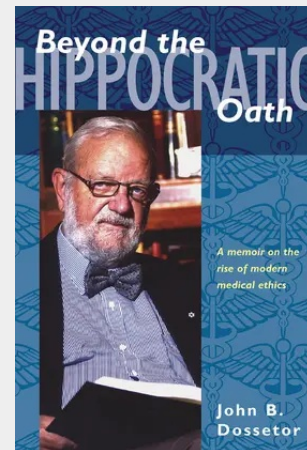


Beyond the Hippocratic Oath

A pioneer in kidney transplantation in Canada in the late 1950s, Dr. John Dossetor was faced with making many ethical decisions in his ground-breaking research and practice in nephrology so it was with much personal experience that he embraced the study of medical ethics in his later years. His medical career spans decades of change as modern technology made possible more complex treatment situations. His observations on his own distinguished career in medicine from his perspective as a bioethicist are instructive and informative.

Beyond the Hippocratic Oath depicts a fascinating period in the history of medicine and highlights the dramatic changes that have occurred in medical care and research in the last 50 years. These events, as well as the even greater changes in health ethics that accompanied them, are told from the personal perspective of a physician who has been directly involved in these very significant changes. From the Foreword by Douglas R. Wilson, M.D., F.R.C.P. In Beyond the Hippocratic Oath, Dr. John Dossetor takes an instructive approach to relating the evolution of modern medicine and Bioethics by reflecting on his own medical experiences. A pioneer in Nephrology, he was involved in early kidney transplantation and was part of the self-titled "God Squad" in Montreal in the 1960s. Faced with making life and death decisions for patients needing dialysis and kidney transplants, his only moral guidance was the Hippocratic Oath—to do no harm. But as medical science advanced, far more complex ethical issues were arising. In the 1980s, Dr. Dossetor, then director of the Division of Nephrology and Clinical Immunology at the University of Alberta Hospital and Professor of Nephrology, took a sabbatical to study medical ethics. Upon his return, he pioneered a new program in Bioethics. With humour and without hubris, Dr. Dossetor examines his career, reflecting from his medical ethical persona, on what may have been common practice at the time as to what is appropriate today. Dr. Dossetor poses "ETHICAL DILEMMAS" and shares his insights and comments, instructing through examples and case studies. His observations on such controversial issues as the impact of biotechnology, end-of-life situations and "organs for sale" are instructive and informative.



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