

RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

September 2025, Issue 46



NEWS & ARTICLES

Synthetic data can benefit medical research — but risks must be recognized

By Editorial // Nature

Artificially generated data can help to train AI models when real data are scant, but more focus is needed on validating the results.

RFK Jr's actions risk restricting children's access to vaccines, say ousted CDC officials

By Melody Schreiber // The Guardian

Former officials testify before US Senate, saying the CDC under Kennedy is 'supporting policies not based in science'.

Aspirin can have 'huge effect' in stopping colorectal cancer returning, study finds

By Ian Sample // The Guardian

Swedish researchers find low daily dose can halve risk in post-surgery patients with specific gene mutations.

Why more women get cancer in India - but more men die

By Soutik Biswas // BBC

In India, the cancer burden is not just growing - it is becoming more complex. Registry data reflect a society in transition, where longevity, lifestyle, and environment are reshaping health risks.

Ethicists flirt with AI to review human research

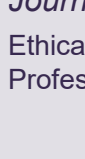
By Celina Zhao // Science

Large language models could help reduce backlog of study proposals, but critics are wary of entrusting ethics to machines.

Many anti-ageing influencers say supplements boost longevity – here's what doctors and scientists think

By Dana G Smith © The New York Times Company // Channel News Asia

Several leading scientists say there's no strong evidence supplements can extend human lifespan. Most clinical trials show limited or no benefits.



PUBLICATIONS

Clinical psychedelic research in adolescents: a scoping review and overview of ethical considerations

By Khaleel Rajwani, Edward Jacobs, Lori Bruce et al. // The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health

A scoping review found no completed psychedelic trials involving adolescents since 2000, highlighting a major evidence gap. Authors advocate cautious, ethically grounded research, beginning with older adolescents facing urgent clinical needs.

Should We Just Prescribe? Ethical Considerations When Using Antidepressants and Benzodiazepines For Emotional Distress

By Gemma García-Calderó & Santiago Peregalli Politi // Journal of Bioethical Enquiry

General practitioners often prescribe antidepressants and benzodiazepines for emotional distress, driven by patient needs and systemic pressures. The practice raises ethical concerns, with recommendations emphasizing holistic care, communication, and non-pharmacological alternatives.

Presymptomatic Screening for Risks to Children's Mental Health

By Sammie N. G. Jansen, Bob C. Mulder & Alexandra E. Boekhold // Journal of Bioethical Enquiry

Ethical Considerations from a European Focus Group Study with Mental Health Professionals.

Engagement with migrant communities at the Thai-Myanmar border: Lessons learnt from a community advisory board

By Napat Khirikoekkong, Khin Maung Lwin, Anne Osterrieder et al. // Research Ethics

The T-CAB advises SMRU's Thai-Myanmar border health research, guiding consent, compensation, priorities, design, and materials. Paper reflects decade-long lessons.

Community Engagement Strategy for Building Trust in Human Challenge Studies Using Participatory and Creative Methods: An Ethical Imperative

By Evelyn Muleba Kunda-Ng'andu, Masuzyo Chirwa, Seke Muzazu et al. // Bioethics

Community engagement can create systems of ownership of research and build communication strategies to achieve an accurate understanding of HICs and use informed participation that results in trustworthy data.

Vaccines, government misbehavior, and the medical profession

By Jerry Menikoff // Clinical Ethics

When governments spread vaccine misinformation, the medical profession must defend standards of care—its role and authority make this both appropriate and necessary.

Protecting Children or Policing Gender?

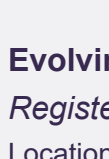
By Brian D. Earp // Practical Ethics

Laws on genital mutilation, gender affirmation and cosmetic genital surgery are at odds. The key criteria should be medical necessity and consent.

Uproar Over the UK Supreme Court's Ruling on Sex and Gender – Why Broad Consultation Matters

By Shalom Chalson and Julian Savulescu // BMJ Blogs

The UK Supreme Court's ruling that 'sex' in the Equality Act means biological sex—not gender identity—has sparked fierce debate. Appropriate broad consultation is important.



PODCASTS

Can AI make better doctors?

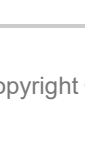
By Prof. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong // CBmE&U Podcast

Prof. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Chauncey Stillman Professor of Practical Ethics at Duke University) gives us the reasons why AI can help people make the kinds of decisions they would make if they were the best version of themselves.

Should we trust medicine at all?

By Prof. Jacob Stegenga // CBmE&U Podcast

Prof. Jacob Stegenga (Nanyang Technological University), author of the book, Medical Nihilism, chats with us why we should all be more sceptical about medical interventions. Jacob discusses the placebo effect, research malleability, and publication bias.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Asian Bioethics Network Conference 2025

Register Now.

Location: Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore
Date: 23th Oct to 24th Oct 2025

Evolving Ethics for Evolving Minds Conference

Register Now.

Location: Granada, Spain
Date: 16th Oct 2025 to 17th Oct 2025

Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL) Conference

Register Now.

Location: Christchurch, New Zealand
Date: 7th Dec 2025 to 9th Dec 2025

18th World Congress of Bioethics

Register Now.

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
Date: 8th to 10th July 2026