



Conference Abstract

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Title: **Pharmaceutical industry ethics. Is there a need for bioethicists-whistleblowers?**

Abstract text: Some scholars argue that modern bioethics as a discipline “should combine academic engagement and real-world commitment” (B. Gordijn, H. ten Have, 2015). Although, I do not claim that every bioethicist should act as a whistleblower, in my presentation I’m going to show the space for bioethical activism in the context of pharmaceutical industry ethics.

My presentation will be based on my studies on controversial aspects of pharmaceutical marketing in Poland. I’m going to show that there are several tasks for bioethicists on that field. First, to diagnose the problem in accurate way, without falling into the Big pharma conspiracy theory. Second, to use broad moral reasoning to analyze the problem in the most meaningful way. Third, to increase public awareness of the problem. Fourth, to facilitate the debate about optimal solutions. Bioethical activism needs both critical thinking, empirical data, empathy as well as social engagement.

One of the central questions that every bioethicist should ask himself is: who is harmed by certain practices taking place within the world of modern medicine? During my presentation I'm going to show who may be harmed by certain actions of drug companies in Poland and why it may be seen as a challenge for bioethical activism.

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