TEACHING ETHICS TO BIOSCIENCE STUDENTS

ONE DILEMMA AFTER ANOTHER

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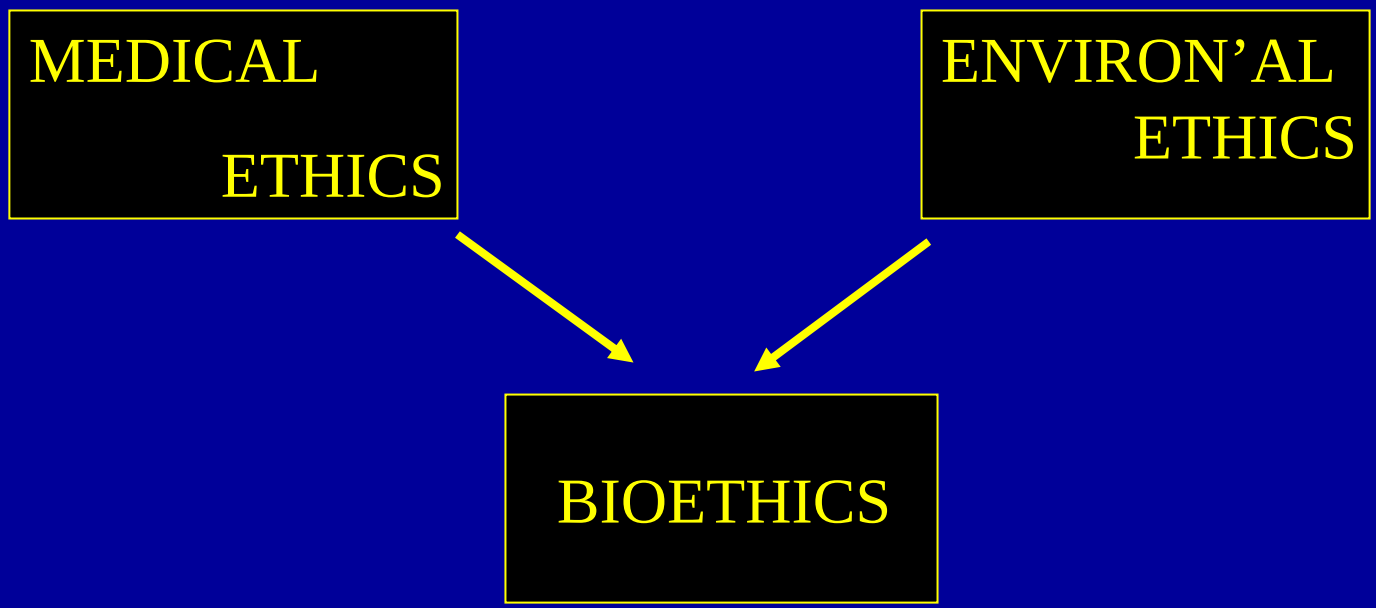
WHY?

- The practice of biological science
- The applications of biological science

WHAT?

- …. should we teach?
- …. is Bioethics?

ETHICS, MEDICAL ETHICS AND BIOETHICS



MEDICAL ETHICS

- Hippocrates: *'Hippocratic Oath'*
- Nuremberg Trials (see Jonsen, A.R., 1998, *The Birth of Bioethics*) . Individual versus state responsibility
- Professional codes of practice: Helsinki etc

KEY PRINCIPLES

- Not doing harm
- Doing good
  - Sanctity of human life
- Human dignity and autonomy
  - Relationships
  - Confidentiality
- Justice / Equity

BUT

- How do we deal with double effect?
- How do we deal with clashing principles?
- How do we achieve the most virtuous outcome?

The evolution of bioethics

- Medical ethics
  - Hippocrates, Codes of Practice, Post-Nuremberg (Jonsen)
- Environmental
  - Leopold, Carson, White, Potter
- Bioethics

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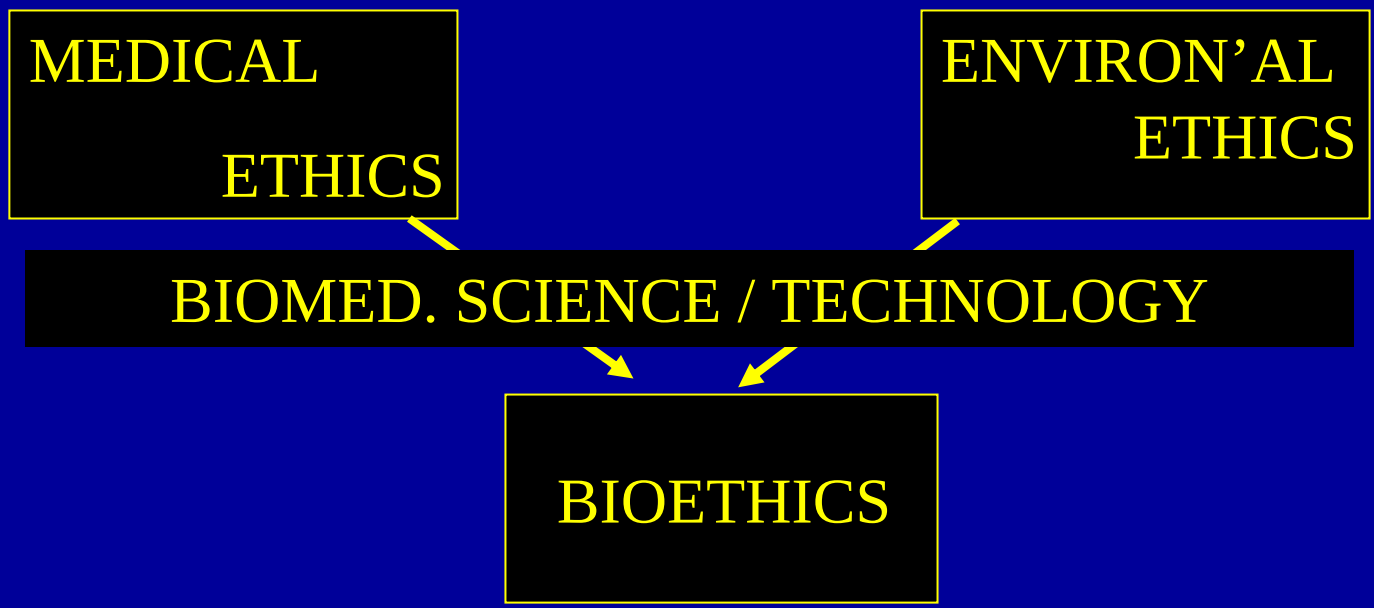

HOW SHOULD WE PROCEED?

- Can ‘classical’ / conventional moral philosophy deal with the issues raised by modern biomedical science?
- Can we derive ethical guidelines for dealing with the effects of modern technology?

- Code of ethics?

Making moral choices

- How do we make choices?

- Muddling through
- Deontological systems
- Consequentialist systems
- The ‘Yuk factor’
- Virtue, Prudence and Wisdom

Making moral choices

- Affected by our ‘world view’
- How do we acknowledge / respect the world view of others?
- Private versus Public Morality
- Involvement of Judiciary