

**From Olympian to Paralympian  
and from Nichomachean to Cyborgian:  
The Un-bio-ethical dimension of elite sport  
and what role-models society needs**

**Constantine Psimopoulos – Emerging Scholar Award 2022**

**Bioethical Concerns Regarding  
Respect for Autonomy and Power Dynamics among the  
Doctor/Coach/Athlete Triad in Pursuit of Human Performance**

**Whose Body Is it?**  
Sport and the Problem of Autonomy

 Sport & Society

**Thirteenth International Conference on Sport & Society**

Aarhus University, Denmark

30 June–1 July 2022



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**CENTER FOR  
BIOETHICS**

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# IPC Code of Ethics

- a) dignity
- b) integrity
- c) equality

**Paralympic family shall adhere to all ethical standards, including the safeguarding of the dignity of the individual and of the sport**

# Anti-Doping code

**A fundamental rationale...emphasizing the pursuit of preserving “*what is intrinsically valuable about sport*”, which is in turn synonymous to “*the spirit of sport*”**

## HISTORY OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

Sport for athletes with an impairment has existed for more than 100 years, and the first sport clubs for the deaf were already in existence in 1888 in Berlin.

It was not until after World War II however, that it was widely introduced. The purpose of it at that time was to assist the large number of war veterans and civilians who had been injured during wartime.

In 1944, at the request of the British Government, Dr. Ludwig Guttmann opened a spinal injuries centre at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Great Britain, and in time, rehabilitation sport evolved to recreational sport and then to competitive sport.



STOKE MANDEVILLE GAMES



“The advancement of technology is bringing us to the brink of this un-biological, or un-bio-ethical approach to winning.”

**–Modern Greek (aspiring) bioethicist**

# Principles of Bioethics

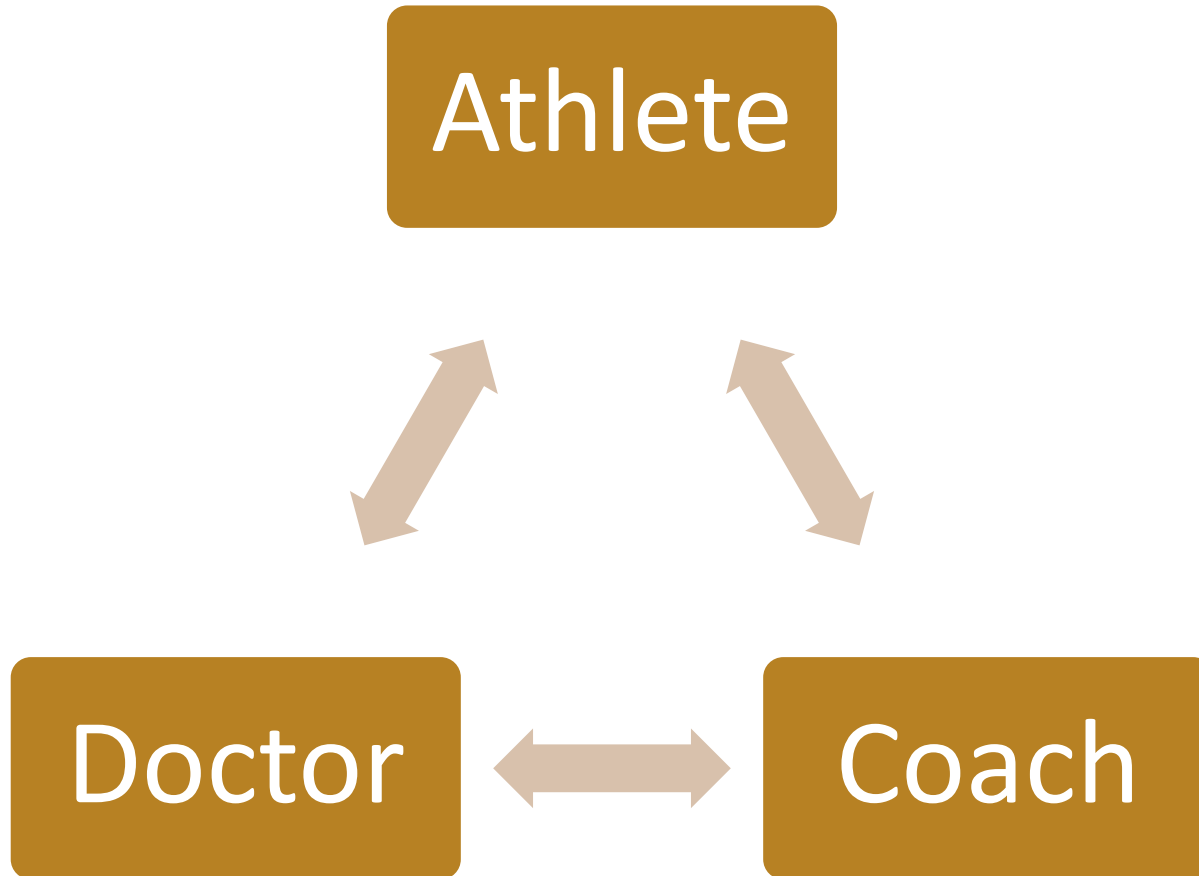
1. **Respect for Autonomy**
2. **Non-maleficence**
3. **Beneficence**
4. **Justice**

