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Editorial

Beatrice Ioan*

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The first editorial of a journal is definitely a challenge. It is the gate through which the young publication enters academia and science, but also catches the eye and intellect of the general public interested in the issues addressed in its pages.

The Journal of Applied Ethics and Biolaw is the initiative of an enthusiastic team of Romanian professionals with experience in the fields of medicine, law and ethics. It is the result of a long process of reflection on the scientific and editorial problems which have been shaped in the form of what we want to depict as a representative approach for debating the challenges of science and technology worldwide.

The Journal of Applied Ethics and Biolaw address two related areas that deal with similar issues despite their different methodology and results. Applied Ethics and Biolaw are constantly expanding fields essential for professionals in different areas and for society as well, paving the way for scientific and technological

progress to bring benefits to society and to create conditions for a better life. Ethics and law are sometimes regarded as antithetic but to us this is a challenge that motivates and coordinates our scientific approach.

Applied ethics is an academic discipline that analyzes the correctness of the human activities using philosophical methods. It consists of the observation and analysis of various aspects of human activity in different areas and social contexts by means of ethical theories. Thus, Applied Ethics implements general moral theories meant to solve practical problems (1, 2). This way, social responsibility becomes a pole of crystallization and initiation of legal or ethical debates centered on the individual and with impact on the group or population.

Since 1970, Applied Ethics has developed as a broad discipline that includes many sub-disciplines such as: medical ethics, bioethics, animal ethics, business ethics, environmental ethics etc. Applied Ethics is a thriving

interdisciplinary field, due to the fact that an increasing number of human activities are analyzed from an ethical perspective. Medicine is considered the starting point for Applied Ethics, followed by other numerous areas, including politics, business etc. and one of the latest and more abstract domains such as space ethics (1).

The term *Biolaw* is a neologism (3, 4) that refers to an area that, although recently appeared, shortly became popular. Initially considered a branch of bioethics, Biolaw became an autonomous discipline. Biolaw is a field relevant to society, which needs rules governing the social human behavior in the context of the scientific and technological progress (3, 4). To this end, biolaw tackles various bioethical issues in order to ensure normality of human relationships in society, embedding areas of law that reflect facts of life sciences (4).

By addressing the two areas described above, the Journal of Applied Ethics and Biolaw aims at a multidisciplinary approach of the challenges of science from an ethical and legal perspective, in order to create a genuine forum for debates, open to both professionals from

various fields and to the general public. Through the vastness of the areas addressed, the Journal of Applied Ethics and Biolaw calls to a rich community of professionals who are hereby invited to reflect and engage in a multidisciplinary dialogue, crucial for the theoretical and practical analysis of complex problems in life sciences in this era of scientific and technological progress.

The Journal is a "round table" where participation is free, discussions are appreciated, respected and reasoned opinion is awaited with great interest.

We expect you, the reader, to stand by us, to support and motivate us!

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