



Jagiellonian University
The Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology



group for
bioethics in life sciences

"Uva uvam videndo varia fit!"
Juvenal



**THE KRAKÓW MODEL
OF
INTEGRATED BIO-ETHICS**

Preface 2

On gbls 3

gbls

Bio-Ethics – life circle 5

General settings 5

Ten points of Bio-Ethics 6



Greg Becker – Head of gbls

Ladies and gentlemen,

In Europe, no one would have believed in the last years of the 20th century that Bioethics will develop a reliable partner in research and Sciences.

We Bioethicists have been facing two main critics. The first one has called us “*brakes for scientific development*”, delivering only arguments against any progression in Bio-Sciences and -business. The second one has called us “*blind stewards of Bio-Research*”, delivering only justifications for immoral progression in Bio-Sciences and –business.

“Squeezed” between these critics, in the 21st century European Bioethics has developed an entity of unique quality. It is not only the case that Bioethics has become a fixed part in the studies of Bio-Sciences, but in and out of academia it also has become a criterion for Quality Assurance and PR in Bio-Research and –Business. All successful projects in Bio-Research and -Development consider Bioethics a necessary and valuable integrated element.

The Framework program 7 of the European Union has taken over the idea of “*Integrated Ethics*”, and every proposal in this frame has to consider the ethical levels of the project and present respective **actions**. From Bio-Business we Bioethicists get an increasing number of requests for ethical opinions connected with Clinical tests and R&D. This shows the increasing importance of Bioethics also in Bio-Business.

No longer it is enough to deliver just theoretical concepts for bioethical problems, but also to come to conclusions and respective actions by Bio-Researchers. For that reason, **gbls** has developed the model of ethics incorporated in Bio-Sciences, called the *Kraków model of Integrated Bio-Ethics* - that shall be of Bio-Sciences, by Bio-Sciences, and for Bio-Sciences.

Following, you will find a brief description of our group and the model.

On behalf of the group

Kraków, April 15th, 2011

 A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Becker', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Gregor Becker

On gbls

gbls at the Faculty

Bio-Ethics
as an integral
part of Bio-
Sciences

Teaching Bioethics

Cooperation
with

Medical
College

On October 1st 2007 the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology of the Jagiellonian University established *the group for bioethics in life-sciences – gbls*.

This institutionalization of Bioethics at a Faculty of Life Sciences can be seen as the finalization of our efforts to integrate this discipline to where it primarily belongs to. Our basic idea is that Bioethics is a subject of Bio-Sciences, simply because it deals with problems originating and taking place in Bio-Sciences. This way, Bio-Sciences take over ethical responsibility for their own field of interest.

We write *Bio-Ethics* with a hyphen between Bio and Ethics, to underline strongly that there is no ethics that originates itself from Bio-Sciences, but only ethics that deals especially with problems deriving from Bio-Sciences.

Only the immense and versatile societal relevancies of bioethical problems has made it necessary that specialists from other fields, e.g. at the Theology Faculty institutionalized Bioethics, too. However, from our point of view, Bio-Ethics is first of all an integral part of Bio-Sciences. Being located in Bio-Sciences, we have the possibility to develop impact on Bio-Sciences in practice. Only at this location we receive all necessary information on current research, for we find the Bio-experts next door.

Teaching Bio-Ethics means a transfer of knowledge. We teach future Bio-Researchers to become *what they also already are*: becoming Bio-Ethicists. Our students learn how to deal with ethical problems: to comprehend and to analyze them, to develop conclusions and to transfer the conclusions to action.

We have established cooperation with the local Medical College and teach international students of Medicine in Bio-Ethics. In our case studies course we deal with real ethical problems from the daily work of Medicine. Our students are taught to take over the responsibility for such ethical problems in their profession and come to decisions on what shall be done.

On international level we collaborate with hospitals

We offer courses in Medical Ethics for medics, nurses and hospital managers, as practical as the ones for students of the Medical College.

Counseling our colleagues from Bio-Research, we accompany research and take over the bio-ethical parts - e.g. to develop protocols referring animal-experiments. In other cases, we give counsel to researchers, to make them able to deal with bio-ethical problems in their projects on their own.

We have seen that transferring concrete conclusions of the ethical discourse to rules and the rules to direct action bear very special difficulties. Therefore, we intend to extend the inter-disciplinary setting in Bio-Ethics.

Lawyers deal with the transfer of ethical decisions to law and regulations. In Bio-Ethics lawyers shall support the formulation of ethical decisions in rules, regulations, declaration, protocols and codices.

Furthermore, there are fields of interest law shares with Bio-Ethics: e.g. patent applications from Bio-Sciences dealing with gene sequences or life forms. The connected ethical problems can only be treated appropriately, when ethicists and lawyers come together with the goal to solve them.

The procedure realizing the rules in daily work in Bio-Sciences and – Business requires competences in organizational development Bio-Researchers already have. Therefore, this “action-point” can be taken over by them, being assisted by lawyers and ethicists.

Still, **gbls** is in the starting phase of activities and development of Bio-Ethics. We see that developing Bio-Ethics requires experiences one can only gain in projects. Therefore, we aim on collaboration with universities, research facilities, companies and with other Bioethics units. We also see the necessity of an Intra-European and international setting of activities in Bio-Ethics and hope for international synergy effects that will influence the model of Bio-Ethics most positively.

