

Editorial

Nüket Örnek Büken¹

Dear Readers,

We present to you the **December 2021 Issue (Vol 4/No 2)** of "REFLECTIONS ON BIOETHICS FROM TURKEY", a joint publication of the Turkish Ethics Unit of the International Network UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the Hacettepe University School of Medicine and the Hacettepe University Centre of Bioethics (HUBAM).

In the days when we continue to feel the effects of the pandemic, we have prepared an issue that we think you will enjoy reading as we welcome 2022. We are happy to share this full of content issue with you.

In the "**Scientific Studies Section**", we first present the article titled "**Ethical Evaluation of Complementary and Alternative Medicine Practices**" of **Sevim Coşkun** and **Nüket Örnek Büken**. In this article, the authors include explanations that will clear up the confusion regarding the concepts of traditional, complementary and alternative medicine. In this context, we think that this comprehensive article, which deals with why complementary medicine (TAM) practices are applied, the approaches of modern medicine on these applications, TAT applications and legal regulations in our country, will shed light on the solution of the problems in the related subject.

Hilal Yaşar and **Deniz Say Şahin** evaluate the causes of the disadvantages of elderly individuals through the concepts of aging, gerontology and geriatrics in their article titled "**Characteristics of Old Age and the Elderly Individuals as a Disadvantaged Group in Turkey: From Wisdom to Addiction**". The authors, who touch on health problems, economic problems and psychological problems related to the old age period, present a very rich content about elderly individuals, whose vulnerability is even more important in situations such as pandemics.

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Özge Kutlu Dönmez and **Deniz Say Şahin** address the role of social service practices in their article titled “**The Elderly and the Role of Social Service in the COVID-19 Pandemic**”, considering the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on the elderly. These days, when we better understand the importance of social service practices during the pandemic, the article offers worthy of knowledge and evaluations.

Hilal Yaşar explains the concepts of childhood and children's rights in the context of gender in her second article, titled “**Children's Rights and An Evaluation of Child Rights Violations**”, and evaluates the violations and problems experienced.

Özge Bayram and **Deniz Say Şahin** define child spirituality with a comprehensive spirituality framework in their articles titled “**The Relationship Between Childhood Traumas and Spiritual Well-being**”. They explain the first, second and third group reactions to traumatic processes through the concepts of childhood and trauma. The article has been prepared quite comprehensively including the assessment that a protective factor will be created against the negative situations that occur after the trauma, with the development of the child's spiritual ability,

Sema Coşkun, Ph.D. student at Hacettepe University Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences, Department of Bioengineering, in her article titled “**Overview of Ethical Issues in Bioengineering**”, makes a general analysis on ethical issues in many sub-fields of bioengineering and makes evaluations on the identification of possible ethical problems.

In her article titled “**Gender Equality and Participation in Politics**”, **Sevinç Sütü** analyzes gender-based differences and progress in the light of the global gender gap index data. In this context, the author touches upon the legal regulations in our country and presents his views on increasing participation, together with evaluations on the factors that prevent women's political participation.

Associates of our department, **Assoc. Prof. Önder İlgili** defines an emerging need that is often forgotten in his article titled “**Definition of a Need: Mobile Phone and Information Systems Etiquette Rules**”. The article has meticulous evaluations on the innovations that technology

has brought to our lives, including opinions, suggestions and wishes for our purposes in the ethical evaluation and guidance process.

In the activities section, information about the "**Bioethics and Cinema**" event, which is held on **Thursdays** in the context of continuous professional development, is presented. Those who want to participate in the organized events can contact the secretariat of the Department.

In this issue, as always in our "**Interview Section**", we will read another one of the valuable contribution from an associate of Department of History of Medicine and Medical Ethics, **Lecturer Müge Demir**. Müge Demir conducted an interview with **Prof. Çağatay Tavşanoğlu**, Hacettepe University Faculty of Science, Biology Field, Ecology Department. The interview was about **forest fires and fire ecology in the Mediterranean region especially in the summer of 2021**. We thank Müge Demir for her interviews that allow us to follow new horizons in every volume.

In the "**Student's Voice**" section, **Bircesu Uslu**, one of the esteemed students of Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, offers adequate assessments on the improvement of **patient rights**, based on the principle of first do no harm, which takes its roots from the Hippocratic tradition. Here, it would be appropriate to remind once again that the participation of undergraduate students in academic writing activities will make very positive contributions to their personal, social and academic skills.

In our "**Anecdote/Literature/Point of View**" section, we were first welcomed by one of the research assistants of our department. The sincere and remarkable article titled "**Time**", written by **Dr. Çağrı Zeybek Ünsal** as an academic mother, is about women's professional and social duties, motherhood and sharing the intensity of life.

Our department's Ph.D. student, **Assoc. Prof. H. Volkan Acar** wrote a very enjoyable article on Slovensky Grob near Bratislava in his article titled "**Slovensky Grob: The Goose Kingdom in Slovakia**". He takes us to the places he visits, accompanied by beautiful photographs he took, and allows us to taste local delicacies.

Sevda Aydın Karimova presents her article on the role of Hacettepe University Bioethics Center emphasizing the importance of inter-institutional cooperation in the process of establishing ethics committees in Azerbaijan.

One of the research assistants of our department, **Muhammet Arslan**, in his English article titled "**An Introduction to Callenbach's Ecological Utopia: *Ecotopia: The Notebooks and Reports of William Weston***", examined the Ecotopia, as one of the examples of ecological utopia. This evaluation, based on utopias that dream of an ideal or non-existing places is quite eye-opening.

Finally, one of our department's Ph.D. students, **Dt. İlkim Karakapıcı** offers us a very pleasant evaluation of the identity of the physician and the responsibilities over a state theatre play "**Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**".

When we welcome the new year with hope and excitement, as the editorial board of REFLECTIONS ON BIOETHICS FROM TURKEY, we hope the readers will enjoy our new issue. We thank all the authors once again for their valuable contributions.

With the hope of a future where the voice of bioethics may be heard everywhere...