Ethical codes form the founding principles of medical profession. They embody the values of the time in which they have been formulated and the culture from which they emerge. They provide an ethical structure to govern the practice of the physicians and their relationship with the patients and society.

Biomedical ethics is a complex conglomerate of admirable attributes which a physician should try to possess in plenty. Medical profession has got admiration and adoration from the patients and the public. It is unfortunate, in the recent years the profession has witnessed a steady erosion of the ethics. It is failing to satisfy expectation of the patient and the society. The complexity of the medical profession and the demands by the public in the recent years has necessitated the renewal of the physician’s dedication to the patient’s interests and the intrinsic virtues necessary for the medical profession.

In this background, biomedical ethics has found a place in the undergraduate medical curriculum. Prof. Ajeet Jain and colleagues have highlighted in the book, the dilemmas encountered by the clinicians during their practice. The book contains 27 chapters. The introductory chapter deals with the approach to be made for ethical problem. Other chapters include topics such as doctor-patient relationship, confidentiality, professionalism etc. The language is simple and the authors have discussed various ethical problems by giving real life case scenario.

The authors have discussed the situations like breaking bad news, termination of life-sustaining treatment, truth telling and withholding the information, and end of life issues. The appendix carries the Geneva Convention code of medical ethics and the Hippocratic Oath. The authors have done a fine job of drawing the attention of medical profession towards the biomedical ethics. It answers many common situations that are encountered every day in clinical practice with examples. The topics discussed in the book are relevant and useful to medical profession.

The Medical Professionalism Project jointly sponsored by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and American College of Physicians (ACP) and European Federation of Internal Medicine in a collaborative effort has designed to raise the concept of professionalism within the consciousness of Internal Medicine and has brought out a charter in 2002 on medical professionalism dealing with the fundamental principles and professional responsibility to both patients and society to be followed by the physician. The present book extends the theme admirably and the book is very useful to all clinicians. It covers a wealth of information that is not covered by standard text books. The book is recommended to all students, clinicians and research workers. The authors deserve congratulation for bringing out such a valuable book.

Dr. PS Shankar, M.D. FAMS, DSc
Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Medical Director
M. R. Medical College and Attached Teaching Hospitals
M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga, Karnataka