

Euthanasia And Assisted Suicide The Current Debate

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Public discussion of euthanasia and assisted suicide is growing. In Australia as elsewhere the debate is difficult, contentious and confronting, and hampered by the secrecy that necessarily surrounds illegal practice. Most people simply have no way of knowing how, and how often, medically assisted death actually occurs. Roger Magnusson presents, for the first time, detailed first-hand accounts by doctors, nurses, therapists and other health professionals who have been participants in assisted death. All have been intimately involved in caring for people with AIDS, both in Australia and in California. He places these ambivalent, self-incriminating accounts within the broader context of the right-to-die debate and the challenges of palliative care. The frankness of the health workers and the richness of their collected evidence set this book apart. From within a culture of deception they speak knowingly and movingly of the merciful release of a peaceful death, while acknowledging the reality of 'botched attempts', euthanasia without consent, precipitative euthanasia, lack of accountability and professional distance, and many other disturbing issues. *Angels of Death* provides a window into the 'euthanasia underground'-a secret part of medicine and nursing that few professionals will publicly acknowledge. It brings a sense of urgency and precision to public debate, and equips us all to think more independently about these crucial issues.

The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

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Addressing the subject of euthanasia, medical ethicist Dr. Linda Emanuel assembles testimony from leading experts to provide not only a clear account of the arguments for and against physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia--but also historical, empirical, and legal perspectives on this complex and often heart-rending issue.

Physician-Assisted Suicide

Physician-Assisted Suicide: What are the Issues? offers a detailed discussion of recent supreme court rulings that have had an impact on the contemporary debate in the United States and elsewhere over physician-assisted suicide. Two rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court have altered the contemporary debate on physician-assisted suicide: *Washington v. Glucksberg* (1997) and *Vacco v. Quill* (1997). In these cases, the Supreme Court ruled that state laws could prohibit assisted suicide and, therefore, physician-assisted suicide. These rulings mark the apex of over two decades of unprecedented litigation regarding end-of-life care and signal the beginning of a new clinical, ethical, and legal debate over the extent of an individual's rights to control the timing, manner, and means of his/her death. The debate over suicide and assisting suicide is ancient and contentious and intertwined with questions about the permissibility of voluntary active euthanasia or mercy killing. Responses to these issues can be divided into those who defend physician-assisted suicide and many of these other activities and those who object. But those who object may do so on principled grounds in that

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they regard these activities as wrong in all cases, or non-principled, in that they believe there are more prudent, less disruptive or more efficient policies. The authors in this book sort out these responses and look at the assumptions underlying them. Several of these authors give startling new interpretations that a culture gap, deeper and wider than that in the abortion debate, exists.

Medically Assisted Death

The question of whether and under what circumstances terminally ill patients should be able to access life-ending medications with the aid of a physician is receiving increasing attention as a matter of public opinion and of public policy. Ethicists, clinicians, patients, and their families debate whether physician-assisted death ought to be a legal option for patients. While public opinion is divided and public policy debates include moral, ethical, and policy considerations, a demand for physician-assisted death persists among some patients, and the inconsistent legal terrain leaves a number of questions and challenges for health care providers to navigate when presented with patients considering or requesting physician-assisted death. To discuss what is known and not known empirically about the practice of physician-assisted death, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convened a 2-day workshop in Washington, DC, on February 12-13, 2018. This publication summarizes the presentations and discussions from the workshop.

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Bioethics

This book describes the way assisted death -- physician-assisted suicide and/or voluntary euthanasia - functions in the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and the state of Oregon - and states the lessons that can be drawn from this experience.

