

KONSTANCZAK, S. – CHOINSKA, B. (2011): Professional Ethics in Polish Medicine. In: *Ethics & Bioethics*, 1(1-2), pp. 7 - 13, ISSN:1338-5615

Abstract

Justifying the existence of professional ethics in medicine is usually connected with the traditions of a profession and with a humanistic dimension of these ethics, pointing at the same time to their culture-forming character. With such an attitude, professional ethics is treated as a part of all mankind's output, and its teaching turns out to be an important element of preparation for taking part in culture. Taking into account the cultural meaning of professional ethics, one should notice that all discussions about the character of relations of medicine and ethics exceed the very health care system. The dilemma outlined in the article deals with the problem whether the existence of medical ethics requires external regulations or is this also a creation of the very representatives of medicine and only they can formulate it. If the latter is to be assumed, ethics in medicine would have to be independent of other detailed ethics and it would not need to be included in any other more general theory. In the first solution, medical ethics is becoming a part of general ethics and, therefore, it would be justified to include it in a more general theory – bioethics. The authors indicate that professional ethics does not limit freedom of the staff but gives a special opportunity to use it. Records constituting its contents are mostly standardized by a professional group which sets criteria of recruitment on its own and general duties resting on their members.

Keywords: ethics of medicine, bioethics, moral values, ethical codes, education, professional responsibility

Stefan Konstanczak is Professor of Philosophy and Ethics at the Institute of Philosophy, University of Zielona Gora (Poland). He is the author of *Etyka srodowiskowa wobec biotechnologii* [Environmental ethics with regard to biotechnology], Slupsk: PAP 2003 and *Etyka pielegniarska* [Nursing Ethics], Warszawa: Difin 2010.

Bogna Choinska has been working at Pomeranian Academy in Slupsk as a lecturer. She is the author of *Sztuka jako warto___ wobec kryzysu kultury europejskiej* (*Art as a value in relation to the crisis of European culture*), Slupsk 2009. She was awarded a grant from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education to carry out research changes within French Poststructuralism. The title of the grant: *The Discourse of the Subject, the Subject of the Discourse. Changes within French Poststructuralism*.

Corresponding author:

Stefan Konstanczak, Institute of Philosophy, University of Zielona Gora, al. Wojska Polskiego

71A, 65-762 Zielona Gora (Poland)

Email: S.Konstanczak@ifil.uz.zgora.pl