As a species of practical ethics, bioethics exhibits a complex and contested relationship to philosophical theory. But on the other hand, many who work in the
area of bioethics, including many philosophers, are highly skeptical of the so-called “applied ethics” model of moral reasoning, in which exemplars of high theory (e.g., consequentialist utilitarianism, Kantian deontology, rights-based theories, natural law, etc.) are directly “applied” to practical problems.

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