

RESEARCH ETHICS

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
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NEWS

Will Covid-19 vaccines be safe for children and pregnant women? The data, so far, are lacking. - Helen Branswell // Stat News
Children are only participating in very limited vaccine trials; studies for pregnant women have not begun.

The Covid Drug Wars That Pitted Doctor vs. Doctor - Susan Dominus // The New York Times
Vigorous disagreements existed between doctors regarding treating patients with unproven drugs during Covid-19.

How we accelerated clinical trials in the age of coronavirus - Nicole Mather // Nature
Potential benefits to patients are demonstrated by the UK Recovery trial.

F.D.A. 'Grossly Misrepresented' Blood Plasma Data, Scientists Say - Katie Thomas and Sheri Fink // The New York Times
The myriad problems associated with the US FDA's claims regarding blood plasma.

Cambridge University aims for autumn trials of COVID-19 vaccine after UK funding - Adam Finn and Richard Malley // Channel News Asia
Cambridge, funded by the UK government will begin clinical trials of a vaccine that "uses genetic sequences of all known coronaviruses to hone the immune response, [which] could help avoid the adverse effects of a hyper-inflammatory immune response".

WHO says 172 countries engaging with global COVID-19 vaccine plan - Reuters // Channel News Asia
International solidarity in developing a vaccine spreads risk and lowers costs.

PUBLICATIONS

Science at Warp Speed: Medical Research, Publication, and Translation During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Wendy Lipworth, Melanie Gentgall, Ian Kerridge & Cameron Stewart // Journal of Bioethical Inquiry
It is possible to speed up research while maintaining quality.

Weighing the Benefits and Risks of Proliferating Observational Treatment Assessments: Observational Cacophony, Randomized Harmony - Robert M. Califf, Adrian F. Hernandez, Martin Landray // Journal of the American Medical Association
Observations from treatments in the absence of verifiable evidence can delay finding effective treatments against Covid-19.

Ethically Allocating COVID-19 Drugs Via Pre-approval Access and Emergency Use Authorization - Jamie Webb, Lasha D. Shah & Holly Fernandez Lynch // American Journal of Bioethics
Patients who ask for treatment with unproven drugs should have lower priority if they will not participate in clinical trials regarding those drugs.

Challenge trials for a coronavirus vaccine are unethical – except for in one unlikely scenario - Ben Bramble // The Conversation
If there is no longer enough virus in the community for conventional vaccine trials, but enough to necessitate lockdown, challenge trials could be ethical.

BLOGS

Is the Coronavirus Pandemic Accelerating Bioethics Nationalism? - Jonathan D. Moreno // Hastings Bioethics Forum
The pandemic has strained the international rules of drug development, but they are still intact.

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