

*In this feature, our team provides you with an overview of the most recent publications in the field of bioethics, with a particular focus on contributions coming from (or having relevance for) Switzerland.*

*Buona lettura! Bonne lecture! Viel Spass beim Lesen! Enjoy the reading!*

*The editor: Andrea Martani*

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## AI ETHICS



### **“Towards a Governance Framework for Brain Data”**

Collecting data about brain activity are increasingly easy to collect, and improving analysing capacities permit to decode mental processes and use such data for a variety of analytical purposes. Given that brain activity is so strictly connected with fundamental principle such as ‘freedom of thought’, novel ethical challenges have been arising and there is a growing need of governance frameworks for the use of brain data. The authors propose the first steps towards such a framework by: 1) highlighting the existing gaps in legal and ethical governance relevant for brain data processing; and 2) calling for modifications in hard law (such as identifying ‘brain data’ as a category of particularly sensitive data), ethical guidelines (such as requiring consent as an ethical requirement for brain data collection), responsible innovation principles and human rights approaches.

Ienca M, Fins JJ, Jox RJ, et al. Towards a Governance Framework for Brain Data. *Neuroethics* 15, 20 (2022). doi: [10.1007/s12152-022-09498-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12152-022-09498-8)

### **“In Search of a Mission: Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Ethics”**

Should Artificial-Intelligence (AI) based systems that help with decisions in clinical ethics be developed? The authors tackle this question by reflecting on whether an AI-based clinical ethics support system conceptualised by other authors to help with ethically troubling decisions on the continuation or withdrawal of medical treatment would be useful. They comment that actually the most difficult decisions in that respect concern the assessment of the patient’s capacity, something that humans seem to be better geared at evaluating. Furthermore, they underline how an AI-based clinical ethics support system should take into consideration considerations about how to integrate it concretely into clinical routine from the very beginning of software development.

Biller-Andorno N, Ferrario A, Gloeckler S. In Search of a Mission: Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Ethics. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, (2022) 22:7, 23-25. doi: [10.1080/15265161.2022.2075055](https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2022.2075055)

## TEACHING ETHICS



### **“Spielend Medizinethik trainieren: „uMed: Your Choice“”**

In this publication, the authors discuss the usefulness of a software that – through gamification of patient-doctor interactions – can be used by medical students to develop their clinical ethics skills. Based on personal experiences in integrating the digital tool in the teaching of clinical ethics, they illustrate the learning objectives that it is aimed at reaching and the main scenarios that the tool focuses on (Shared Decision Making situations, Advance Care Planning, discrimination of patients, overtreatment and inter-professional interactions). The article finishes with reflections on the most relevant advantages of using the analyzed tool in teaching and the most pressing challenges thereto related.

Eichinger T, Katsarov J. Spielend Medizinethik trainieren: „uMed: Your Choice“. *Ethik Med* (2022). doi: [10.1007/s00481-022-00699-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00481-022-00699-6)