MEDICAL ETHICS

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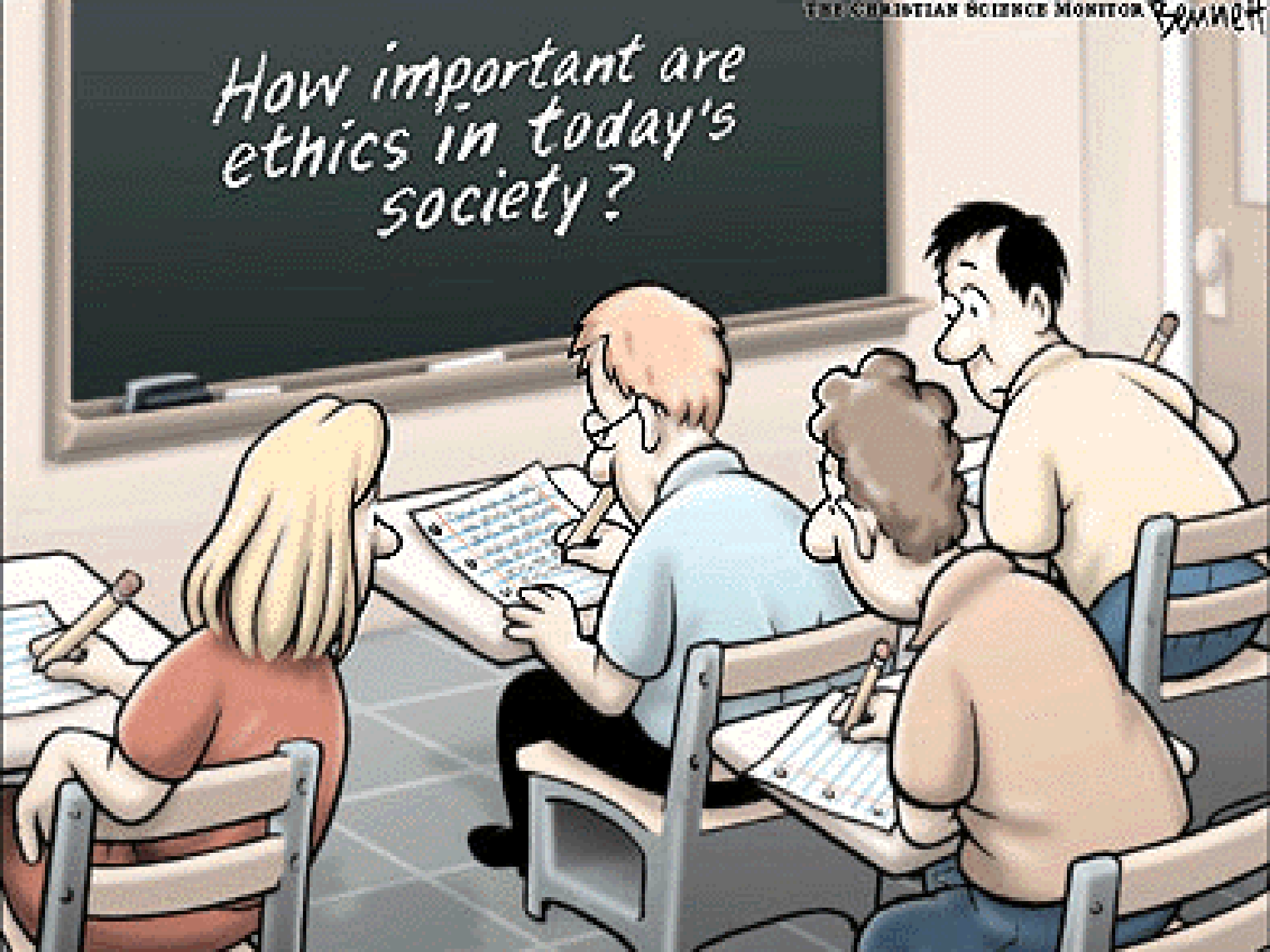

How important are ethics in today's society?

