

**The Rising Global Cancer  
Pandemic:  
Health, Ethics,  
*and*  
Social Justice**

Edited *by*

Andrea Vicini, SJ, Philip J. Landrigan,  
*and* Kurt Straif

# THE RISING GLOBAL CANCER PANDEMIC

Health, Ethics, and Social Justice

Copyright © 2022 Andrea Vicini, SJ, Philip J. Landrigan, and Kurt Straif.  
All rights reserved.

Except for brief quotations in critical publications or reviews, no part of this book may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the publisher. Write: Permissions, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 199 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 3, Eugene, OR 97401.

Pickwick Publications

An Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers

199 W. 8th Ave., Suite 3

Eugene, OR 97401

[www.wipfandstock.com](http://www.wipfandstock.com)

SOFTCOVER ISBN: 978-1-6667-533506

HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-6667-5336-3

EBOOK ISBN: 978-1-6667-5337-0

To cancer patients, researchers, and caregivers accompanying them in their struggles, ordeals, and hopes.

# Global Theological Ethics — Book Series

## ***Series Editors***

Jason King, St. Vincent College

M. Therese Lysaught, Loyola University Chicago

The Global Theological Ethics book series focuses on works that feature authors from around the world, draw on resources from the traditions of Catholic theological ethics, and attend to concrete issues facing the world today. It advances the *Journal of Moral Theology*'s mission of fostering scholarship deeply rooted in traditions of inquiry about the moral life, engaged with contemporary issues, and exploring the interface of Catholic moral theology philosophy, economics, political philosophy, psychology, and more.

This series is sponsored in conjunction with the Catholic Theological Ethics and the World Church. The CTEWC recognizes the need to dialogue from and beyond local cultures and to interconnect within a world church. Its global network of scholars, practitioners, and activists fosters cross-cultural, interdisciplinary conversations—via conferences, symposia, and colloquia, both in-person and virtually—about critical issues in theological ethics, shaped by shared visions of hope.

Online versions of the volumes in the *Global Theological Ethics* series are available for free download as chapters at [jmt.scholasticahq.com](http://jmt.scholasticahq.com). Paper copies may be purchased from Wipf & Stock. This dual approach reflects the *Journal of Moral Theology*'s commitment to the common good as it seeks to make the scholarship of Catholic theological ethicists broadly available, especially across borders.

## ***Series Titles***

*Ethical Challenges in Global Public Health: Climate Change, Pollution, and the Health of the Poor*, edited by Philip J. Landrigan and Andrea Vicini, SJ (2021)

*The Rising Global Cancer Pandemic: Health, Ethics, and Social Justice*, edited by Andrea Vicini, SJ, Philip J. Landrigan, and Kurt Straif (2022)

# Table of Contents

<b><i>Acknowledgements</i></b> .....	viii
--------------------------------------	------

## ***Introduction***

Introduction	
<i>Andrea Vicini, SJ</i> .....	2

## ***Part 1: The Changing Context***

1. The Global Cancer Pandemic: Trends and Disparities	
<i>Kurt Straif</i> .....	13
2. Driving Forces of the Epidemic: A Polluted and Polluting Planet	
<i>Philip J. Landrigan</i> .....	22
3. Ethical Spending in Addressing Cancer Treatment, Screening, and Prevention	
<i>Arvind Kumar and Raja M. Flores</i> .....	39
4. Health Care Access and Coverage for Cancer Patients: An Ethical Imperative	
<i>Lilian Ferrer, Rodrigo Lopez, Francisca Lopez, and Maria Isabel Catoni</i> .....	52

## ***Part 2: Social Concerns and Strategies***

5. Cancer, Global, Pandemic, Health, Ethics, and Social Justice: A Meditation on Some Five-letter Words that Are Pervasive Accelerants	
<i>Richard J. Jackson</i> .....	62
6. The Role of Policy in Prevention: Protecting People and the Environment	
<i>Nsedu Obot Witherspoon</i> .....	71

***Part 3: Ethical Issues and Practical Approaches***

7. Talking God and Talking Cancer: Why Womanist Ethics Matters for Breast Cancer Prevention and Control among Black Women  
*Elizabeth A. Williams* .....82

8. Social Inequities and Social Justice: Crafting Ethical Priorities for a Global Journey with Cancer  
*Conor M. Kelly* .....98

9. Navigating the Continuum of Care: Common Goods and Uncommon Experiences  
*Christian Cintron* .....111

***Part 4: International Perspectives: Major Cancer Problems and Prospects for Prevention***

10. Major Cancer Problems and Prospects for Prevention in Asia  
*Rengaswamy Sankaranarayanan* .....125

11. Major Cancer Problems and Prospects for Prevention: A European Perspective  
*Walter Ricciardi* .....137

12. The Rising Cancer Pandemic in Latin America: Major Cancer Problems and Prospects for Prevention  
*Michail K. Shafir* .....151

***Part 5: Surviving Cancer***

13. Ruminations from a Patient to Future Provider: Cancer as a Lifelong Journey  
*Bridgette Merriman* .....166

14. Climbing Together  
*Woody Hubbell* .....178

15. A Cancer Diagnosis: Raw Emotion, Front and Center—How Your Life Changes in a Second

*Laura Campbell* .....184

16. Another Reason to Bring Cancer into the Realm of Global Public Health: The Insularity of Cancer Patients and How Global Public Health Might Get Them Better Connected

*James F. Keenan, SJ* .....187

### ***Conclusions: Looking at the Future***

17. A Global Strategy for Eliminating Cervical Cancer: Challenges and Opportunities

*Silvia de Sanjose* .....200

18. Cancer in the Context of Global Inequities and Disparities in COVID Times: An Ethical Reflection

*Andrea Vicini, SJ* .....209

## Acknowledgments

We express our deep gratitude to our many colleagues—at Boston College, across the U.S.A., and internationally—who generously shared their passion and expertise in reflecting on the ethical challenges that confront the rising global cancer pandemic and how it affects local and global efforts to promote health. We are grateful that some of their contributions are gathered in this book.

The Boston College community—with its dedicated faculty, students, administrators, and staff, its commitment to science and the humanities, and its longing for social justice—continues to be an inspiring formative context for ethically-inspired education, research, and practice in global public health. As a university, Boston College has enabled us to engage in examining urgent issues in global public health, identifying and addressing social inequities, striving to promote the common good, advancing justice, and caring for the Earth—our common home. These are complex times, while the whole world continues to struggle because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, added to the many pre-existing and enduring challenges that affect the health of individuals, populations, and of the whole planet. For all these reasons, we are very thankful.

This volume continues to rely on and joins diverse academic entities and initiatives at Boston College that foster this ethos and that aim at training students and citizens attentive to address ethically and with competence the multiple issues affecting global public health across the planet. In particular, we mention the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society; the program in Global Public Health and the Common Good, with its minor and forthcoming major; the William F. Connell School of Nursing; and, within the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, the Biology Department, the Environmental Studies program, the Engineering Department with its recently launched major in Human-Centered Engineering, and the minor in Medical Humanities, Health, and Culture.

Andrea Vicini, SJ, Philip J. Landrigan, and Kurt Straif