

## Creating Space for Reflections...

Present-day medicine relies on innovative technologies and provides a broad range of treatments, from basic supply to life style usages. In this realm, ethical questions reach beyond scientific and medical practice to broader life issues. We often believe that despite their undisputable importance these topics are too complex for introduction into medical curricula which focus on transferring medical knowledge. This places essential limits on the bioethics debate in medical universities and faculties. However, developing a deliberate practice for dealing with ethics dilemmas against a background of diverse moral ideas and values is of supreme importance for professionals in biomedicine. In this, faculty members are important role models and play a key role for developing an institutional culture of tolerance and respect.

Ethucation is an independent platform committed to scholarly debate of bioethics issues in biomedicine within university and public arenas.

## AWARENESS · REFLECTION · DIALOGUE



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More Informations:

**Ethucation:**

[www.i-med.ac.at/ethucation/](http://www.i-med.ac.at/ethucation/)

**International Network:**

[www.unesco-chair-bioethics.org/UI/A01.aspx](http://www.unesco-chair-bioethics.org/UI/A01.aspx)

**Ethucation – Bioethics Network**

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**Bioethics Network  
in Education and Advanced Training  
at Medical University of Innsbruck (MUI)**

Austrian Unit of the International Network of  
Institutes for Medical Ethics Training (NIMED),  
UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (IL)

## Ethics

We often use the terms ethics and morals as if they were synonyms. However, **morals** defines values and rules whereas **ethics**, a philosophical discipline, analyses the reasons of moral rules based on rationality, identifies underlying principles and develops theories. In practice, human behaviour often relies on not further reflected moral assumptions which become subject to ethical analysis only in case of irritations.

In recent debates, priority is given to relational ethics developed for individual cases instead of relying solely on general moral judgements. Several basic questions on health, disease, body image, normality, quality of life, the idea of man etc. play an important role in this.

While medical ethics focuses on medical practice, bioethics goes beyond and considers global links and our responsibility towards future generations.



## Tasks of Ethucation

### Contentual Contribution to Education and Advanced Training

- Ethics in the curricula of MUI
- Ethics in advanced didactics training for faculty of MUI
- Ethics of biomedicine in public dialogue

### Initiation and Organization of

- Lectures, courses and seminars
- Workshops
- Symposiums

### Research on Attitudes towards Biomedical Technologies, for example in

- Regenerative medicine
- Reprogenetics
- Genetics/genomics

We cooperate with numerous internal and external partners and follow the principle of broad interdisciplinarity. Therefore, also colleagues from the Leopold Franzens University of Innsbruck, the Management Center Innsbruck, the Tyrolean Hospice Community, and from the universities of Graz, Salzburg and Vienna are founding members of our network.

Ethucation does not perform counselling or formal approvals. These are subject to other institutions like the institutional ethics commission, the clinical trial center of MUI or the clinical ethics circle at the university hospital.

## History

The bioethics network Ethucation was established in September 2007. Ethucation is the Austrian unit of the International Network of Institutes for Medical Ethics Training (NIMED). This network is run by the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Haifa, Israel. The chair was found in 2001 at the International Center for Health, Law and Ethics of the University of Haifa. Both institutions are chaired by Prof. Amnon Carmi. Currently, the International Network has units in 17 nations.

The aim of NIMED is to improve bioethics education in medical curricula worldwide. Teaching materials were developed for this task, freely accessible at: [www.unesco-chair-bioethics.org/UI/A01.aspx](http://www.unesco-chair-bioethics.org/UI/A01.aspx)

An important basis for NIMED is the Bioethics Core Curriculum published by UNESCO: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0016/001636/163613e.pdf>

**To become ethical means to begin to think sincerely.**

Albert Schweitzer, *Civilization and Ethics*, 1948

