, and Miguel Kottow, in Santiago de Chile, who, later, when requested, always contributed as a *Bioethics* writer.

Only on March 18, 1994, CFM Resolution 1.403/1994⁵ was published, with the following summary: *Decides to sponsor and edit Revista Bioética*. Article 3 of the aforementioned resolution ensured that: *The editorial line of Revista Bioética is totally independent from the board and assembly of the Federal Council of Medicine, being fully under the responsibility of its Editorial Board*. In turn, article 5 endorsed as:

(...) *Editor of Revista Bioética, Board member Sérgio Ibiapina Ferreira Costa, as Associate Editors, Drs. Gabriel Wolf Oselka and Genival Veloso de França, and, as members of the Editorial Board,*

Drs. Antônio Carlos, Délio José Kipper, Franklin Leopoldo e Silva, Jefferson de Vasconcelos Silva, Joaquim Clotet, Marco Segre, Sueli Gandolfi Dallari and William Saad Hossne.

The meeting to present the resolution for creation of *Bioética* to the EB was attended by Ivan de Araújo Moura Fé, chairman of CFM, who in his first words confessed to not knowing most of those present, then requesting that they said their name and the institution with which they had an academic association.

During 1995, a study on the existence (or not) of research ethics committees (REC) in most Brazilian hospitals found concerning results that demonstrated the precarious number of RECs, being published in an article entitled "Research ethics committees: a survey of 26 Brazilian hospitals"⁶. There was also the precaution of translating the International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects, prepared in 1993 by the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), into Portuguese, being entitled *Diretrizes éticas internacionais para a pesquisa envolvendo seres humanos*⁷. The Portuguese translation of said document came before its Spanish version.

It should be noted that the studies involving human subjects disseminated in *Bioética* contributed to the proposal to review the National Health Council (CNS) Resolution 1/1988⁸. The creation of the Executive Working Group (EWG), in 1995, at the request of the CNS, a collegiate body linked to the Ministry of Health, had participation of journal editor Sérgio Ibiapina and an EB member, Dr. William Saad Hossne (EWG coordinator). It should be noted that several EWG members had already contributed as writers of the journal. The result of this task carried out by a group of 16 members led to the design of CNS Resolution 196/96, noting the creation of the CEP/CONEP system⁹.

A concern of the EB was to provide the CFM library with publications on the subject, such as books and encyclopedias, in addition to subscriptions to journals, especially those considered benchmarks for international bioethics centers. This was only possible after the opening of the new CFM headquarters, which reserved space in its library to host new acquisitions. To this end,

the exchange rate parity of the time was leveraged, and it is very likely that the library acquired a large collection on bioethics.

Before concluding these brief considerations on the conception of *Revista Bioética*, it is worth noting the growing number of national and foreign authors who began to contribute toward the continuity of the journal from 1995 onward. Thus, there was a growing interest in submitting articles to its EB for subsequent publication.

It is difficult to express the dedication of the EB members who endeavored, by managing classes or other tasks, to attend the face-to-face meetings of the EB. The activities were devoid of any type of remuneration, bonuses or cost allowance, being limited only to bearing the proportional value of daily rates and air tickets. This group also contributed to another publication with repercussions for the CFM: 1998 saw the preparation of the first book in the country covering several thematic areas, entitled *Initiation to Bioethics*¹⁰, with a circulation of 20,000 copies. Several teachers of the subject

report having used this publication as a reference for beginners in bioethics.

There is no denying the artisanal procedure in the review of the articles that reached the hands of Sulaima Leise da Silva, the secretary, whose dedication attenuated the work of the editors. It is impossible to forget the promptness of librarian Eliane M. Medeiros e Silva, adapting bibliographic citations to publication standards. The diligent task of the relentless Napoleão Marcos de Aquino, in vernacular revision, which demanded care and attention. The self-denial of translator Hélia de Souza Chaves Ramos, responsible for correcting or preparing the abstracts. In sum, these people worked tirelessly, even beyond their shifts at the CFM headquarters when it was necessary to conclude the issue. The other CFM employees are part of this exceptional group of civil servants to this day, as many are still active, contributing, as they can, to the institution's publications.

Thus arose *Revista Bioética*, a publication of the Brazilian Federal Council of Medicine.

The author Sérgio Ibiapina F. Costa acted as the general editor of Revista Bioética. This article is a part of the tribute to the 80th anniversary of the Federal Council of Medicine by Revista Bioética.

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