

Summary

The monograph provides an analytic-critical preparatory study for the concept of future-oriented bioethics. It also proposes the basic form of a new concept of bioethics that seems to correspond to the challenges posed to ethics by contemporary biomedicine, with its new diagnostic and therapeutic tools, and by the related advanced technologies whose use affects a person's life and health and therefore has a significant impact not only on the present but also on the future. There is currently no such concept of future-focused bioethics (prospective bioethics) available, although many of the moral challenges of biomedicine and biotechnology point to the need for ethical reflection concerning the future. This study intends to contribute to filling this vast gap in applied ethics, especially in bioethics.

The existing major concepts of the mainstream bioethics, such as diverse versions of principlism, are the "post quam" ethics in fact. The goal of this study is to deal with the "ante quam" ethics. The bioethics thus conceived is based on anticipatory, prospectively oriented thinking, so it is the ethics "ante quam", the ethics of the future. Whereas many concepts of bioethics are the ethics of "post quam" in the end, more or less a certain routine casuistry that applies predetermined principles – formulated by one or another ethical theory – to a particular morally relevant situation or case. The main objective of this work is to conduct a critical analysis of the current main concepts of bioethics, taking into account the role the future plays on them and identifying the potential that they may have for prospective bioethics. This objective is realized through individual steps.

The study examines what consequences for ethics derive from the transformation of medicine into biomedicine, particularly what ethical implications follow from the interlinking of biological, medical, and technical sciences, from the fusion of basic biomedical research, clinical practice, and industrial applications, when the future as such becomes an urgent topic of bioethics (chap. 1). As an example of an ethical dilemma of considerable importance to the future, the phenomenon of enhancement is analyzed in the following chapter. Subsequently, the question of why biotechnology is the subject of ethical reflection, and what role the future and moral relevance of time play in the ethical reflection of contemporary medicine, is investigated (chap. 2). In the third chapter, an analysis is built on the response given by current bioethics to the moral challenges of biomedicine and biotechnol-

ogy with respect to the future. In doing so, the following conceptual and methodological approaches of bioethics are examined: Principlism (including Utility Principle), Casuistry, Deontology, Teleology, and Virtue Ethics.

Consequently, the potential and contribution of these concepts to prospective bioethics are critically examined. The work culminates in the fourth chapter, where the theoretical basis of prospective bioethics is explored and the concept of prospective bioethics proposed.