Beauchamp, T.L. & Childress, J.F. (2019). *Principles of biomedical ethics* (8th ed.)  
New York: Oxford University Press.



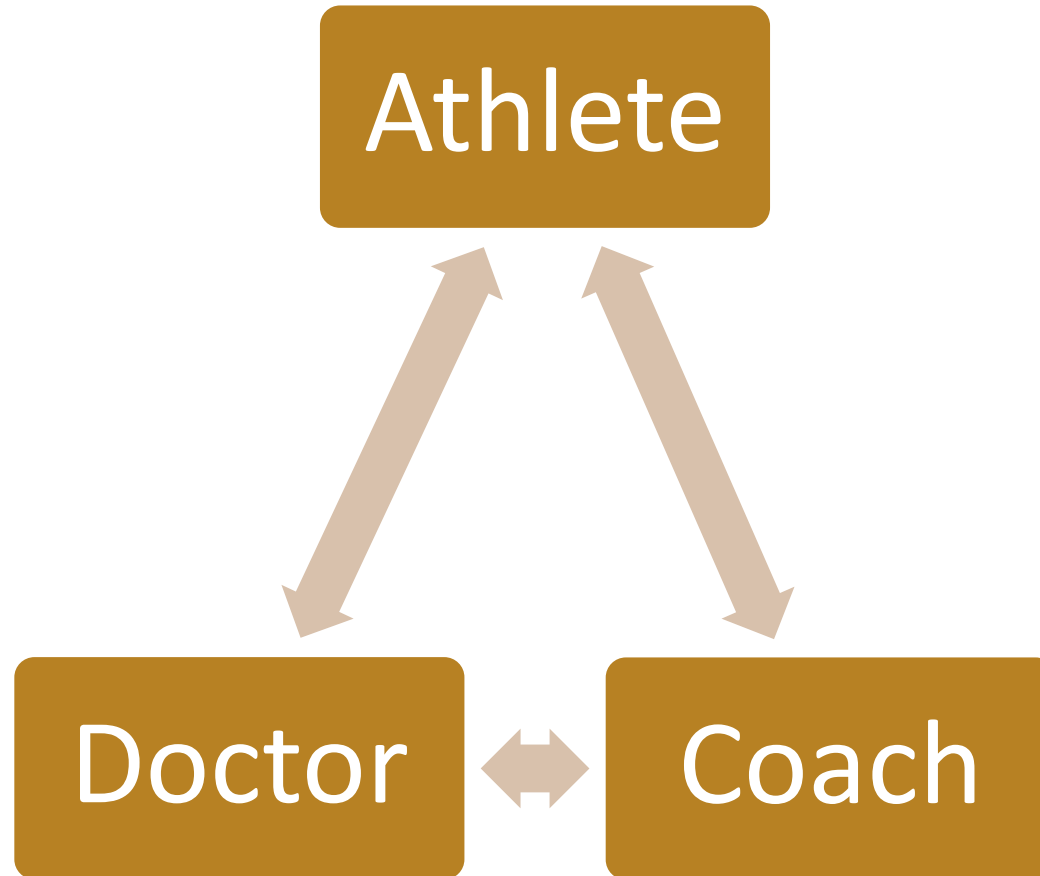
# The Doctor/Coach/Athlete Triad in Pursuit of Human Performance or “**Un-Holy**” Trinity