Cooperation
with
Hospitals

Counselling

Inter-
disciplinary
setting

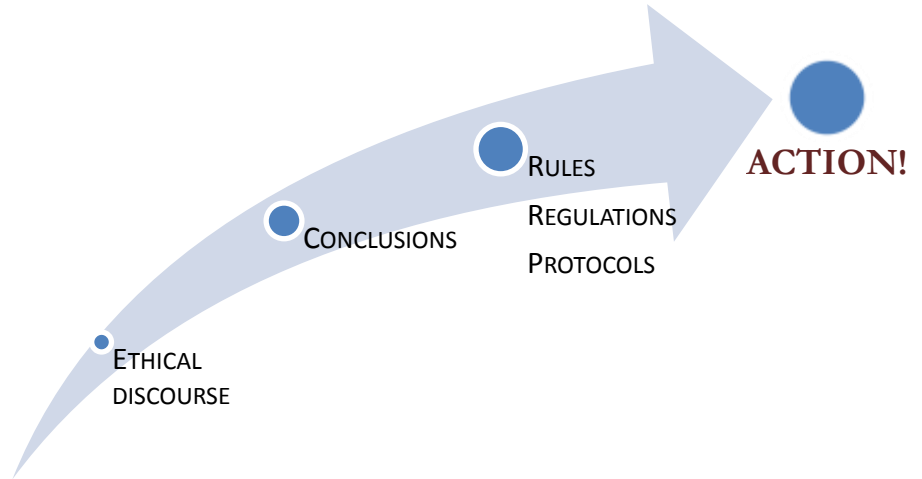
Lawyers

Action by
researchers

Collaboration

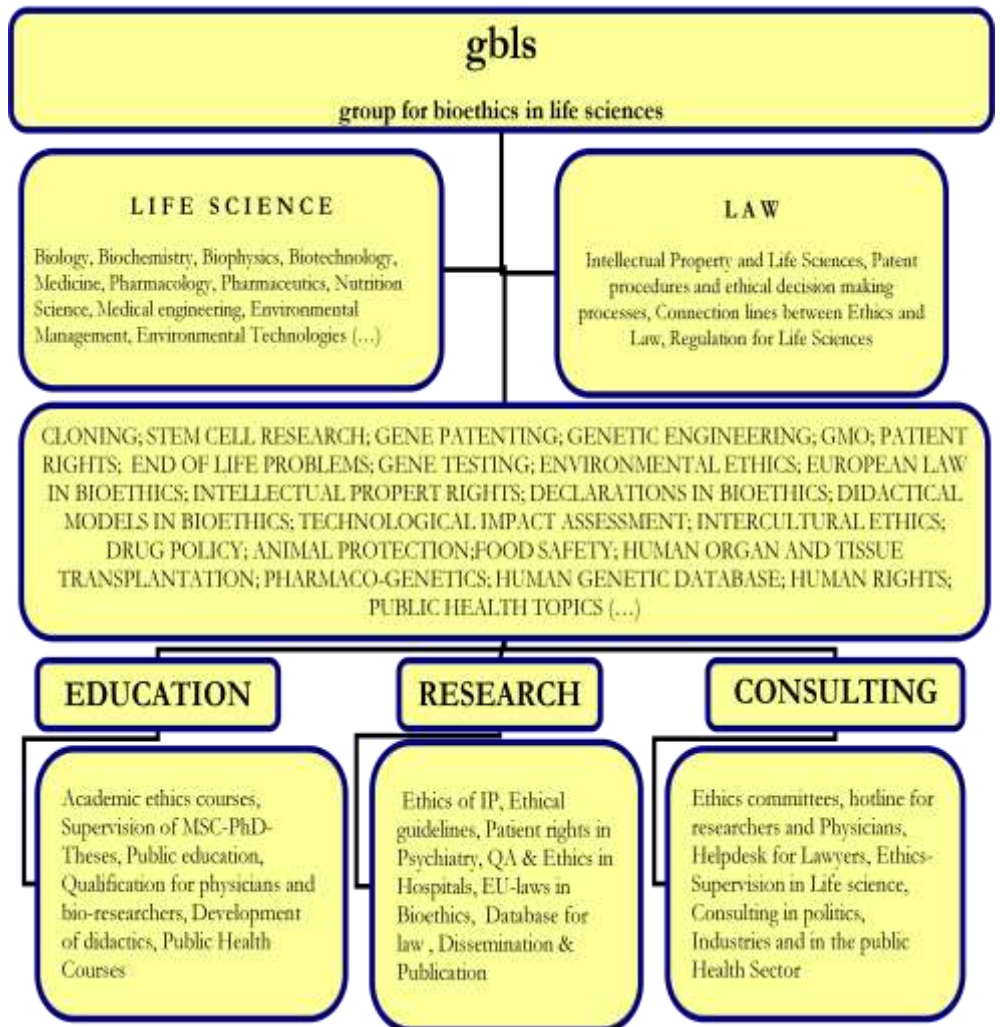
gbls
Bio-Ethics -
ethical life
circle

gbls – Bio-Ethics – ethical life circle



gbls
General
settings

gbls – General setting



Ten points of Bio-Ethics

- 1) Bio-Ethics is a regular discipline in Bio-Sciences
- 2) Bio-Ethics is therefore located in Bio-Sciences
- 3) Bio-Ethics is – due to different levels of interest- also located in other (academic) frames
- 4) Bio-Ethics means transfer of competences
- 5) Bio-Researchers shall be also Bio-Ethicists
- 6) Bio-Ethics means comprehension and analysis of moral problems originating and taking place in Bio-Sciences
- 7) Bio-Ethics means coming to conclusions
- 8) Bio-Ethics means transferring the conclusion to rules, regulations, protocols etc.
- 9) Bio-Ethics means supporting the transfer of these rules into action
- 10) Bio-Ethics is the unification of Theory and Practice

**Ten points
of
Bio-Ethics**



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