

RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

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IN MEMORIAM

In Fond Memory of Late Chief District Judge (Retired) Richard Magnus, Chair of the Bioethics Advisory Committee Singapore (January 2011 to March 2022)

Bioethics Advisory Committee Singapore

CBmE is saddened to hear of the passing away of late Chief District Judge (Ret.) Richard Magnus on 14 March 2022. Mr Magnus chaired the Bioethics Advisory Committee (BAC) Singapore for more than 11 years and has rendered exceptional service to the development of bioethics in Singapore. Under his guidance, the BAC has provided expert advice on a large number of issues through reports and consultation papers that have shaped bioethics thinking and practice locally. We would like to share this memorial note that the BAC has published on its website.

NEWS & ARTICLES

China strengthens ethics oversight on science and technology research projects involving humans and animals

By Coco Feng // South China Morning Post

China has released new guidelines for strengthening ethics governance in science and technology. Areas targeted include the improvements of ethical review and regulations, as well as monitoring and evaluation. Importantly, ethics education for science and technology and the institutionalization of ethical training programs are also emphasized in the new guideline.

REPORTS

Speech: International collaboration on AI and data governance

By Chris Philp, Minister for Technology and the Digital Economy, UK // Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, UK

Chris Philp (Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, United Kingdom) outlines how the UK Government seeks to enable the trustworthy adoption of AI through various initiatives. The speech highlights the UK government's 3-Pillar Strategy, of which one focuses on direction setting for AI technology governance to balance encouraging innovation and investment with the protection of public interests.

PUBLICATIONS

A Relational Theory of Data Governance

By Salomé Viljoen // Yale Law Journal

This article provides a theoretical account of how data relations result in "supraindividual legal interests", i.e. legal interests that are not reducible to people's individual data interests. The author draws implications for data governance laws and offers a positive theory for socially beneficial data production.

A New Ethical Framework for Assessing the Unique Challenges of Fetal Therapy Trials

By Saskia Hendriks et al. // American Journal of Bioethics

This important article proposes a new ethical framework for fetal therapy research, which will be of interest for researchers in the field and for IRB members reviewing fetal therapy research. Two key features of the proposed framework are that it: (i) it seeks to include psychosocial effects of proposed fetal therapies as opposed to merely biomedical benefits; and (ii) it requires risks to the fetus and mother to be proportionate to their benefits. The framework hence also rejects a categorial risk threshold.

Ethical issues in multilingual research situations: a focus on interview-based research

By Natalie Schembri and Alma Jahić Jašić // Research Ethics

In multilingual settings, the question of whether to conduct research interviews in the respondents' first language ('mother tongue') or in English might arise. This article examines researcher perceptions and experiences of the ethical consequences of language choice and the practical issues involved. While the research was conducted in European settings, the study's insights may also be applicable in other contexts.

BLOG POSTS

Using artificial intelligence in health sciences education requires interdisciplinary collaboration and risk assessment

By Elif Bilgic and Jason M. Harley // The Conversation

While the use of AI has gained significant traction in health research, there is comparatively little guidance on how to best educate future scientists and clinicians about AI-enhanced technologies. This blog post provides some suggestions based on experiences navigating these uncertainties in Canada.

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