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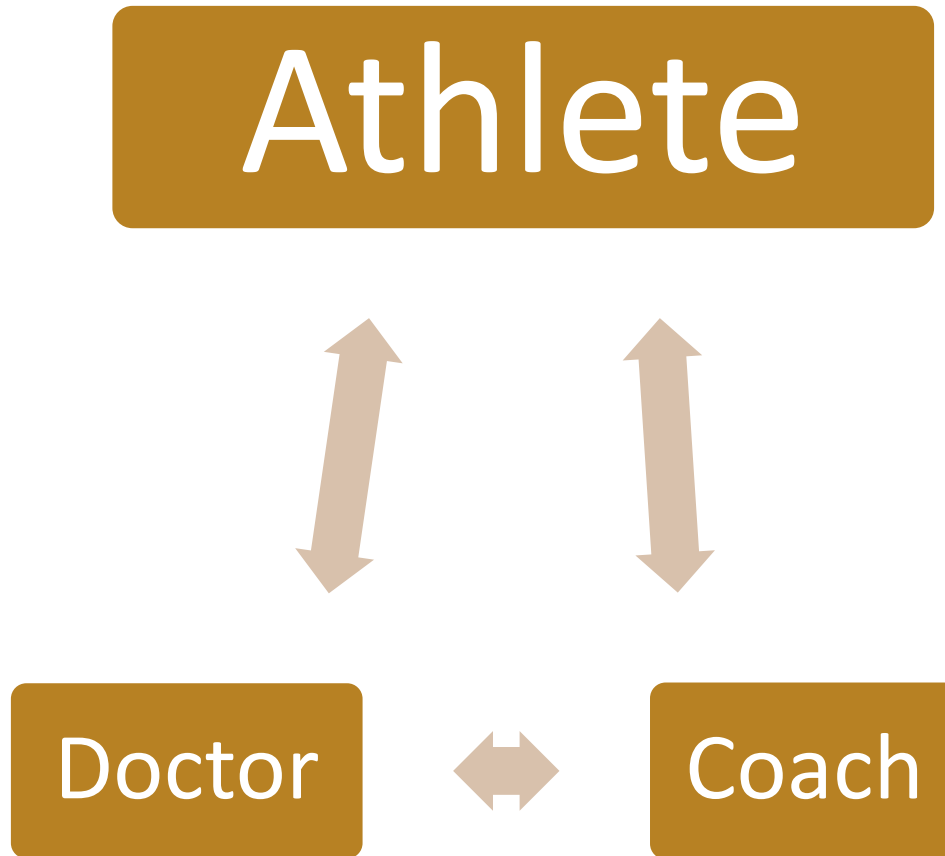
# The Doctor/Coach/Athlete Triad in Pursuit of Human Performance or “**Un-Holy**” Trinity

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# The Doctor/Coach/Athlete Triad in Pursuit of Human Performance or “**Un-Holy**” Trinity

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# Food for Thought...

- a) Is this still about the ‘perfection of a person’s *natural* talents’?
- b) % cutting edge biomedically produced technology?
- c) Legal vs. allowable vs. ethical?



