

The Need to Self-Organize a Code of Ethics for Bioengineering

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Most major professions and professional societies have their own codes of ethics. For example, the four traditional professions of law, medicine, divinity, and academia each begin with the recognition that there exists a fiduciary responsibility of experts in these domains to look after the best interests of non-experts. Is bioengineering a profession in this same sense? Should it have its own code of ethics developed internally by practitioners in the field? What would such a code look like? What would it commit bioengineers to? This talk will look to adjacent fields, particularly (traditional) engineering and medicine, to see what elements can be used as starting points for bioengineering ethics and what else may need to be added to make this code of ethics fit for purpose for bioengineering.