

## **Bioethics Unit of the Autonomous University of Querétaro**

**Incorporated on December 10, 2014**

The Bioethics Unit of the Autonomous University of Querétaro is a center for the study of applied ethics and bioethics, established after eight years of convergent work between the International Consortium of nine educational institutions throughout Mexico, the United States and Canada. ; with the purpose of developing a Center for Integrating Two PNPC-CONACYT Programs of Excellence: Master's Degree in Contemporary Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy; Master's Degree in Applied Ethics and Bioethics, Faculty of Law; a Specialty program for professional training in Research Ethics, Faculty of Philosophy; Continuous Training Programs; and CREEI International Consortium with the Master of Science (Bioethics) from Clarkson University.

The Bioethics Unit is established with the aim of promoting research, dissemination and education of bioethics, and especially, to promote dialogical and critical interaction of the different ethical perspectives of the academic and social community. Thus, the Bioethics Unit is an interdisciplinary and plural reflective center in defense of Autonomy, Justice, Charity and non-Maleficence as a fundamental part of the effort that our society demands.

Our Bioethics Unit is characterized by being above all deliberative, constructivist, social, plural, secular and critical. Our point of reflection and analysis of specific cases in global contexts is about the ethical consideration that the relationships of human beings with other human beings and those beings that are not human beings should have, the care of the environment and the moral responsibility that we keep with future generations, where the framework for reflection offered by bioethics, given the scientific, technical and innovation advances of recent decades, constitute a logical and rational basis to face the dilemmas generated by the border between science, development and ethics.

At the UAQ during 2006, it was the first occasion where the faculties of Natural Sciences, Medicine and Philosophy met to work on a common theme: Bioethics, under the task of achieving an International Consortium Mexico-Canada-United States of Bioethics and Public Policies for Science, with the participation of nine Universities as a whole. These Universities were, in Mexico: Autonomous Popular University of Puebla; Anahuac University and Autonomous University of Querétaro. In the United States of America: University of Texas "El Paso", Howard University and Hope College. In Canada: Université du Quebec; Montreal University and Saint Paul University. The UAQ as a public institution and a secular institution, would be at the forefront as leader of the Mexico chapter,

Since 2009, the Bioethics Unit formed a Collegiate Group of Applied Ethics and Bioethics, to formalize, design and establish a Master's Degree in Bioethics Educational Program; academic forums, and a reflective space with special guests of emeritus professors at the national and international level. Its collegiate body designed and participated in training courses and Diplomas from 2006 to 2013 initially offered by the International Consortium on Bioethics and Public Policies for Science and in 2013, the activities of the CREEI Consortium – Ethics Education Initiative began. of research in the Caribbean, for its acronym in English – which has allowed the interdisciplinary professional training of participants from seven countries of the Caribbean Basin, with already 50 professionals trained in the basic and advanced courses in Research Ethics; and at this moment entering the third generation to reach the formation now of Master of Sciences (Bioethics) of 45 Spanish-speaking professionals also from the

Caribbean basin: the Mexican Republic, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama and the Dominican Republic .

At this time, the Bioethics Unit of the Autonomous University of Querétaro has managed to establish an integrated proposal, between the Specialty in Research Ethics and its Master's Program in Applied Ethics and Bioethics; a situation that in turn has allowed the recognition at a national level of the CREEI Master of Science (Bioethics) program taught at Clarkson University; as well as at this time it opened the possibility of obtaining a double degree (double degree) between both Master's programs.

The Bioethics Unit has an academic committee that acts as a board of directors of five people: Dr. José Salvador Arellano, Dr. Hilda Romero Zepeda, Dr. Bernardo García Camino, Dr. Robert T. Hall and cDr. Eduardo Farias Trujillo; who, in addition to managing the CREEI program to date, the Bioethics Unit counts among their achievements:

- Publication of 11 books (<http://unidadbioetica.com/publicaciones/>) and more than 25 articles
- Co-authorships with participants of the national and international CREEI program
- Academic relations with national and international universities and institutes: Michoacan University of San Nicolás de Hidalgo, University of Guanajuato and University of Medical Sciences of Matanzas, at the high school level with the College of Bachelors of the State of Querétaro; Bioethics Program of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the Committee of the Mexican Institute of Insurance IMSS, Querétaro Delegation; of the Center for Advanced Social Research, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the College of Bioethics AC in Mexico City, and the National Bioethics Commission of the Secretary of Health in Mexico, among others that are in consolidation as with CECYPE – CIATE -J and the Institute of Higher Education, CONACYT postgraduate program of excellence under his charge, with the DiMare Foundation in Costa Rica,
- At an international level, we present conferences and courses at the Universidad de la Laguna, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Complutense University (Madrid) and the University of Granada in Spain, as well as professional conferences and universities in Cuba and Panama. Theses have been advised at the Master's level in the field of Bioethics and two doctoral theses related to moral issues. In addition to numerous presentations at the National and International level.
- In addition, a Fulbright scholarship was obtained for a three-month stay for Professor Ruth Macklin, an internationally recognized researcher who has already committed to collaborating with the Bioethics Unit in the future.
- It established a collaboration agreement for the dissemination and training of the National ethical culture, with the National Bioethics Commission in Mexico, and collaboration with the National Bioethics Commission in Panama.
- The international leadership within the CREEI Consortium of the Spanish-speaking community for the generation of literature, programs and courses in Spanish and on the frontier of knowledge accessible to Spanish-speaking academia, industry and research.
- Currently, the Bioethics Unit has two patrimonial chairs; Patrimonial Chair “Dr. Ruy Pérez Tamayo”, and Patrimonial Chair “Unit Chair Bioethics UNESCO-Haifa”, currently (2021) Patrimonial Chair “International Bioethics Chair Unit” of the World Medical Association (WMA), all for the formation and strengthening of a culture social, professional and research ethics.

At the same time, it provides a strong impact on social reflection on topics of interest (abortion, euthanasia, assisted reproduction, sexual diversity, animal treatment, ecology, scientific research with living beings and animals, educational interventions, hospital bioethics committees, research and civic, scope and limits of science, regulations and technology, among others). And above all, the support for the establishment and consolidation in the different Schools and Faculties of this house of study and associated Universities, Research Ethics Committees, and Clinical and Hospital Bioethics Committees.

## References

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## More information

Official website of the Bioethics Unit: <http://filosofia.uaq.mx/index.php/investigacion/cii/unidad-de-bioetica/>

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