

RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

July 2023, Issue 20



NEWS & ARTICLES

Researchers can learn a lot with your genetic information, even when you skip survey questions – yesterday’s mode of informed consent doesn’t quite fit today’s biobank studies

By Robbee Wedow // The Conversation

Suggests that research studies that create biobanks should reexamine how they acquire informed consent from research participants to better consider modern usage of biobank data.

More carrot, less stick: how to make research assessments fairer

By Editorial // Nature

The UK's research-funding organizations are planning to revise the UK Research Excellence Framework to take pressure off individual researchers and more accurately measure excellence beyond journal publication.

US Supreme Court on affirmative action: a bitter blow to educational inclusion

By Editorial // Nature

The US Supreme Court's decision to end race-conscious admissions in universities is expected to reduce diversity in academia.

Australian decision to allow psychedelic drug prescriptions criticised by mental health experts

By Melissa Davey // The Guardian

Australia's recent decision to allow psychedelic drug prescriptions has been criticised by mental health experts as premature.

Row over British Journal of Psychiatry abortion paper saw panel quit

By Kate Lambie and Hannah Barnes // BBC

An independent panel of the British Journal of Psychiatry has resigned in protest over controversial research about the impact of abortion on the mental health of women. The paper was not retracted despite their recommendations. They have called into question the journal's editorial independence.

Public consultation for the proposed advisory guidelines on use of personal data in AI recommendation and decision systems

By Personal Data Protection Commission

The Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) is seeking public consultation for its proposed advisory guidelines on the use of personal data in AI systems.



PUBLICATIONS

Who owns your consent? How REBs give away participants' agency

By Janice Aurini and Vanessa Iafolla // Research Ethics

Identifies a problematic practice where Research Ethics Boards require permission from organizations to conduct research on their current and former members, even when the research is not about these organizations.

Equipose, standard of care and consent: responding to the authorisation of new COVID-19 treatments in randomised controlled trials

By Soren Holm, Jonathan Lewis and Rafael Dal-Ré // Journal of Medical Ethics

Examines the ethical implications for randomized clinical trials that aim to study the efficacy and safety of interventions that have already been authorized and made available to patients.

Reification and assent in research involving those who lack capacity

By Anna Smajdor // Journal of Medical Ethics

Addresses the ethical role of assent in research involving human beings who lack capacity. This may allow them to participate and benefit from research despite being unable to give consent.

ENAI recommendations on the ethical use of artificial intelligence in education

By Tomas Foltyněk, et al // International Journal for Educational Integrity

The European Network for Academic Integrity has released a set of recommendations, aiming to support academics and researchers on the ethical use of AI tools in education.



BLOG POSTS

Diversity and inclusion initiatives for laboratory animals?

By Monika Piotrowska // JME Blog

Advocates for more diversity and inclusion in nonhuman research to minimize animal distress and improve translatability of data to human beings.

“We could use that as a tiebreaker” – Yes, but why should we?

By Borgar Jølstad and Erik Gustavsson // JME Blog

Argues that in healthcare priority setting, tiebreakers should be settled by lottery rather than using additional factors that were not initially considered morally relevant.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Research Ethics Webinar Series: What Counts as Research?

Dr Owen Schaefer and Prof Jerry Menikoff

Date: 16 August 2023

Delivery mode: Zoom

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

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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