A Bioethics Timeline

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Special thanks to Mrs. Terry Golightly and Dr. Dennis Durst, Kentucky Christian University, for assembling the images used here)
Harvard University recommends brain death standards for organ transplantation.
Judith Jarvis Thomson writes “A Defense of Abortion,” an influential essay which defends abortion even while assuming the personhood of the unborn.
Details of the Depression-era Tuskegee Syphilis Study, one of the greatest ethical breaches of trust between physicians and patients in a U.S. clinical study, are brought to light.
The *Roe vs. Wade* U.S. Supreme Court decision allows unrestricted access to abortion before viability.
By a ruling of the New Jersey Supreme Court, Karen Ann Quinlan is taken off life support. Hers is the first major "right to die" case involving persistent vegetative state (PVS). She lived for 9 years after being removed from life support.
Louise Joy Brown, the first “test tube baby,” is born.

Now grown, she meets her doctor.
AIDS is first reported in the U.S.
Nancy Cruzan, who is in a PVS, dies after a contentious “right to die” case before the U.S. Supreme Court.
The *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* U.S. Supreme Court decision overturns the viability portion of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, extending the right to abortion to any time of the pregnancy.
Dolly the sheep, the first cloned mammal, is born.
Oregon voters approve the Death with Dignity Act.
Dr. Jack Kevorkian is convicted for voluntary euthanasia of a patient with Lou Gehrig’s disease after assisting in the suicide of almost 100 others.
President Bush permits limited government funding of embryonic stem cell research, using only embryos that had already been destroyed.
The Human Genome Project is completed, marking the first complete draft of the sequence of human DNA.
The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, a federal ban of intact dilation and extraction as an abortion procedure, is passed.
Terri Schiavo dies after her feeding tube is removed by ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court. In this “right to die” case, the diagnosis of PVS was hotly contested.
The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.
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