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Foreword

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FOREWORD

Disparities in health care have been a concern for many years and recent tragedies such as Hurricane Katrina have made such disparities even more apparent. Addressing the topic of these disparities from the health care point of view is a component of the field of bioethics. Bioethics, while a relatively young field, finds its roots in philosophy and religion. This allows the field to build on both philosophy and religion's handling of inequality based on economics and race.

The two books reviewed in this issue provide different approaches, influences, and perspectives. In *Bioethics Beyond the Headlines: Who Lives? Who Dies? Who Decides?*, Dr. Albert Jonsen addresses bioethics with a focus on the current perspective. He presents the ethical problems currently facing society by using present day examples stemming from news headlines, and he applies the current bioethical principals to inform the reader. In *Is There an Ethicist in the House?: On the Cutting Edge of Bioethics*, Jonathan Moreno takes a different approach by addressing the dichotomy of philosophy in ethics. He focuses on the development of ethics by using historical examples to come to an understanding of the present theories and issues in bioethics.

Jonsen and Moreno's works contribute to the ongoing debate addressing disparities and therefore become important sources in this debate.

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