OBJECTIVES

- Definition.
- Basic concept of medical ethics.
- Historical introduction.
- General principles of medical ethics.
- Items of medical ethics.
- Ethical aspect of some medical practice of special nature.
- Medical certificate.
- Medical syndicate.

DEFINITION

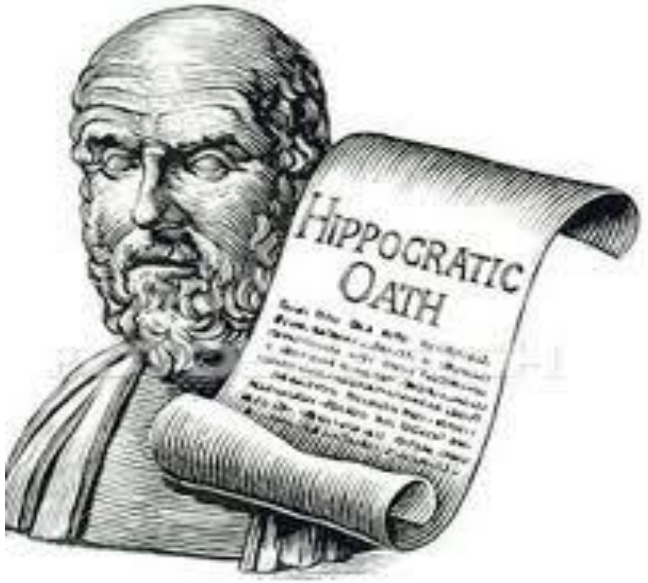
Medical ethics:

*Rules of professional **etiquette and traditions** in medicine.

*A set of **principles** that attempts to guide physicians in their **relationship** with patients and with each others.

Greek :

-Hippocratic Oath.



The touchstone of **modern** medical ethics.

The Hippocratic Ethic, particularly the oath, was **incorporated** into the teaching of (Moslem, Jewish, and Christian physicians).

-Aesculapius.

The priests of Aesculapius healed through art and magic and had little science.

To date, the staff and snake of Aesculapius remain the **symbol of healing** of the medical physicians.

BASIC CONCEPT OF MEDICAL ETHICS

"The **patient** is the center of the medical universe around which all the efforts of doctors revolve“

(**Peer conduct**)

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

<u>Babylonians:</u> Code of Hammurabi:

The **earliest** written code of ethical principles and conduct for medical practice (2500 BC).

The Code of Hammurabi was a list of 282 laws brought together and written on an 8 foot tall stone pillar in 1280 AD for all the people of Babylonia to see.

