RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD CURATED BY CBME

January 2026, Issue 50

⭐ NEWS & ARTICLES

NDIS tool to determine support not tested on variety of disability types – including diverse autism, experts warn
By Kate Lyons // The Guardian
Australia's leading psychologists and disability experts warn the NDIS's new assessment tool is insufficiently tested across disability types, risking serious harm unless further research is done.

Making progress on global health will need high-quality evidence
By Nature
Nature Health, the newest journal in the Nature Portfolio, aims to bridge the 'implementation gap' from research to policy and practice.

Credit in research goes hand in hand with responsibility
By Nature
Trust in science needs researchers, journals and institutions to correct the scientific record quickly and transparently when errors are found.

Over 3 million South Koreans opt out of life-sustaining treatment
By The Straits Times
Debate over the scope of so-called dignified death remains active in South Korea, as in many other countries, particularly over ethical boundaries and eligibility.

⬆ PUBLICATIONS

The Paradox of Ethical AI-Assisted Research
By Daniele Mezzadri // Journal of Academic Ethics
AI research assistants promise efficiency, but ethical use requires extensive human oversight that undermines time savings, creating a paradox and supporting limiting AI to secondary research tasks.

Chat-IRB for LMICs: an opportunity for ethics review capacity-building and protection against ethics dumping, IRB shopping, and other exploitative research practices—a response to Moodley et al
By Jiehao Joel Seah, Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Brian D Earp // Journal of Medical Ethics
LMIC-specific AI ethics review tools could strengthen research oversight and capacity despite greater challenges, offering scalable support, governance benefits, and protection against exploitative research practices.

Addressing genetic discrimination for stronger legal protections and enhanced public awareness
By Shizuko Takahashi, Lan Tianxiang, Toh Hui Jin, Alexa Jo Nord-Bronzyk, Ivan Teo, Sumytra Menon, Julian Savulescu & Owen Schaefer // npj Genomic Medicine
A cross-sectional survey assessed the Singaporean public's experiences of genetic discrimination, awareness of protections and testing willingness.

Digital Life Models and the Genomic Knowledge Paradox: A Proposal for AI-Assisted Reflection in Genetic Decision-Making
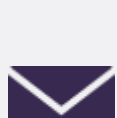*By Serene Ong, Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Cristina Voinea, Christopher Register, Julian Koplin, Julian Savulescu, Brian D. Earp // The American Journal of Bioethics*
As genetic screening spreads, people face uncertainty about whether knowing genetic risks will help or harm them; personalized AI could help simulate future reactions before disclosure.

Standardizing Reporting of Pediatric Assent in Clinical Trials
By Shizuko Takahashi, Jerry Menikoff // American Academy of Pediatrics
Pediatric assent is poorly and inconsistently documented in clinical research, undermining ethical accountability. Standardized reporting would better respect children's voices in research and care.

✉ BLOG POSTS

Testing AI in real-world medical ethics
By Daniel Sokol // Journal of Medical Ethics Forum
If used pro-actively, AI tools may help clinicians identify ethical risks before any wrongdoing occurs, potentially reducing boundary violations and subsequent disciplinary proceedings.

The Bizarre and Dangerous Concept of Over-Vaccination
By Arthur Caplan // Hastings Center Bioethics Forum
Kennedy's over-vaccination claims are false and misleading; U.S. children receive standard, life-saving vaccines comparable to peer nations, and reducing schedules risks preventable illness and death.

🎥 PODCAST

How AI could predict your preferences at the end of life
By Nicola Champion, Brian Earp, Teva Brender // ABC
Few older Australians have advance care directives, leaving urgent end-of-life decisions to families or doctors, prompting interest in whether AI could help guide faster, more accurate choices.

☑ UPCOMING EVENT

18th World Congress of Bioethics
Register Now.
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
Date: 8 to 10 July 2026