# Principles of Bioethics

- 1. Respect for Autonomy**
- 2. Non-maleficence**
- 3. Beneficence**
- 4. Justice**

Beauchamp, T.L. & Childress, J.F. (2019). *Principles of biomedical ethics* (8th ed.) New York: Oxford University Press.



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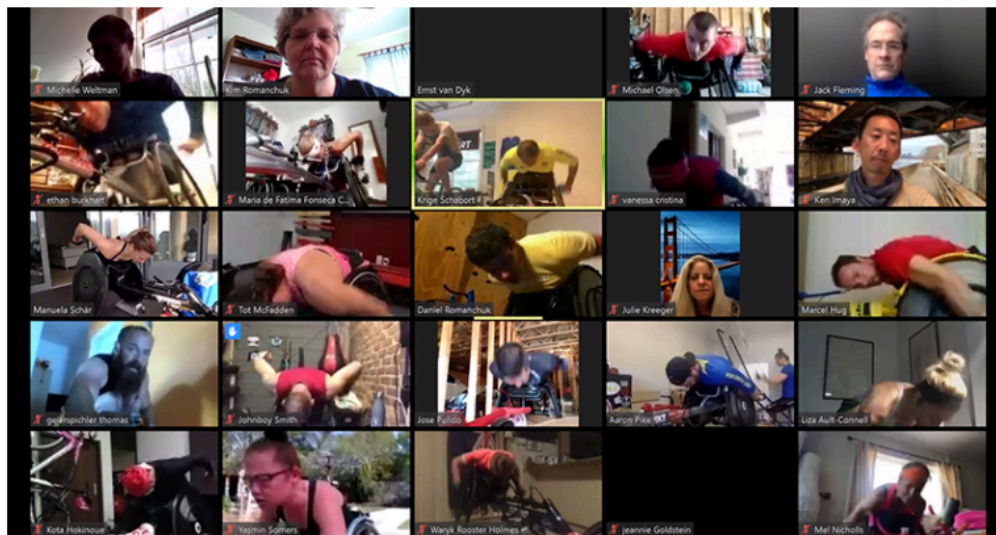
HOME &gt; NEWS &gt; PANDEMIC CAN'T KEEP DANIEL ROMANCHUK, 60 OTHER WHEELCHAIR RACERS FROM HAVING THEIR BOSTON MARATHON

# Pandemic Can't Keep Daniel Romanchuk, 60 Other Wheelchair Racers From Having Their Boston Marathon

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BY PAUL D. BOWKER | APRIL 20, 2020, 9:48 P.M. (ET)



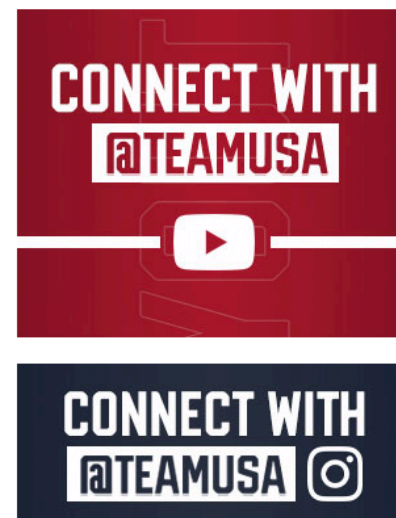
Wheelchair racers compete in the Virtual Roller Marathon on April 20, 2020.

Race day began Monday morning in much the same way the Boston Marathon would start on any other Patriots' Day.

National anthem at 8:55 a.m.

Race start at 9.

Welcome to the "Virtual Roller Marathon," an event organized by six-time major marathon winner Daniel Romanchuk and his mom, Kim. The virtual event, coordinated via the Zoom videoconferencing service, was held in honor of the 124th Boston Marathon that was scheduled to be held Monday but was postponed to September because of the coronavirus pandemic.



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# Thank you! Tak! Ευχαριστώ!

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