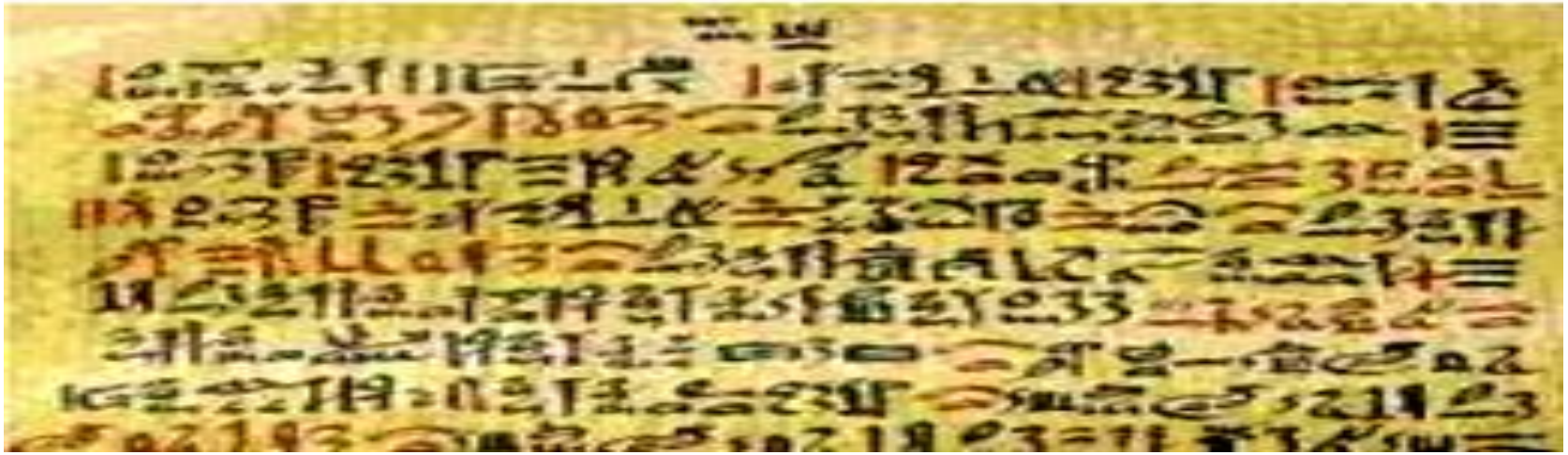
Egyptian: Papyri

Hesyre, oldest known physician

- Represent the first documented **descriptions** of the priest-physician, as well as methods of establishing **diagnoses** and appropriate **treatment** decisions.

- Innovative or unconventional treatments on a patient that caused the **death** of the patient could also result in **loss of the treating physician's life.**

EGYPT – Physician HesiRe – circa 2650BC



Ebers Papyrus (110 pages, 877 remedies); 10 meters long, 30 cm wide, internal medicine, plus diseases of the eye, skin, extremities, gynecology and some surgical diseases.

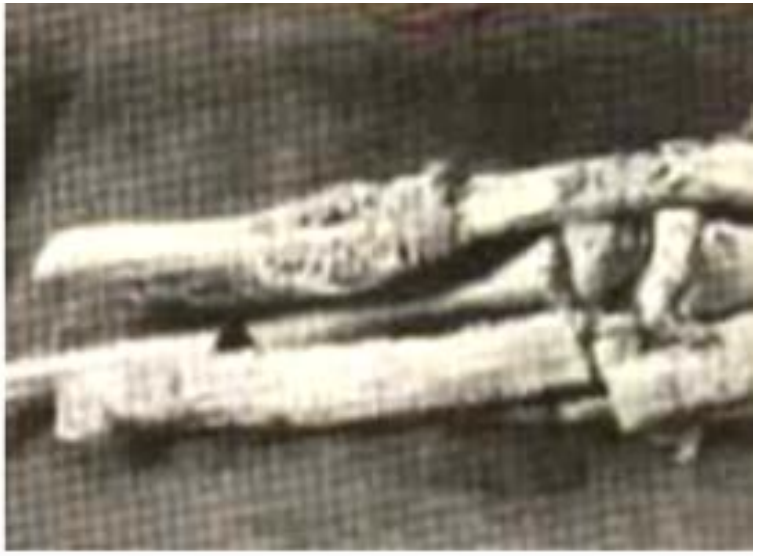
EGYPTIANS, NOT GREEKS WERE TRUE FATHERS OF MEDICINE

Scientists examining documents dating back 3,500 years say they have found proof that the origins of modern medicine lie in ancient Egypt and not with Hippocrates and the Greeks.

The research team from the KNH Centre for Biomedical Egyptology at The University of Manchester discovered the evidence in medical papyri written in 1,500BC – 1,000 years before Hippocrates was born.

"Classical scholars have always considered the ancient Greeks, particularly Hippocrates, as being the fathers of medicine but our findings suggest that the ancient Egyptians were practising a credible form of pharmacy and medicine much earlier," said Dr Jackie Campbell.

delivering a baby



fractured forearm with splint

medical instruments

Galan a Greek, worked in Rome and advanced the ethical Stance that combined **Hippocratic and Stoic ethics**.

