**Tehran university of Medical Sciences**

**School of Medicine**

# Title:
# Compiling the research roadmap in medical ethics

**A thesis/dissertation submitted as partial fulfillment of requirements for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree**
**in**
**Medical Ethics**

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# Abstract:

## Compiling research roadmap in medical ethics

**Introduction:** The development of medical sciences and emerging new technologies create complex ethical challenges. So, new studies should be designed to analyze the challenges to find a solution; however, the research budget is limited. Therefore, to allocate limited resources to research, ethical challenges should be prioritized. For this purpose, developing a road map is one of the best ways. The roadmap identifies our approach to future researches in the field and coordinates the researchers. Therefore, in this study, we aimed to identify research priorities and importance between all ethical challenges in medical sciences. We also compared our research activities with other countries that are active in this field worldwide.

**Methods:** This study was designed and implemented in four steps. As the first step, all medical ethics topics were identified by literature review followed by prioritization and determination of their importance by the 3-rounded Delphi technique. In the second step, the prioritized ethical subjects (the first six priorities) were used to design the questions of the semi-structured in-depth interviews with clinicians. Data were analyzed by MAXQDA 2018 software, and codes and subcodes were categorized. In the third step, a scientometrics study on the world medical ethics and Iranian medical ethics was performed by searching databases including ISI, PubMed, and Scopus. The Kennedy Institute ethical search strategy which Georgetown University presented was used. Only the English papers published in the last three years were considered for the study from the world medical ethics literature. Scientometrics study on the Iranian medical ethics articles, published in Persian and English, was performed by the same research strategy without a time limit. Data were analyzed by Citavi, Excel, Chart tool, and Map chart soft wares.

**Results:** Based on the Delphi study, professionalism, education, the end of life, the beginning of life, public health, and ethics in the research were respectively identified as the six priorities out of 10 main groups. Importance results were also presented in detail. Prioritization and importance were also performed in the subgroups. The results were presented in multiple tables. Twenty-four in-depth interviews were performed for six prioritized groups. The ethical challenges of each group were identified and categorized in the form of codes and subcodes. Lastly, a descriptive analysis of the scientometrics study was performed. The results were presented in graphs, figures, and tables.

**Conclusion:** Based on findings, further research on end-of-life and beginning-of-life ethical issues is necessary for identifying and presenting practical solutions. Despite research activities, there are many ethical challenges in education and research ethics groups. It is recommended that researchers pay more attention to the ethical issues of these two groups. Medical ethics researchers have paid particular attention to professionalism and public health as the main groups. Nowadays, we are facing many challenges in these fields, and it is recommended that research ethics trends on these groups go on. Contrary to the lack of prioritization in the Delphi study, we suggest that the quality and quantity of research in our country on the ethical issues in the vulnerable group is not satisfying, and based on the global results, more studies are necessary. It is

suggested that the results of this thesis will be used in future ethical research and allocating research resources.