When Death is Sought

Explores the moral and factual issues of the legalization of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide

Assisted Death in Europe and America

When the end of life makes its inevitable appearance, people should be able to expect reliable, humane, and effective caregiving. Yet too many dying people suffer unnecessarily. While an "overtreated" dying is feared, untreated pain or emotional abandonment are equally frightening. Approaching Death reflects a wide-ranging effort to understand what we know about care at the end of life, what we have yet to learn, and what we know but do not adequately apply. It seeks to build understanding of what constitutes good care for the dying and offers recommendations to decisionmakers that address specific barriers to achieving good care. This volume offers a profile of when, where, and how Americans die. It examines the dimensions of caring at the end of life: Determining diagnosis and prognosis and communicating these to patient and family. Establishing clinical and personal

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goals. Matching physical, psychological, spiritual, and practical care strategies to the patient's values and circumstances. Approaching Death considers the dying experience in hospitals, nursing homes, and other settings and the role of interdisciplinary teams and managed care. It offers perspectives on quality measurement and improvement, the role of practice guidelines, cost concerns, and legal issues such as assisted suicide. The book proposes how health professionals can become better prepared to care well for those who are dying and to understand that these are not patients for whom "nothing can be done."

Dignity Therapy

Provides an overview of the topic, a chronology of important events, an annotated bibliography, and other resources for conducting further research.

Angels of Death

Instances of euthanasia or mercy killing date back to antiquity. However, it is only recently that the unprecedented grassroots efforts to legalize euthanasia have begun building. "Terminal Illness, Assistance with Dying," a California ballot initiative for the November 1992 election, might for the first time in modern history legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide by physicians. Similar initiatives are planned in other states. To vote intelligently, citizens in California and throughout the United States need to learn who is likely to request euthanasia or assisted

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suicide, and why. How we care for the terminally ill eventually affects us all. In over half of all deaths, a chronic disease process such as cancer or congestive heart failure leads to a terminal phase that may last for days, weeks, or months. Most people are more afraid of the suffering associated with this terminal phase than they are afraid of dying itself. When polled, most Americans tell us they would prefer to die at home, surrounded by loved ones, rather than in a hospital receiving high-tech tests and treatments until the last. Yet the majority of people, even those with terminal illnesses, die in the hospital. What factors in our culture and health care system have led to this dichotomy? Unrelieved suffering is also the primary reason for euthanasia requests.

Intending Death

claim was that he had faced a conflict of duties pitting his legal duty not to kill against his duty as a physician to relieve his patient's unbearable suffering. He was acquitted on the important grounds of conflict of duty. These grounds are based on a concept in Dutch law called "force majeure" ⁴ which recognizes extenuating circumstances such as conflicts of duty. The acquittal was upheld by the Lower Court of Alkmaar, but revoked by an Amsterdam court of appeal. The case went on to the Supreme Court, but before the Supreme Court's decision was issued, the Royal Dutch Medical Association (RDMA) attempted to clarify the criteria for euthanasia that many within the profession already accepted. The RDMA proposed that physicians be permitted to perform euthanasia

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provided that a set of procedures had been met. Variousy stated, the guidelines contain the following central provisions: Voluntary, competent, explicit, and persistent requests on the part of the • patient; Requests based on full information; • The patient is in a situation of intolerable and hopeless suffering (either • physical or mental); No further acceptable alternatives to euthanasia. All alternatives • acceptable to the patient for relief of suffering having been tried; Consultation with at least one other physician whose judgment can be • 5 expected to be independent. Indirectly, these guidelines became the criteria prosecutors used to decide whether or not to bring charges.

Death with Dignity

Features the full text of a report entitled "When Death Is Sought: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia in the Medical Context," provided by the Task Force on Life and the Law of the New York State Department of Health. Discusses the epidemiology of suicide, suicide and special patient populations, clinical responses to pain and suffering, the law concerning assisted suicide and euthanasia, and the ethical issues surrounding the controversy.

Asking to Die: Inside the Dutch Debate about Euthanasia

At the cutting-edge of one of the most sensitive contemporary controversies, this anthology presents the most current thinking of experts in the field of the

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ethics of assisted suicide and euthanasia--exploring point blank issues that law and public policy have often skirted or wished away. Explores issues from three perspectives--philosophical, clinical and political, legal and economic.

