

The reader's first impression of *Ethics and Health Care: An Introduction* by John C. Moskop may be similar to mine when viewing the cover of the text. It features two medical professionals, one leaning over the patient and providing what appears to be emotional support, and the other intellectually pondering the medical record. This scene set the stage for a discussion that attempts to marry two roles of health care professionals, compassionate, ethical care with technical excellence. The name tag on the female was difficult to read but said, nurse. The male did not have a nametag. After my high expectations, I was dismayed to see the gender-specific and role-specific, female nurse taking care of the emotional needs of the patient and male doctor caring for the "technical needs."

The book fell much more in line with my first impression. John Moskop M.D. is a Professor of Internal Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He starts each chapter with an ethical dilemma featuring a single or group of patients, many of whom are easily recognizable from news stories. The reassuring familiarity of the case stories will make an immediate connection with students. The chapter continues with a clear, concise presentation of foundational information required to understand the ethical issues in the case. Dr. Moskop's explanations are coherent and well thought out. The cost of this clarity is the sacrifice of presenting some nuances of the issues, sometimes making them seem more straightforward than they are. He provides references for the case studies so that the reader can consult the source for further detail and background information.

The book claims to be an introduction to the major concepts, principles, and ethics in health care, and I think the writer met that goal. The themes chosen are appropriate to teach medical ethics in an undergraduate course or a basic foundational course in ethics at a health care professional school. The analysis in each chapter looks to be comprehensive on an introductory level, and the tone is educational rather than argumentative. By offering various choices, the writer allows the reader to attain perspective and apply their newfound expertise to the introductory case for each chapter. I could see a teacher developing questions to assess the learners' critical thinking and encouraging further research into areas of interest or allowing students to debate their perspectives in the classroom.

Dr. Moskop, a prolific writer on bioethics, provides references for further information throughout the text. However, there are few citations in the text's body itself. I wondered throughout the text if the writing of the ethical options presented and the subsequent reasoning were solely the author's interpretation of the standard of ethics. I can find a robust reference section at the end of the text, and an index. Since the purpose of the text is for teaching an introductory class, the number of references and citations is more than adequate. Most instructors teaching ethics have a series of books they consult to present various perspectives on ethical issues. I could see this book being a foundational book for a college bioethics course with supplemental books providing a more in-depth exploration of areas of interest or differing points of view.

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