

Introduction

The European Journal of Health Policy, Humanization of Care and Medical Ethics aims to present contemporary challenges related to the expansive development of biomedicine from a humanistic perspective. It attempts to seek answers to intriguing and current issues regarding the role and functioning of humans in both health and disease from the perspective of the medical sciences, health sciences, social sciences, humanities and theological sciences. This international periodical (semi-annual) is devoted to health policy, the humanization of medicine in the provision of patient care and the implementation of the assumptions of medical ethics. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to complex problems in biomedicine, where the knowledge, experience and actions of medical staff in the face of different, but always very critical, borderline situations in the past and today raise numerous questions. Pandemics, a sense of threat regarding the predictability of upcoming events, a lack of sufficient economic resources and wars have changed the face and principles of healthcare systems worldwide. They have forced actions that were not obvious and have prompted the search for answers to basic questions involving access to medical services, the rules of operation of medical facilities, the provision of medical services in situations of immediate threat, the costs of medical interventions, balancing profits and losses, shortages of hospital staff or medical equipment, following standards of conduct consistent with a humanitarian approach, the rules of deontology, and legal provisions. The concepts of professional ethics based on a sense of responsibility and duty, dignity, and patient autonomy are the keys to building the face of modern medicine. The European Journal of Health Policy, Humanization of Care and Medical Ethics is intended to be a platform for the exchange of experiences of academic staff in Poland and Europe, while promoting the humanistic face of medicine. The articles published in the first issue address the above-mentioned topics, where the problem of humanizing medicine, the scale of activities to prevent the suicide crisis, the dimension of humanitarian aid, patients' beliefs regarding antibacterial resistance, and the way medical staff perceive the availability of medical services during the COVID-19 pandemic are expressions of this.