

RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

August 2022, Issue 9



NEWS & ARTICLES

Fears over China's access to genetic data of UK citizens

By Shanti Das, Vincent Ni // *The Guardian*

Concerns are being raised about access to genetic biobank databases by Chinese researchers in the UK due to difficulties monitoring usage and storage of the data.

Scientists create world's first "synthetic embryos"

By Ian Sample // *The Guardian*

Researchers have used stem cells from mice to form embryo-like structures with intestinal tract, beginnings of a brain, and a beating heart, raising key ethical issues surrounding their use in research.

First synthetic embryos: the scientific breakthrough raises serious ethical questions

By Julian Savulescu, Chris Gyngell, Tsutomu Sawai // *The Conversation*

The creation of a synthetic mouse embryo using just stem cells in Israel raises several ethical issues such as the moral status of potential synthetic human embryos, but could pave the way to benefits like providing ethically harvested organs to recipients on organ waiting lists.

Cancer researchers unable to access clinical trial data for top-selling drugs, study finds

By Melissa Davey // *The Guardian*

Lack of transparency from pharmaceutical companies on their anti-cancer medication has implications for health equity as researchers are unable to access trial data.



PUBLICATIONS

Necessity, Rights, and Rationing in Compulsory Research

By Owen Schaefer, Anantharaman Muralidharan // *Hastings Center Report*

Challenges the arguments in favour of compelling individuals to participate in some research that poses more than minimal risk.

Two kinds of embryo research: four case examples

By Julian Savulescu et al. // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Introduces a philosophical distinction to help decision-makers more efficiently identify higher risk embryo research from that which presents no more risk to persons than other types of tissue research, in order to prevent ethics committees from unnecessarily delaying important low-risk research.

Risk stratification: an important tool in the special review of research using oocytes and embryos

By Owen Schaefer, Voo Teck Chuan // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Examines Savulescu et al's distinction in the above article and proposes adopting a risk-stratified framework similar to that employed with IRBs.

Toward Meeting the Obligation of Respect for Persons in Pragmatic Clinical Trials

By Stephanie Morain et al. // *Hastings Center Report*

Proposes eight dimensions of demonstrating respect in pragmatic clinical trials that extends beyond the informed consent process.

Engagement, Exploitation, and Human Intracranial Electrophysiology Research

By Michelle Pham, Nader Pouratian, Ashley Feinsinger // *Neuroethics*

Argues for the importance of participant engagement in basic human intracranial electrophysiology research as it exposes them to additional risks without immediate therapeutic intent.

Organoid biobanking, autonomy and the limits of consent

By Jonathan Lewis, Søren Holm // *Bioethics*

Explores the autonomy-respecting limits of established and widely prevalent models of biobank consent, and proposes certain conditions that organoid biobanks ought to support or facilitate in order to respect donor autonomy.



BLOG POSTS

Developing a practical resource to improve the ethical standing of gene therapy trials

By Rosie Munday, Hugh Davies, Stephanie Jones // *JME Blog*

A "work in progress" to seek broader input on gene therapy proposals.

A new research ethics framework to consider environmental impacts requires a re-imagining of how health research is conceptualised

By Gabrielle Samuel, Cristina Richie // *JME Blog*

Suggests a framework for assessing the environmental impact of research by drawing on well-established ethics frameworks.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Seminar Series - Healthcare Ethics and Law

Dr Sumytra Menon and A/Prof Lee See Miah

3, 17, 31 Oct 2022, 6.00pm to 8.00pm SGT on Zoom

Centre for Biomedical Ethics

Core Module in Healthcare Ethics, Law & Professionalism (For Allied Healthcare Professionals)

Ms Audrey Lim, Dr Sumytra Menon and Dr Issac Sia

5, 7 December 2022, 9.00am to 12.50pm SGT on Zoom

Centre for Biomedical Ethics

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