

# RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
CURATED BY CBME

February 2026, Issue 51



## NEWS & ARTICLES

### Falling measles vaccination rates can have terrifying consequences for families

By Karen Ford // *The Guardian*

Karen Ford's granddaughter became seriously ill, highlighting just how important it is for communities to have herd immunity.

### Now is not the time to defund human fetal tissue research

By Nature

Hindering studies involving fetal tissue will impede the development of the alternatives intended to replace it, while slowing the search for new medicines.

### Don't deprioritize curiosity-driven research

By Nature

Around the world, governments are demanding that research funding follow broader political priorities. They should be careful what they wish for.

### Nipah virus: Singapore closely monitoring global situation, prepared to adjust public health measures

By Joyce Teo // *Channel News Asia*

No Nipah virus cases associated with the situations in India or Bangladesh have so far been detected in Singapore.



## PUBLICATIONS

### Meaningful and minimally distressing: Trans adolescents' perspectives on sensitive research interviews.

By James H. L. Hill, Naomi J. E. Cha, Yael Perry, Ashleigh Lin, Jeneva L. Ohan // *Research Ethics*

Trans adolescents found that participating in sensitive, lived experience-informed stigma research was generally tolerable and meaningful, with perceived personal and social benefits, highlighting ethical considerations for marginalized youth research.

### Reconceptualizing the right to withdraw in stem cell research: Striking a balance between donor autonomy and scientific utility

By Jonathan Lewis and Søren Holm // *Research Ethics*

Pluripotent stem cell-specific consent and governance models could better balance donor autonomy and research stability despite significant ethical and logistical challenges, offering a scalable alternative to withdrawal, enhanced oversight, and protection against disruptions to transformative biomedical research.

### Equity in the ICU: an exploratory qualitative study of the ethical acceptability of a reserve system for allocating limited ICU resources

By Elizabeth Fenton, Esther Willing, Neil John Pickering, Wenna Yeo, Sophie Barham // *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Equity-oriented reserve systems for intensive care unit (ICU) resources could help address entrenched health inequities during periods of severe scarcity, despite significant ethical and practical challenges, by offering a structured alternative to dominant prioritisation models.

### We are the Earthworms! Aliens Using 3R on Humans: A Qualitative Experimental Ethics Study with Animal Research Professionals

By Christian Rodriguez Perez, Kirsten Persson & David M. Shaw // *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*

Animal research professionals showed mixed support for applying 3R principles to humans, raising concerns about consent, legitimacy, and power. Findings highlight 3R's limitations and the need for broader ethical frameworks.



## BLOG POSTS

### The science-humanities divide in LLM appreciation

By Brian D. Earp // *Substack*

On writing, thinking, and the ego of authorship.

### AI Agents Are Transforming Science Research—but Raise Ethical Red Flags

By The Hastings Center for Bioethics - Hastings Center Report

The future of AI in science will depend less on technological capability and more on the governance structures built around it.

### What Does an Imperial Hegemon Mean for Research Ethics?

By Jonathan D. Moreno // *The Hastings Center for Bioethics - Bioethics Forum*

Rising U.S. "imperial hegemon" policies threaten global research ethics norms, enabling exploitation, weakening oversight, and disregarding international standards, prompting uncertainty about future bioethical authority amid shifting geopolitical power.



## VIDEOS & PODCAST

### The Impossible Choice: Can "We" Rationally Choose to Become Parents?

By Brian D. Earp

This is a video summary of a recent research paper called "Transformative Shared Experience and Collective Decisions: Can We Rationally Choose What You or I Alone Cannot?" by Brian D. Earp, Isaac Hadfield, and Daniel Villiger.

### Losing and Supporting Capacity with Emily Largent

By Hosts: James Edgar Lim and Sinead Prince // *CBME & U*

Assistant Professor Emily Largent (University of Pennsylvania) discusses decision-making capacity, dementia, and how legal frameworks should adapt to recognise the whole class of people who have mild cognitive impairments who need to make decisions.

### The medicine and the message: Unpacking the chatter around GLP-1s

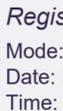
By Chevese Turner and Kathryn MacKay // *Butterfly with Yvie Jones*

We've all seen how these medications have been changing bodies, but they're also raising some questions: What about medical ethics, implications of new identities, and the impacts on body image and eating disorders? Also, who's really benefiting from this medical breakthrough?

### Workshop on Ethics of Unsolicited Clinical Trial Recruitment via Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

By Centre for Biomedical Ethics

Well-designed clinical trials rely on efficiently identifying eligible patients. Using EHRs offers promise but raises consent concerns. This workshop examines ethical questions surrounding EHR use for participant identification.



## UPCOMING EVENT

### GLP-1 in Children and Adolescents: Navigating the Ethical Landscape

Register Now.

Mode: Online via Zoom  
Date: Friday 8 May 2026  
Time: 3.00 to 6.00pm (SGT)

### 18th World Congress of Bioethics

Register Now.

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

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