Death Talk

7 Euthanasia by Confusion

A Concise History of Euthanasia

Recent high-profile cases of terminally-ill patients fighting for the right to assisted suicide have brought the euthanasia debate to the fore once more.

DYING TO KILL

In Dying Justice, Jocelyn Downie provides an up-to-date and comprehensive review of significant developments in the current legal status of assisted death in Canada.

Arguing Euthanasia

Euthanasia, Ethics and Public Policy

Does a competent person suffering from a terminal illness or enduring an otherwise burdensome existence, who considers his life no longer of value but is incapable of ending it, have a right to be helped to die? Should someone for whom further medical

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treatment would be futile be allowed to die regardless of expressing a preference to be given all possible treatment? These are some of the questions that are asked and answered in this wide-ranging discussion of both the morality of medically assisted death and the justifiability of making certain instances legal. A case is offered in support of the moral and legal permissibility of specified instances of medically assisted death, along with responses to the main objections that have been levelled against it. The philosophical argument is bolstered by empirical evidence from The Netherlands and Oregon where voluntary euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide are already legal.

Physician-assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

This is a comprehensive study of euthanasia and assisted suicide. It traces the historical debate, examines the legal status of such activity in different countries and explores the political, medical and moral matters surrounding these emotive and controversial subjects in various cultural contexts. The key advocates and pioneers of this agenda-driven movement (such as the late Jack Kevorkian, popularly known as “Dr. Death” and Philip Nitschke, founder of Exit International) are profiled. Not only are the elderly and disabled becoming increasingly vulnerable but children, psychiatric patients, the depressed and those who are simply tired of life are now on a slippery slope into a dystopian nightmare. The spotlight is brought to bear on the Netherlands, in

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particular, where palliative care and the hospice movement are greatly underdeveloped as a result of legalization. These dubious “services” are now offered as part of “normal” medical care in Holland where it is deemed more cost-effective to be given a lethal injection. The vital role of physicians as healers in society must be preserved and the important but neglected spiritual dimension of death must be explored. Thus a biblical view of human life is presented. Death and bereavement are universal phenomena and people of all faiths and those of none have a legitimate right to comment. However, the historic Christian tradition is struggling to be heard in the clamor for personal autonomy and civil liberties in a multi-cultural society that is becoming increasingly secular. This work provides an ethical framework in which euthanasia and assisted suicide can be evaluated. These issues are on the radar indicating a collision course with Christian values. It is time for Christians to be alert and to present the case that these are not satisfactory solutions to legitimate end-of-life concerns.

New Directions in the Ethics of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

Maintaining dignity for patients approaching death is a core principle of palliative care. Dignity therapy, a psychological intervention developed by Dr. Harvey Max Chochinov and his internationally lauded research group, has been designed specifically to address many of the psychological, existential, and spiritual challenges that patients and their families

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face as they grapple with the reality of life drawing to a close. In the first book to lay out the blueprint for this unique and meaningful intervention, Chochinov addresses one of the most important dimensions of being human. Being alive means being vulnerable and mortal; he argues that dignity therapy offers a way to preserve meaning and hope for patients approaching death. With history and foundations of dignity in care, and step by step guidance for readers interested in implementing the program, this volume illuminates how dignity therapy can change end-of-life experience for those about to die - and for those who will grieve their passing.

Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide

As medical technology advances and severely injured or ill people can be kept alive and functioning long beyond what was previously medically possible, the debate surrounding the ethics of end-of-life care and quality-of-life issues has grown more urgent. In this lucid and vigorous new book, Craig Paterson discusses assisted suicide and euthanasia from a fully fledged but non-dogmatic secular natural law perspective. He rehabilitates and revitalises the natural law approach to moral reasoning by developing a pluralistic account of just why we are required by practical rationality to respect and not violate key demands generated by the primary goods of persons, especially human life. Important issues that shape the moral quality of an action are explained and analysed: intention/foresight;

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action/omission; action/consequences; killing/letting die; innocence/non-innocence; and, person/non-person. Paterson defends the central normative proposition that 'it is always a serious moral wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human person, whether self or another, notwithstanding any further appeal to consequences or motive'.

