

RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

June 2023, Issue 19



NEWS & ARTICLES

'Pushed into humanity': can learning about storytelling make better doctors?

By Paul Daley // *The Guardian*

Narrative medicine is a practice new to Australia whereby doctors are encouraged, through writing, to ethically engage with their patients' stories. This aims to build greater doctor-patient empathy and create better doctors.

Synthetic human embryos created in groundbreaking advance

By Hannah Devlin // *The Guardian*

Scientists have created synthetic human embryos using stem cells. This raises serious ethical and legal issues as these lab-grown entities fall outside current legislation in most countries.

Why Nature will not allow the use of generative AI in images and video

By Editorial // *Nature*

Nature has published a statement that they will not be publishing any content where images or video has been created wholly or partly using generative AI, except for articles specifically about AI.

You shed DNA everywhere you go – trace samples in the water, sand and air are enough to identify who you are, raising ethical questions about privacy

By Jenny White and Jessica Alice Farrel // *The Conversation*

New research shows that Human DNA can be sequenced from trace samples in the environment, extracting identifiable information like genetic lineage, gender and health risks. The authors recommend implementing regulations to ensure use of such data is ethical and appropriate.



PUBLICATIONS

Patient data for commercial companies? An ethical framework for sharing patients' data with for-profit companies for research

By Eva C Winkler, et al // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Tackles the question of whether for-profit companies should be given access to medical data derived from patients for research. The authors believe there can be good reasons to grant companies access if they respect informational rights and advance the public interest in better healthcare.

Ethics of non-therapeutic research on imminently dying patients in the intensive care unit

By Nicholas Murphy, et al // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Proposes a framework for the ethical design and conduct of non-therapeutic research involving imminently dying patients in the intensive care unit.

Deception and informed consent in studies with incognito simulated standardized patients: empirical experiences and a case study from South Africa

By Benjamin Daniels, et al // *Research Ethics*

Simulated standardized patients is a research method where trained individuals pose incognito as people seeking treatment in a healthcare setting to evaluate quality of care. The authors propose standards that can be used to adapt this increasingly popular method to different international contexts.

Reshaping consent so we might improve participant choice (II) – helping people decide

By Hugh Davies, et al // *Research Ethics*

Claims that current research proposals often fail to support research participant choice. Develops the concept of an Information and Decision Aid (IDA) that can support decision making and be used to guide the dialogue between researcher and potential participant.



BLOG POSTS

We Have Met the Enemy and It Is Us

By Arthur Caplan // *Hastings Bioethics Forum*

The author claims that the modern understanding of patient autonomy in healthcare is oversimplified and distorted. More ethical work must be done in this field to prepare for the next pandemic.

Consent for medical treatment: What is 'reasonable'?

By Abeezar I Sarela // *JME Blog*

The author complicates a doctor's duty to inform patients about reasonable alternative treatments. They believe the General Medical Council should provide guidance on what it means to be 'reasonable', to account for cases where only one treatment is appropriate for a patient.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Satellite Webinar: Exploring the Acceptability of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in the Singapore Context

Date: 27 July 2023

Format: Zoom webinar

Patient Engagement Forum

Date: 28 July 2023

Venue: Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium | In-person

CBME Global Ethics Lecture by Prof Peter Singer

Title: Pandemic Ethics: Five Lessons

Date: 24 August 2023

Venue: River Room, Asian Civilisations Museum | In-person

Asian Paediatric Ethics Conference

Date: 2 and 3 October 2023 | Registration opens on 1 Jul 2023

Venue: NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House | In-person

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

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