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Plenary 2: Advancing Paediatric Research Ethics in Asia: Imperatives, Challenges, and Strategies for Achieving SDGs

Abstract

The pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia faces unique challenges. Despite progress, millions of children across the region continue to suffer. Asia's high population density, rapid urbanisation, and significant income inequality place immense pressure on resources and public services. This plenary emphasises the critical need for advancing paediatric research ethics as a cornerstone to address these disparities and achieve SDG targets. Given Asia's cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity, research must adopt tailored approaches. These measures not only promote transparency and trustworthiness but also ensure that health services are inclusive and accessible to all children. The plenary will then delve into the complexities of paediatric research, including the challenges of risk stratification, obtaining child assent, and balancing research incentives with the need to protect child participants. It will highlight the necessity of culturally sensitive research protocols and the importance of ethical standards in fostering inclusivity. In conclusion, comprehensive strategies are proposed at local, national, and global levels, including supporting dynamic research procedures, enhancing the expertise of ethics committees, and fostering collaborations to share resources and knowledge. By implementing these strategies, paediatric research can overcome its inherent challenges, ultimately contributing to the successful achievement of SDGs in Asia.

Biography

Erwin Khoo is a practicing paediatrician and bioethicist at IMU University, and a Research Fellow in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He chairs the Malaysian Paediatric Association's Bioethics Task Force and serves on the Executive Council of both the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia's College of Paediatrics and the Malaysian Paediatric Association. Additionally, he is a member of the Ethical Professional Practice Committee of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, and he sits on the editorial board of BMC Pediatrics