

RESEARCH ETHICS

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
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NEWS

Oxford kept Covid-19 vaccine trial volunteers in dark about dosing error, says letter to participants - Reuters // The Straits Times

Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine trial found riddled with ethical missteps as dosing errors and breaches of trust come to light.

Give African research participants more say in genomic data, say scientists - Linda Nordling // Nature
Could 'tiered' consent as opposed to broad consent methods improve trust between researchers and vulnerable participants, without compromising on the data?

Delay a Shot? Skip One? Vaccine-Dosing Messaging Is a Nightmare. - Katherine J. Wu // The Atlantic
Lack of consistency and uniformity in scientific guidance is eroding public trust in vaccines. Public health messaging must do better.

Scientific fraud or false claim? China confronts a research crisis - Stephen Chen // South China Morning Post

The 'reproducibility crisis', allegations of fraud, and more scandals – Time to democratise academic research in China?

It's Not Clear That We Actually Need Human Challenge Trials for COVID-19, But the U.K. Is Moving Ahead With Them Anyway - Alice Park // Time

World's first coronavirus human challenge study begins in the UK, but ethical dilemmas remain unanswered.

'I've accepted the risk': volunteering to be exposed to COVID in new trials - Molly Blackall // The Guardian

Volunteers' perspectives on participating in the UK human challenge study.

PUBLICATIONS

A survey of national ethics and bioethics committees - Johannes Köhler, Andreas Alois Reis, and Abha Saxena // WHO Bulletin

Findings from a cross-sectional survey of 87 national ethics committees across the globe to collect data on their roles, functions, efficacy and challenges faced.

Ethical Inclusion of Health Care Workers in Covid-19 Research - Holly Fernandez Lynch, Dawn Lundin and Emma A. Meagher // Ethics and Human Research (Hastings Center)

The authors expand on when it is appropriate to include the participation of clinical staff and how best to protect their interests in COVID-19 research.

Ethical considerations of recruiting migrant workers for clinical trials - Bushra Zafreen Amin // BMJ Journal of Medical Ethics

The importance of avoiding paternalism and improving beneficence, when evaluating the ethics of migrant workers' participation in clinical trials.

The Ethics of Repurposing Previously Collected Research Biospecimens in an Infectious Disease Pandemic - Benjamin E. Berkman, Anna C. Mastroianni, Leila Jamal et al. // Ethics and Human Research (Hastings Center)

Repurposing biospecimens from previous research projects for pandemic-related purposes, even without prior broad consent, could be ethically appropriate, subject to specific conditions.

Assessment of the Inclusion of Racial/Ethnic Minority, Female, and Older Individuals in Vaccine Clinical Trials - Laura E. Flores, Walter R. Frontera, Michele P. Andrasik et al. // JAMA Infectious Diseases

Acknowledging the need for diversity enrolment targets as survey of US-based vaccine clinical trials reveals that members of racial/ethnic minorities and older adults are underrepresented, while female adults are overrepresented.

Research integrity codes of conduct in Europe: Understanding the divergences - Hugh Desmond and Kris Dierickx // Bioethics

An investigation into the state of harmonisation of national level research integrity codes and guidelines within the European context.

BLOGS

Health policy and systems research: ethical challenges in co-production of knowledge - K Srinath Reddy, Suparna Ghosh-Jerath and Rajeev Sadanandan // BMJ Opinion

Insights into the ethical challenges in co-production of knowledge, or research involving all key stakeholders as equal participants, to transform health systems and improve services.

Self-experimentation with vaccines - Jonathan Pugh, Dominic Wilkinson and Julian Savulescu // Practical Ethics/JME Blog

The authors attempt to defend self-experimentation for developing and testing vaccines during a pandemic – subject to limitations, of course.

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Centre for Biomedical Ethics
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine