

RESEARCH ETHICS BULLETIN

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
CURATED BY CBME

August 2026, Issue 57



NEWS & ARTICLES

Chinese university investigating girl's death in gene-editing trial

By The Straits Times

A Chinese university is looking into reports that a gene-editing trial caused the death of a six-year-old girl, which was not disclosed in the published research.

CNA Explains: What we know about the Moderna, Merck breakthrough cancer vaccine

By Darrelle Ng // Channel News Asia

The personalised vaccine has succeeded in a final-stage melanoma trial. Here's how it works, when it could become available and why researchers hope the approach can be used against other cancers.

China is changing the shape of global health. The terms are still up for negotiation

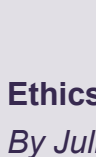
By Ruby Wang // Nature

Health-care partnerships can provide other nations with cheap diagnostics, medicines and more — but global institutions should help to ensure that they also strengthen local capacity and preserve sovereignty.

How tech-enhanced sleep could improve rest but erode privacy

By Brian D. Earp, Sebastian Porsdam Mann & Effy Vayena // Nature

Technologies that promise better-than-usual sleep could improve people's performance and health but also turn the need for rest into an auditable obligation. Ethical norms and regulations are needed.



PUBLICATIONS

Ethics of gene therapy

By Julian Savulescu, Sebastian Porsdam Mann, Christopher Gyngell & G. Owen Schaefer // Med

Heritable genome editing may be ethically justified for catastrophic monogenic disorders, but polygenic and enhancement applications remain premature, requiring evidence-based governance focused on welfare and safety.

Ethics and Regulation of Human Brain Organoid Research: Recommendations from the Asia Pacific Neuroethics Working Group

By Shu Ishida et al. // Asian Bioethics Review

The Asia Pacific Neuroethics Working Group addresses ethical, legal, and sociocultural issues in human brain organoid research, recommending evidence-based, adaptive oversight that balances scientific innovation with responsible development.

Who—or what—should predict an incapacitated patient's wishes? Public attitudes towards AI in substituted medical decision-making

By Tessa van Veenendaal et al. // [Preprint] ResearchGate

Participants generally preferred AI-generated predictions over human surrogates in substituted medical decision-making, but emphasized continued human involvement and expressed reluctance to share personal data.

Artificial intelligence in research ethics committees: Opportunities, ethical challenges, and empirical perspectives from Spain

By Daniel Wang, Marta Guix Arnau, Cristina Llop Julià, Patricia Diaz-Pellicer & Ana Aldea-Perona // Research Ethics

Research ethics committee members supported AI for administrative assistance but rejected automated ethical decision-making, emphasizing human oversight, accountability, transparency, and data protection.



BLOG POSTS

The Limits of Unauthorized Practice in Regulating Mental Health AI

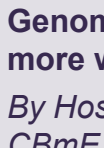
By Roei Amir, Vardit Ravitsky and I. Glenn Cohen // Hastings Bioethics Forum

Traditional medical licensing laws are inadequate for regulating mental health AI, highlighting the need for tailored frameworks addressing conversational AI's distinctive risks and characteristics.

Should patients have a say in the authorisation of animal experiments?

By David Azilagbetor // Journal of Medical Ethics Forum

Patient involvement in animal research ethics could provide valuable experiential perspectives, improve transparency and trust, but requires clearly defined roles and attention to expertise and representation.

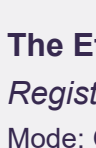


VIDEOS & PODCAST

Genomic Newborn Screening: Where less really is sometimes more with Ainsley Newson

By Hosts: Julian Savulescu, James Edgar Lim and Sinead Prince // CBmE & U Podcast

Professor Ainsley Newson (University of Sydney) explores the ethical challenges of genomic newborn screening, examining the benefits of early detection, the potential harms of knowing too much too soon, and the role of solidarity in shaping future screening programmes.



UPCOMING EVENT

The Ethics Edge: Insightful Learning for Today's Doctors

Register Now!

Mode: Online, NUS Learning Management System

"Ethical Expertise: Can you Develop it?" By Prof Peter Singer

Register Now!

Venue: Shaw Foundation Alumni House, Singapore

Date: 9 September 2026

Time: 12:00 - 1:00pm (SGT)

Neuroethics Asia Conference 2026

Register Now!

Venue: NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House, Singapore

Date: 6-7 November 2026

Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law

Register Now!

Venue: Boorloo/Perth, Western Australia

Date: 29 November 2026 - 2 December 2026

CENTRES Clinical Ethics Conference 2027

[Registration is closed—we're delighted to be at full capacity!]

Venue: Shaw Foundation Alumni House, Singapore

Date: 28 - 29 January 2027

Singapore Research Ethics Conference 2027

Save the date!

Venue: One Farrer Hotel, Singapore

Date: 23 - 24 March 2027