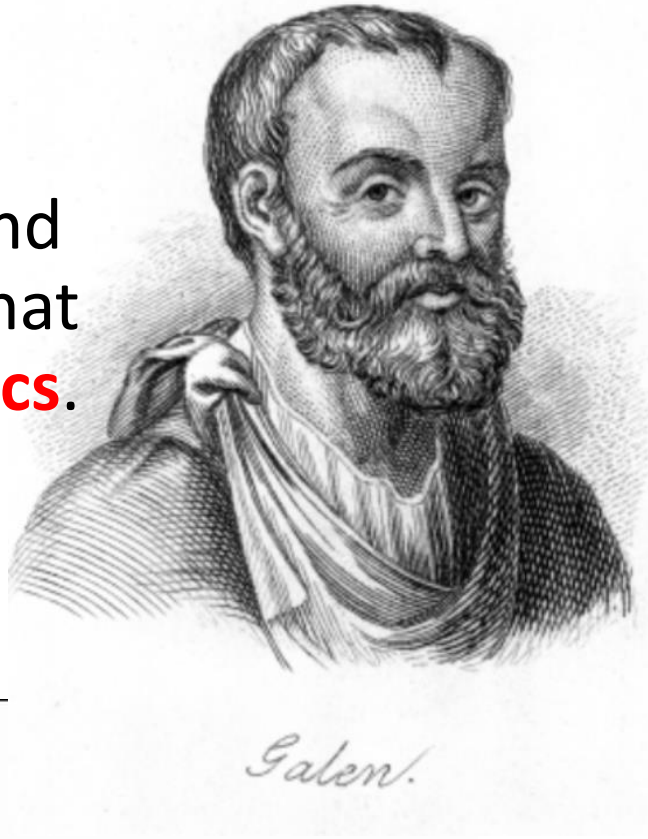
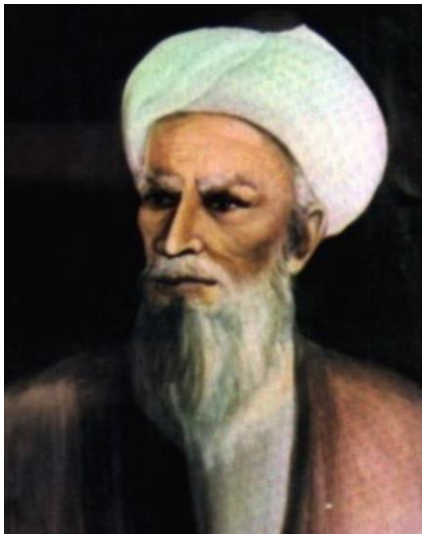


Photo of Remains of Galen's clinic

Chinese and Hindu medical ethics:

Established ethical precepts that were in accord with the **Aesculapian** ethics, **Babylonians** and the **Greeks**.

Абӯали Сино - Avicenna



Arab and Persian medical ethics:

Avicenna and **Rhazes** ,were renowned physicians, philosophers, and clinicians who wrote extensively about medicine.

Jewish medical ethics:

Moses Maimonides was one of the greatest physician-philosophers who compiled a canon of Jewish law and medicine.

Christian medical ethics:

St, Thomas Aquinas integrated the philosophy and ethics of Aristotle with Christian's.

Sicily:

Frederick II father of **quality assurance** of medical care.

English medical ethics:

In **1520**, the **Royal College of Physicians** of London drew up a penal code for physicians.

In **1543**, the word "**penal**" was changed to "**ethical**" to avoid the implication of criminology.

In **1858** the **British Medical Association** published its Code of Ethics.

International Code of Medical Ethics :

(Horrific experiments were carried out in concentration camps by fascist doctors in Germany and Japan during the 1939-45 war)

- Declaration of **Geneva** in **1948**.
- **World medical association 1949.**
- Amended in 19**68**, again in 19**83** and 19**94**.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL ETHICS

Items of medical ethics

- 1. Duties of physicians.
- 2. Medical confidentiality.

1. Patient autonomy (self government):

Each individual is the **master** of decision making, the patient's right to refuse even at the risk of death.

2. Beneficence:

Physicians have a duty to act in the **best interest** of their patients.

3. Non- maleficent:

Physicians must do **no harm** to their patients.

4. Justice:

Every patient must be provided with optimal care as warranted by the underlying **medical condition.**

Thank You