

Medical Ethics

Accounts of Ground-Breaking Cases

NINTH EDITION

Gregory E. Pence

University of Alabama at Birmingham





MEDICAL ETHICS: ACCOUNTS OF GROUND-BREAKING CASES, NINTH EDITION

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Preface

This new edition retains in-depth discussion of famous cases, while providing updated, detailed analysis of the issues those cases raise. Each chapter also focuses on a key question that could be debated in class.

Unique to this text is a single, authorial voice integrating description of the cases and their issues with historical overviews. The text is the only one that follows cases over decades to tell readers what did and, often, what *did not*, happen. Written by a professor who helped found bioethics and who has published in the field for nearly 50 years, the text gives students a sense of mastery over this exciting, complex field. After they have read the book, I hope that students will feel that they have learned something important and that time studying the material has been well spent.

New to the 9th Edition

The most important change is that each chapter now has 3–4 links to online videos dramatizing the cases and issues of each chapter. All of these are free and in the public domain. Especially great are the Retro Reports co-sponsored by the New York Times, for example, on the case of Teri Schiavo or history of assisted reproduction. In the e-book, students can click on the links and directly see the key figures in the case.

A NEW CHAPTER on Ethical Issues in Weight Management, focusing on the show “The Biggest Loser,” discusses fat shaming, personal responsibility for weight, bariatric surgery, taxes on sodas, unrealistic ideals about weight, anorexia, and the global epidemic of obesity.

A new half chapter on the OPIOD EPIDEMIC has been added to the previous chapter on ethical issues in treating ALCOHOLISM, with perspectives from neuroscience, Narcotics Anonymous, genetics, Social Justice (Rawls), and Kant.

Death and Dying: Inclusion of case of Dax Cowart and his obituary; overview of 25 years of right-to-die legislation in federal courts and new laws in Vermont, California, et al. Cases of children in comas: Jahi McMath and Marlise Munoz.

Comas: Update on care for patients in minimally conscious states as a new kind of right.

Abortion: Abortion and the Trump presidency and Supreme Court; updates on declining numbers of abortion in America; OTC emergency contraception for teenagers; more on telemedicine and self-induced, early-stage self-abortions; success of TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) laws.

Assisted Reproduction: Surprising updates on the Gosselins and eight kids of the Octomom. Several clinics charged with lying to customers about characteristics of sperm donors; more physicians at such clinics using their own sperm. Implanting “mosaic” embryos as a last resort for women in their 40s.

Stem Cells, Cloning, and Embryos: Updates on the proliferation of sham stem-cell clinics across America and their false, outrageous claims. Huge controversy over legal damages to couples from embryos lost at the Cleveland Clinic and at clinic in California.

Impaired Babies chapter: The case in Britain of Charlie Gard.

Animals chapter: Worries about chimeras; the end of use of chimpanzees in research in America.

Intersex chapter: The Case of Andraya Yearwood, a male who identifies as a girl in Connecticut and who won the state championship there in his/her first official race.

Involuntary commitment chapter (Joyce Brown): Update on how Kendra's Law is, and is not, working; more on NIMBY.

In the chapter on first-time surgeries, new information about Barnard's first heart transplant. New issues about LVAD's as final destinations.

God Committee and organ donation chapter: new issues in using organs infected with hepatitis C and HIV; new data on long-term health of voluntary, adult donors.

In the chapter on the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, new case of the Radium Girls.

Updates on Ebola and Zika virus in the AIDS chapter. Zika's effects in Brazil.

Update on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: How it survived two attempts to unravel it. Discussion of the public option.

Update on the pitfalls and promises of Personalized Genomic Testing and Big Data, especially problems of testing and getting unwelcome news, forming a sick identity. Problems of ancestry testing and indirectly testing members of one's family without their consent. Discussion on CRISPR, the revolutionary method of changing genes that almost any geneticist can use to change a species and its progeny. Discussion of mitochondrial donation, embryo repair, and All of US program of NIH.

Enhancement chapter: updates on cheating by athletes worldwide, updates on doping.

About the Author

Gregory E. Pence is professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Between 1977 and 2011, he taught medical ethics at the University of Alabama Medical School. He still directs its Early Medical School Acceptance Program.

In 2006, and for achievement in medical ethics, Samford University awarded him a Pellegrino Medal. He testified about human cloning before committees of the U.S. Congress in 2001 and the California Senate in 2003. In 2019, UAB awarded him its Ireland Prize for Scholarly Distinction, its highest academic prize.

He graduated cum laude in Philosophy with a B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 1970 and earned a Ph.D. from New York University in 1974, working mainly under the visiting professor, Peter Singer.

In 2010, his UAB team was national champion of the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. His teams won national championships of the Bioethics Bowl at Duke University in 2011, at Florida State University in 2015 and at South Alabama in 2019. At UAB, he has won both the Ingalls and President's Awards for excellence in teaching.

- He has written six trade books, including *Who's Afraid of Human Cloning?* (1998), *Re-Creating Medicine: Ethical Issues at the Frontiers of Medicine* (2000), *Designer Food: Mutant Harvest or Breadbasket of the World?* (2002), *Cloning after Dolly: Who's Still Afraid?* (2004), *How to Build a Better Human: An Ethical Blueprint* (2012), *What We Talk about When We Talk about Clone Club: Bioethics and Philosophy in Orphan Black* (2016), and *Overcoming Addiction: Seven Imperfect Solutions and the End of America's Greatest Epidemic* (2020).
- He has edited four books of general essays, *Classic Works in Medical Ethics* (1995), *Flesh of My Flesh: The Ethics of Cloning Humans* (1998), *The Ethics of Food: A Reader for the Twenty-First Century* (2002), and *Brave New Bioethics* (2004).
- He has published over 60 op-ed essays in national publications: two each in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Chronicle of Higher Education*; one each in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and *Philadelphia Inquirer*; and 35 in the *Sunday Birmingham News*. His reader, *Brave New Bioethics*, collects these essays from 1974 to 2002.
- A full list of books by Gregory Pence is available through [Connect](#).



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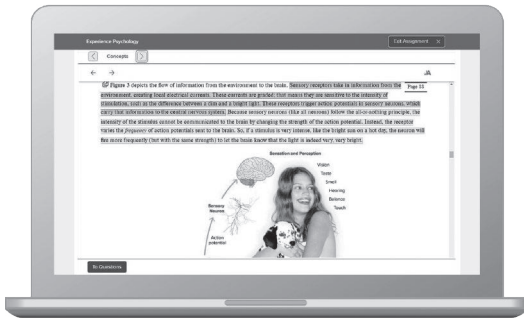
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At UAB, I am grateful for feedback from students in my bioethics courses, especially those in my Early Medical School Acceptance Program, who often are beta-testers for new chapters and new ideas. Finally, I'm grateful to UAB and its College of Arts & Sciences for my first sabbatical in thirty years, during which I researched the material for the 9th edition and wrote the new material, including the new half chapter on the opioid epidemic and the new chapter on the ethics of weight management.

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