BILASOVÁ, V. (2011): Philosophical Issues in Medical Ethics in the Context of Bioethical Discourse. In: *Ethics & Bioethics*, 1(1-2), pp. 7 - 13, ISSN:1338-5615

Abstract

This article focuses on the principles of bioethics and modern medical ethics which have increasingly become subject to ethical discourses and, thus, have acquired their topicality and viability. These ethical connections primarily refer to research in the field of biological sciences, biotechnology and medical research whose results have lead to serious consequences in the context of modern society, since they relate to the essence of human life. Contemporary medicine in particular touches on these issues which, by modern science based on positivism and pragmatism, are claimed to be metaphysical, thus not part of science. The issues refer to the relationship between spirit and matter, life and death, the essence of a human being, the meaning of life, etc. Philosophical and existential issues concerning the life of an individual and the entire society are the characteristic feature of current dynamic processes in all social spheres. They have a principally ethical meaning because they continually confront us with ambitions, interests and our own displacement in the world, in which the loss of order makes us search for alternative ways of life. The differences in theoretical and methodological bases as well as the methods of work applied by exact scientists dealing with the human being (biology, medicine, physics, chemistry, etc.) and ethics are often a source of problems and misunderstandings. Therefore, the calling of scientists, philosophers and ethicists for a mutual dialogue is so urgent.

Keywords: ethics, philosophy, reflection, morality, modern society

Viera Bilasová is an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at the Institute of Philosophy and Ethics, University of Prešov (Slovakia). She is a co-author of *Etika verejnej správy* [Ethics of Public Administration], Prešov: FF PU 2010.

Corresponding author:

Viera Bilasová, Institute of Philosophy and Ethics, University of Prešov, 17. novembra 1, SK- 08078 Prešov (Slovakia)

Email: viera.bilasova@unipo.sk