The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics

Sensitive and high-profile public policy issues often benefit from being considered in comparative perspective. Here, euthanasia and the right to die are examined in the context of the social, legal, and religious settings of a wide range of countries. The authors employ public opinion data, where available, to illustrate the great disparity between approval of physician-assisted suicide and the general illegality of the practice. Ultimately, making and implementing laws to ensure a responsible right to die—as the U.S. has been struggling with in Oregon, Michigan, and elsewhere—will be informed by experiences in such places as the Netherlands, Australia, and the only country in the world where euthanasia is a clear-cut medical option: Colombia.

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Global Views on Choosing to End Life

This book addresses key historical, scientific, legal, and philosophical issues surrounding euthanasia and assisted suicide in the United States as well as in other countries and cultures. • Addresses the

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extended history of debates regarding the ethical justifiability of assisted suicide and euthanasia • Analyzes assisted suicide and euthanasia in many cultural, philosophical, and religious traditions • Provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the subject, including coverage of topics such as the depictions of assisted dying in popular culture, that enables a more complete understanding of the emotionally charged controversy surrounding this subject • Spotlights the latest medical and scientific developments in euthanasia and examines the role of technology in the ethical debates on assisted dying

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Examining the evidence from Belgium – one of only five countries where euthanasia is practised legally – an international panel of experts considers the implications of legalised euthanasia and assisted suicide. Looking at the issue from an international perspective, the authors have written an invaluable in-depth analysis of the ethical aspects of this complex area. The discussion forms a solid foundation for informed debate about assisted dying. With contributors from a broad range of disciplines, this book is ideal for students, academics, legislators and anyone interested in legal, medical, social and philosophical ethics. A vital and timely examination of a growing phenomenon and one of the most challenging ethical questions of our time.

Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

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Essays discuss the legal and ethical issues related to physician-assisted suicide, the work of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, and lethal prescriptions for the terminally ill

Dying Justice

Physician-assisted death is now legal in six states, and is the subject of intense political and legal battles across the country. As our population ages, the debate continues. What are the main dividing lines in this debate? What are the principal ethical questions involved? Philosopher and ethicist L.W. Sumner equips readers with everything they need to know to take a reasoned and informed position on these and similar questions. He provides much-needed context by situating physician-assisted death within the wider framework of end-of-life care, and explains why the movement to legalize it now enjoys such strong public support by reviewing the movement's successes to date, beginning in Oregon in 1994 and now extending to twelve jurisdictions across three continents. By providing an overview of the main ethical and legal arguments on both sides, Sumner provides a clear and accessible explanation of why we have yet to resolve the controversy. Lastly, he considers the future political and judicial actions that are necessary for broader reform of end-of-life care. All those who care about how we handle end-of-life dilemmas will benefit from Sumner's deeply informed expertise on this important issue. -- Provided by publisher.

The Case Against Assisted Suicide

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Bonnie Steinbock presents the authoritative, state-of-the-art guide to current issues in bioethics, covering 30 topics in original essays by some of the world's leading figures in the field, as well as by some newer 'up-and-comers'. Anyone who wants to know how the central debates in bioethics have developed in recent years, and where the debates are going, will want to consult this book.

