

## **THE ORIGINS OF BIOETHICS: ADVANCES IN RESUSCITATION TECHNIQUES**

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During the last years there has been observed an increasing interest in meta-bioethical issues. This turn in research focus is regarded as a sign of the maturation of bioethics as a distinct area of academic inquiry. The role of historical-philosophical reflection is often emphasized. It should be noted that there is rather a common agreement that the future of bioethics lies in critical reflection on its past, in particular, on the very origins of this discipline. Sharing A. Caplan's opinion, advance in medicine technologies, especially the introduction of respirators and artificial heart machines, is to be considered as one of the main issues that started bioethics. Using methods of historical as well as meta-ethical research this article aims at describing the role of advances in resuscitation techniques in the emergence of bioethics and exploring how bioethical reflection has been shaped by this technological development. The brief historical analysis permits to sustain that there is a close bond between the emergence of bioethics and the introduction of the sophisticated resuscitation technologies into medical practice. The meta-ethical reflection reveals that advances in resuscitation techniques not only caused the start of bioethics in the second half of 20<sup>th</sup> century but first and foremost has influenced the development of bioethics by: (i) posing the question of justice in health care, (ii) altering commonly accepted ontological notions of human corporeality, and (iii) reconsidering the very purpose of medicine.