Bioethics for the future and the future of bioethics


This last one, XI World Congress of Bioethics, held in Rotterdam, June 23-26, took seriously the question of thinking ahead: bioethics for the future and the future of bioethics. Among the key issues discussed we point out the growth of the world population in poor countries, with the serious consequences that we can have in the future, on the one hand, and the question of the aging of the population, mainly in the richest and developed countries, and the resulting concern with chronic-degenerative diseases such as Parkinson, Alzheimer, dementia, among others.

A very relevant question linked to the advances of technological research regarding human life: to live forever? A plenary session discussed the question of cognitive and moral enhancement. In an informal session, with foods and drinks, like a talk show, with music, named “political coffee”, with the theme “Bioethics meets Bio-politics”, in late afternoon, with politicians and bioethicists, was discussed: what’s the contribution of bioethics for public policies?; the animal well-being (with Peter Singer), and anti-aging medicine: will we live forever?

Another key question for the future of bioethics was education in bioethics, which is gradually having more visibility with the advent of new centers of bioethics in Research Institutes and Universities worldwide.

From what was said by the former presidents of the International Association of Bioethics, in a concluding round table of the Rotterdam Congress, bioethics must be more in syntonc with mankind most important questions; bioethics needs to be valued as an important field of discussion and reflection on the world of life; it must be more concerned with education for the new generation of scholars; it must be more inclusive in the context of professions, in addition to the classic areas of philosophy, theology, medicine and Law; integrate new professions; to work more its interdisciplinary character; to promote more dialog with and respect for differences in a ever complex and pluralist reality. (cf. our communication, p. 234).

In consonance with the proposal of the congress above mentioned, the present issue of Bioethikos Journal emphasizes the contribution of renowned thinkers presented in the 8th International Congress of Clinical Bioethics, held in São Paulo (16-19/05/2012), as such as that of Rotterdam Congress, also points out toward some questions about our common future, to build a healthier and just future for all. It is in this perspective that authors such as Fermin Schramm approaches Conceptual and Metaethical Questions of Clinical Bioethics, Darlei Dall’Agnol reflects on Caring and Respecting: Basic Attitudes in Bioethics,Limits of Ethics, a subject deepened by Olinto Pegoraro. By its turn, Márcio Fabri dos Anjos deepens the discussion on Anencephaly and Bioethics: Visiting Arguments; the contribution of Belgian Philosopher Gilbert Hottois follows with the issue: Bioethics Between the local and in the Universal in the Era of Globalization: a Particular Location, among so many other authors who assign to this issue a high degree of scientific competence in debating theses bioethical issues, to whom we are grateful for the invaluable collaboration.

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