Physician-assisted Death

"The book is extremely well balanced: in each section there is usually an argument for and against the positions raised. It is a useful and well-thought-out text. It will make people think and discuss the problems raised, which I think is the editor's main purpose." -- Journal of Medical Ethics "a volume that is to be commended for the clarity of its contributions, and for the depth it gains from its narrow focus. In places, this is a deeply moving, as well as closely argued, book." -- Times Literary Supplement "This work is an excellent historical and philosophical resource on a very difficult subject." -- Choice "This collection of well-written and carefully argued essays should be interesting, illuminating, and thought provoking for students, clinicians, and scholars." -- New England Journal of Medicine "This book is highly recommended" -- Pharmacy Book Review "This is a well-balanced collection and the essays are of uniformly good quality. very readable. should be useful to anyone interested in this topic." -- Doody's Health Sciences Book Review Home Page "Physician-Assisted Suicide continues in the fine tradition of the

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Medical Ethics series published by Indiana University Press. Chapters are authored by outstanding scholars from both sides of the debate, providing a balanced, in-depth exploration of physician-assisted suicide along clinical, ethical, historical, and public policy dimensions. It is important reading for those who want to better understand the complex, multilayered issues that underlie this emotionally-laden topic." -- Timothy Quill, M.D. "Robert Weir has produced the finest collection of essays on physician assisted dying yet assembled in one volume. Physician assisted dying involves ethical and legal issues of enormous complexity. The deep strength of this anthology is its multi-disciplinary approach, which insightfully brings to bear interpretations from history, moral philosophy, religion, clinical practice, and law. This is a subject, much like abortion, that has divided America. This volume provides balanced scholarship that will help inform opinions from the hospital and hospice bedside to the halls of federal and state legislatures and courtrooms." -- Lawrence O. Gostin, Co-Director, Georgetown/Johns Hopkins Program on Law and Public Health "This book is a timely and valuable contribution to the debate. Highly recommended for academic collections." -- Library Journal These essays shed light and perspective on today's hotly contested issue of physician-assisted suicide. The authors were selected not only because of their experience and scholarship, but also because they provide readers with differing points of view on this complex subject -- and a potential moral quandary for us all.

Doctor Assisted Suicide and the

Euthanasia Movement

Cancer Medicine

In this book the author makes a case for legalized physician-assisted dying. Using the latest data from Oregon and the Netherlands, he puts a new slant on perennial debate topics such as "slippery slopes," "the integrity of medicine," and "sanctity of life." This book provides an in-depth look at how we die in America today. It examines the shortcomings of our end-of-life system. You will learn about terminal torture in hospital ICUs and about the alternatives: hospice and palliative care. The author scrutinizes the good, the bad, and the ugly. He provides a critique of the practice of palliative sedation. The book makes a strong case that assisted dying complements hospice. By providing both, Oregon now has the best palliative-care system in America. This book, above all, may help you or someone you care about navigate this strange landscape we call "end of life." It can be an informed guide to "a good death" in the age of hospice and high-tech medical intervention.

Euthanasia is Not the Answer

This book provides novel perspectives on the ethical justifiability of assisted dying. Seeking to go beyond traditional debates on topics such as the value of human life and questions surrounding intention and causation, this volume promises to shift the terrain of the ethical debates about assisted dying. It

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reconsiders the role of patient autonomy and paternalistic reasons as well as the part proposed for medical professionals and clinical ethics consultation in connection with assisted dying, relates the debate on assisted dying to questions about organ-donation and developments in medical technology, and demonstrates the significance of experimental philosophy in assessing questions of assisted dying. This book is ideal for advanced courses in bioethics and health care ethics.

The Euthanasia/Assisted-Suicide Debate

The main strength of this book is that it examines the challenges facing the field of Bioethics today from medical, ethical and legal perspectives. A critical exchange of ideas from professionals in interdisciplinary fields allows everyone to learn and benefit from the insights gained through others' experiences. Examining, analyzing and understanding these complex medical-ethical-legal issues and cases and how they are resolved will serve as a paradigm for all professionals who will be confronted with these complex bioethical issues now and in the future. The more we face these challenges directly, examine them critically and debate them enthusiastically the more knowledge will be gained and hopefully, we will gain more practical wisdom.

