RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD CURATED BY CBME

May 2023, Issue 18

⭐ NEWS & ARTICLES

Can giant surveys of scientists fight misinformation on COVID, climate change, and more?
By David Adam // Nature
This article explores the phenomenon of the "infodemic" which accompanies the COVID pandemic. New tools are being designed and trialed for measuring scientific consensus on contentious issues, as a way to address misinformation.

Why is COVID life-threatening for some people? Genetic study offers clues
By Heidi Ledford // Nature
This article explores the question of why some people suffer disproportionately from COVID, and suggests that an analysis of immune genes may hold the answer.

Why AI's diversity crisis matters, and how to tackle it
By Rachel Crowell // Nature
Without sufficient diversity, the data gathered by AI will be inevitably flawed and this has many attending ethical problems. This article discusses this issue and suggests a way forward.

📤 PUBLICATIONS

Decentralized clinical trials: ethical opportunities and challenges
By Effy Vayena, Alessandro Blasimme, Jeremy Sugarman // The Lancet: Digital Health
The article discusses three main areas for increased ethical vigilance regarding the use of decentralized trials, namely: safety and rights of participants, scientific validation, and ethics oversight.

Stakeholder involvement in the governance of human genome editing in Japan
By Tatsuki Aikyo, Atsushi Kogetsu, Kazuto Kato // Asian Bioethics Review
This article discusses the use of technologies like CRISPR/Cas9 and the editing of the human genome, particularly in embryos. It calls attention to the need for governance and oversight from multiple bodies, including governments and non-governmental agencies.

Ethical data collection for medical image analysis: A structured approach
By Padmapriya, S.T., Parthasarathy, S. // Asian Bioethics Review
This article discusses the advantages of using AI in medical image analysis, particularly the increased speed of diagnosis. The ethical implications of flawed data sets are discussed.

Conversational artificial intelligence in psychotherapy: A new therapeutic tool or agent?
By Jana Sedlakova and Manuel Trachsel // American Journal of Bioethics
This article discusses many complex ethical issues posed by the use of conversational artificial intelligence (CAI) in psychotherapy. The article focusses on the question of whether CAI is best understood as a tool or whether it can be an agent itself. Ultimately, the authors argue that CAI should be limited, given that it cannot be an equal partner in conversation the way a human therapist can.

✉️ BLOG POSTS

When ordinary words get scientific uses
By Pär Segerdahl // The Ethics Blog

Taking care of the legacy: Curating responsible research and innovation practice
By Josepine Fernow // The Ethics Blog

🎥 PODCASTS

In conversation with … Xiao Liu
By Xiao Liu // The Lancet: Digital Health Podcast
Podcast discusses how to improve the reporting of artificial intelligence-based clinical research studies and the representativeness of health datasets.

🗓️ UPCOMING EVENTS

Thinking Ethically About the Regulation of Health Technology
Professor Henry T. (Hank) Greely, Professor Simon Chesterman, and Dr Insoo Hyun
Date: 28 June 2023
Time: 5.30pm to 7.00pm SGT
Mode: In-person at NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House

Abstract Submission: Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL) Conference 2023
19 to 22 November 2023 Brisbane, Australia
Abstract submission deadline: 31 July 2023

Executive Certificate in Healthcare Ethics and Law
Dr Sumytra Menon and A/P Lee See Muah
Dates: Every Thursday, August to November 2023
Time: 6.30pm to 8.00pm SGT
Mode: Online

Sign up for our Research Ethics mailing list here.