



Conference Abstract

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Title: **Lobbying in the healthcare systems – a challenge for bioethics?**

Abstract text: It is a truism to say that lobbying plays an important role in modern politics all over the world. It is also obvious that lobbyists have an impact on health policy, both at the national and international level (e.g. by influencing political decisions at state level or taking part in Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations). Health-related matters which may become a target of lobbying include the shape of intellectual property laws or the list of reimbursable drugs – issues that are crucial for the pharmaceutical industry. However, what is not evident, is how we should describe, understand and evaluate the pharmaceutical lobbying without falling into the “big pharma” conspiracy theories and simplistic explanations of facts.

There is a number of challenging questions. What are the different types of lobbying? What is the role of lobbying in democracy? Does it represent particular interests at the expense of the common good or is it rather a necessary form of communication between legislators and the society which guarantees the balance of forces in the state? Is lobbying a tool that bioethicists themselves, through numerous bioethical associations, should use to influence the shape of medical law? Is widespread negative perception of lobbying justified? How does lobbying differ from corruption?

During the presentation the current state of ethical debate on pharmaceutical lobbying will be summarized. Theoretical and normative considerations will be enriched by the analysis of concrete examples of lobbying taken from the current political reality.

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