Regulating how We Die

Internationally renowned lawyer and philosopher Ronald Dworkin addresses the crucially related acts of

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abortion and euthanasia in a brilliantly original book that examines their meaning in a nation that prizes both life and individual liberty. From *Roe v. Wade* to the legal battle over the death of Nancy Cruzan, no issues have opened greater rifts in American society than those of abortion and euthanasia. At the heart of *Life's Dominion* is Dworkin's inquest into why abortion and euthanasia provoke such controversy. Do these acts violate some fundamental "right to life"? Or are the objections against them based on the belief that human life is sacred? Combining incisive moral reasoning and close readings of individual court decisions with a majestic interpretation of the U.S. Constitution itself, Dworkin gives us a work that is absolutely essential for anyone who cares about the legal status of human life.

The Cambridge Textbook of Bioethics

After assessing the strengths and weaknesses of arguments for assisted suicide and euthanasia, Gorsuch builds a nuanced, novel, and powerful moral and legal argument against legalization, one based on a principle that, surprisingly, has largely been overlooked in the debate; the idea that human life is intrinsically valuable and that intentional killing is always wrong. At the same time, the argument Gorsuch develops leaves wide latitude for individual patient autonomy and the refusal of unwanted medical treatment and life-sustaining care, permitting intervention only in cases where an intention to kill is present.

Right to Die?

This revealing volume explores recent historical perspectives on the modern euthanasia and assisted-suicide debate and the political arenas in which it has unfolded. * Case studies explain contemporary legal techniques in the handling of euthanasia and assisted-suicide prosecutions, including those involving doctors, nurses, and family members * A chronology shows political events and major cases of medical euthanasia and assisted suicide over the past 100 years * A glossary explains key terms, such as "causation," "intent," "palliative care," and "double effect" * An interdisciplinary bibliography cites significant materials from the fields of history, law, and sociology, as well as major medical journal articles

Approaching Death

A consideration of the 'slippery slope' objection to voluntary euthanasia, including a review of the Dutch experience.

Euthanasia and the Right to Die

A concise overview of the history and arguments surrounding euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

Life's Dominion

Medicine and health care generate many bioethical

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problems and dilemmas that are of great academic, professional and public interest. This comprehensive resource is designed as a succinct yet authoritative text and reference for clinicians, bioethicists, and advanced students seeking a better understanding of ethics problems in the clinical setting. Each chapter illustrates an ethical problem that might be encountered in everyday practice; defines the concepts at issue; examines their implications from the perspectives of ethics, law and policy; and then provides a practical resolution. There are 10 key sections presenting the most vital topics and clinically relevant areas of modern bioethics. International, interdisciplinary authorship and cross-cultural orientation ensure suitability for a worldwide audience. This book will assist all clinicians in making well-reasoned and defensible decisions by developing their awareness of ethical considerations and teaching the analytical skills to deal with them effectively.

Physician-Assisted Suicide: What are the Issues?

Discusses the origins of euthanasia and assisted suicide, the experience of the Netherlands, where such practices are widely accepted, the Oregon law on assisted suicide, recent court cases, and the ethical questions involved with assisted suicide

Physician-Assisted Death

In The Case against Assisted Suicide: For the Right to

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End-of-Life Care, Dr. Kathleen Foley and Dr. Herbert Hendin uncover why pleas for patient autonomy and compassion, often used in favor of legalizing euthanasia, do not advance or protect the rights of terminally ill patients. Incisive essays by authorities in the fields of medicine, law, and bioethics draw on studies done in the Netherlands, Oregon, and Australia by the editors and contributors that show the dangers that legalization of assisted suicide would pose to the most vulnerable patients. Thoughtful and persuasive, this book urges the medical profession to improve palliative care and develop a more humane response to the complex issues facing those who are terminally ill.

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Traces the controversial history of euthanasia, examining evolving opinions about what constitutes a good death and taking issue with the right-to-die movement over the question of legalizing assisted suicide.

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