

EDITORIAL LETTER

Vol. 3. No 2 (2017)

Punctual with its semiannual commitment to the scientific and legal community, *Ius et Scientia* presents the second issue of the third volume corresponding to the year 2017, in which, after peer review according to the double-blind system, eight articles of quality and contrasting originality, with a very varied theme, but that have Bioethics, Biolaw, Biomedicine, New Technologies and Human Rights as factors that make up a common denominator.

Human dignity as a key concept, both of International Law and of International Humanitarian Law, is the main object of study by Vicky Tzatzaki in her study on a human right that is so essential, and at the same time so basic to protect and guarantee human life, like the right to water. In this sense, the author analyzes the implications and the theoretical and practical repercussions that General Comment number 15 on the Right to Water has had, since its adoption in 2002 up to the present, by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations, according to which, to have sufficient, safe, acceptable, accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use are necessary requisites for the enjoyment of this vital human right, in which human dignity must also be included as *conditio sine qua non* of the same.

The ethical-legal dichotomy between the right to health and the right to privacy in the sports field forms the framework that encompasses the study of Dr. Elena Atienza Macías in relation to the biological passport. The introduction of anti-doping controls in sports competitions for the sake of health and the guarantee of fair play has led in recent years to a regulatory development in the field of sports health, a greater presence and vigilance on the part of public institutions, and a significant degree of social awareness. In this regard, the author asks whether, given this regulatory framework, the procedures that have been established and the practice of controls, are respectful and contemplate the more general framework referred to the protection of fundamental rights that are

enshrined in both the constitutions of the member countries of the European Union, as in the European Charter of Rights.

The mining or exploration of biometric information data in the field of statistics and computer science, and its relationship with the field of privacy and data protection is the research topic of the collective article written by Crystalie Bourcha, Maria-Louiza Deftou, and Dr. Anthi Koskina. With regard to this technique of exploration and tracking of private data with supposed scientific, health or public safety purposes, an interesting theoretical debate has arisen as a result of some sentences recently handed down recently by the European Court of Justice, in accordance with the concept of privacy enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights.

The advance of the biomedical techniques of monitoring and preimplantation genetic diagnosis have opened the debate around the eugenics and the genetic manipulation with therapeutic or refining purposes of the human race that today raises the transhumanist doctrine that pretends to surpass the humanistic paradigm and the Project of Modernity inherited from the Enlightenment. In his article about the selection of sex in the embryonic phase, Dr. Joaquín Jiménez González makes a general assessment of this bioethical and bio-legal dilemma that updates the *status quaestionis* of this debate in ethical, scientific and legal terms.

In line with the continuity of the New Technologies applied to the influential social networks, Patricia Craviotto Valle dedicates her article to raise in ethical-juridical terms the debate arising around the legitimate decision of late motherhood, as a free option of the future mother, and the misrepresentation that this choice is made by its detractors in social networks, especially among Spanish cybernauts.

In relation to one of the factors that has contributed most to highlight the change of ethical-political paradigm in what Ulrich Beck has called "the metamorphosis of the world", Simona Fanni and Dr. Ernani Contipelli, address the interaction between the theory of human adaptation to climate change from an international bioethical and bio-juridical perspective. In this sense, both authors highlight a novel issue of special relevance for its bioethical and bio-legal implications, such as genetic editing for

therapeutic purposes both in the field of new technologies of genetic medicine and in the field of epigenetics.

In connection with the scientific advances made in the field of biological experimentation, Dr. Saad Bentaouet studies the risks and threats posed by biological warfare by the premeditated and unlimited use of microorganisms, and toxins, generally of microbial, vegetable or animal origin, to produce diseases and deaths among humans, livestock and crops, and whose indiscriminate use has been preferentially carried out by terrorist groups in our time as a strategy to destabilize and subdue civil society, damage the economy and threaten public health.

With regard to the security of international society and humanitarian catastrophes, Andrés Bautista-Hernández carries out a study on coordinated and effective disaster management mechanisms, not only at the local, regional or national levels, but also and more important at the international. In this sense, this last article assesses in particular the fundamental role played by the United Nations Organization in the field of catastrophes in its dual aspect, institutional and normative.

The faithful reader to *Ius et Scientia* will verify that the contents of this issue are original, plural and diverse, taking into account our vocation of offering to the scientific and juridical community themes of new reflection and of common interest in the field of Biomedicine, Biogenetics and Biolaw with object of contributing to the debate on the protection and guarantee of human rights in the field of International Law, and of fundamental rights and freedoms within the framework of the Rule of Law.