Regulating Life, Disease, and Death: The Legal, Ethical and Moral Implications of Science, Medicine, and Technology

Jae Yeon Kim

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FOREWORD

REGULATING LIFE, DISEASE, AND DEATH: 
THE LEGAL, ETHICAL, AND MORAL 
IMPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE, MEDICINE, 
AND TECHNOLOGY

JAE YEON KIM

On March 19, 2015, the Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy hosted a symposium to address the changing landscape of medicine, science, and technology. The Journal made this selection because advancements in these fields pose unique challenges to society’s understanding of the law’s role in regulating and shaping public discourse on life, disease, and death.

The morning panels addressed the legal, ethical, and moral implications of pre-natal diagnosis and selective abortion, the gray market for biologics, the regulation of biotechnology, and end-of-life decisions. In both his keynote address and article, Professor James G. Hodge discussed the legal myths surrounding the Ebola viral disease and the realities of legal preparedness for infectious diseases. His commentary is timely because the World Health Organization recognized Ebola viral disease as a public health emergency of international concern in 2014, and Ebola continues to be an ongoing threat to global health.

The Journal is honored to have included excellent contributions from scholars, practitioners, and law students in this Symposium Issue. This Issue presents commentaries on a wide cross-section of issues involving science, medicine, and technology. The articles fill a gap in the literature by providing an ethical perspective on crowdfunded...
biomedical research\(^5\) and the role of religion in the regulation of biotechnology.\(^6\) New trends like the concept of super risk\(^7\) and the gray market for prescription drugs and vaccines\(^8\) were also explored in this Issue. In addition to articles, three of the journal’s editors contributed student notes that explored topics on science, medicine, and technology including the constitutionality of prohibiting access to \textit{in vitro} fertilization,\(^9\) an evaluation of the medical device excise tax,\(^10\) and the impact of \textit{FTC v. Actavis Pharmaceuticals} on reverse-payment settlements.\(^11\)

The Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics \& Public Policy presents this scholarship to assist policymakers and scholars as they navigate and solve problems related to science, medicine, and technology. This Symposium Issue is dedicated to the journal’s ongoing mission to encourage an ethical discussion of law and public policy.


