

RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

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HIGHLIGHTS

Ethics Guidelines for Human Biomedical Research

By Bioethics Advisory Committee Singapore

The Bioethics Advisory Committee Singapore (BACS) published its updated 2021 Ethics Guidelines for Human Biomedical Research. The Guidelines were released in the wake of the BACS 20th Anniversary Event and they continue to set best practices for the ethical conduct of human biomedical research in Singapore.



NEWS & ARTICLES

AstraZeneca to run more clinical trials in people's homes to improve diversity

By Nicola Davis // The Guardian

Improving participation in research through data collection at home can improve diversity of participants and speed of research.

'It's misinformation at worst.' Weak health studies can do more harm than good, scientists say

By Cathleen O'Grady // Science

Some researchers argue that small, weak trials relating to public health measures and COVID-19 are repetitive, wasteful, and could contribute to misinformation. Others think any evidence is better than none.

Can a machine learn morality?

By Cade Metz // New York Times

"Delphi" may have been developed to make moral judgments more neutral, but these machines can end up reflecting the developers' biases and opinions.

For truly ethical AI, its research must be independent from big tech

By Timnit Gebru // The Guardian

Not limited to biomedical research, this article highlights the perils of unchecked AI-research.



REPORTS

Neuroscience Research Report

By Bioethics Advisory Committee Singapore

The Bioethics Advisory Committee Singapore (BACS) has published its Report addressing the unique ethical challenges faced by researchers into neurological and psychiatric disorders.



PUBLICATIONS

The Challenges of Big Data for Research Ethics Committees: A Qualitative Swiss Study

By Agata Ferretti, Marcello Ienca, Rivas Velarde, Samia Hurst, Effy Vayena // Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics

This Swiss-based study highlights some of the challenges faced by IRBs members who are tasked to review "Big Data" studies and suggests strategies on improving the review process.

Ethical considerations of preconception and prenatal gene modification in the embryo and fetus

By Citra Mattar, Markus Labude, Timothy Lee, Poh San Lai // Human Reproduction

Research into fetal gene therapy (FGT) and preconception heritable human genome editing (HHGE) often aim to address similar types of genetic diseases. Yet, they face different types of ethical challenges and this article offers a comparative discussion.

Waving away waivers: an obligation to contribute to 'herd knowledge' for data linkage research?

By Owen M. Bradfield // Research Ethics

This paper draws an analogy to 'vaccine ethics' and 'payment of taxes' to ground an obligation to contribute one's data to data linkage research.

Challenges in operationalising clinical trials in India during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Abhinav Bassi, Sumaiya Arfin, Nikita Bathla, Naomi Hammond, Dorrilyn Rajbhandari et al // The Lancet - Global Health

This commentary focuses on the challenges faced by India-based trials in relation to COVID-19, especially those experienced by IRBs.



BLOG POSTS

Studying Covid Vaccines in the Youngest Kids

By Ian D Wolfe and John Lantos // Hastings Bioethics Forum

Ian Wolfe and John Lantos argue in defense of open label, non-randomised comparison studies to estimate the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines for children.

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