

ETHICAL DILEMMAS AT THE END OF LIFE
(Dileme etice la sfârșitul vieții)

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This is a recent hard-cover book brought out by one of the best publishing houses of the country and dedicated to end-of-life ethical issues. It is the result of one of the European Projects dedicated to the investment in human resources, developed over 6 years (2007-2013) and called: "Postdoctoral studies in the field of the ethics of health policies".

The book contains the work of the postdoctoral students supervised by professors Beatrice Ioan and Vasile Astărăstoaic from Jassy, dedicated to a neglected aspect of human life: the exit. However, the book is presented in a monographic format, giving the reader the impression of a unitary work.

The topics approached by the authors are:

In part 1: A gnoseologic approach of death and end of life: ethical issues of death, including the points of view of the philosophy and religion; the important problem of the brain death, so relevant now for the ethical issues of transplantation, is also covered in one chapter.

The second part of the book is dedicated to therapy and psychological factors of the end-stage patients. Here

are many debated points, well described in the book: when to abandon therapy, palliative therapy, communication with the patient. Good chapters are dedicated to the psychological approach and to the ethical issues.

The third part is dedicated to the decision of therapy and refraining from therapy in terminally ill patients. All moral and legal aspects of the problem, including European legislation are presented in the book.

The fourth and last part of this volume deals with organ transplantation. Many aspects are tackled by the authors: social dilemmas, legislation, moral and religious convictions, psychological factors influencing the decision to donate or to accept, ethical aspects of post-mortem donation, quality of life in transplanted patients.

From the description of this summary, one can observe the quality of the work done by the editors of this book and by their postdoc fellows.

The book is a premiere in Romania and should be read by all health professionals.

Dan L. Dumitrașcu