

# RESEARCH ETHICS

NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
CURATED BY CENTRES

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## NEWS

**Ancient-DNA researchers set Ethics Guidelines for their work** - Sabrina Imbler // The New York Times  
*Ethical issues with research on ancient genetic material have led to the formulation of new guidelines - scholars suggest this is not sufficient.*

**Surgeons successfully test pig kidney transplant in human patient** - Assoc. Press // The Guardian  
*Should we be engaging in xenotransplantation simply because we can?*

**COVID scientists in the public eye need protection from threats** - Editorial // Nature  
*A recent survey reveals increased violence and threats against scientists since the onset of the pandemic. More institutional support is needed to combat this.*

**Remembering Zika: Parents offered their kids for studies, then say they were forgotten** - Mariana Lenharo // NPR  
*Lack of communication of research findings and follow-ups with caregivers of children with congenital Zika syndrome has exacerbated research fatigue and distrust.*

**Tackling the pandemic with (biased) data** - Christina Pagel and Christian A. Yates // Science Magazine  
*Accuracy of data on transmissibility, resources, variants, vaccinations, etc. will be pertinent to informing mitigation policies for current and future pandemics.*

## PUBLICATIONS

**New guidelines for embryo and stem cell research** - Christine Mummery and Eric Anthony // Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology  
*A discussion on updates to the 2016 ISSCR guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Clinical Translation.*

**Invasive experimental brain surgery for dementia: Ethical shifts in clinical research practices?** - Frederic Gilbert, John Noel M. Viaña, Merlin Bittlinger et al. // Bioethics  
*This study reviews clinical research trials involving persons with dementia to highlight ethical issues and propose recommendations building on the Helsinki Declaration.*

**Individualized therapy trials: navigating patient care, research goals and ethics** - Patrick Bodilly Kane, Merlin Bittlinger and Jonathan Kimmelman // Nature Medicine  
*Recommendations for addressing tensions in individualised therapy trials, namely clinical equipoise, informed consent, reporting and funding.*

**Uses of equipoise in discussions of the ethics of randomized controlled trials of COVID-19 therapies** - Hayden P. Nix and Charles Weijer // BMC Medical Ethics  
*A scoping review of articles containing substantial discussion on the use and application of equipoise in COVID-19 RCTs.*

**Developing a Reflexive, Anticipatory, and Deliberative Approach to Unanticipated Discoveries: Ethical Lessons from iBlastoids** - Rachel A. Ankeny, Megan J. Munsie, and Joan Leach // American Journal of Bioethics  
*Arguments in favour of robust, transparent and reflective regulatory processes to ensure adequate ethical and social outcomes in emerging technologies like iBlastoids.*

## BLOGS

**Why we agreed to review the first COVID-19 human challenge study** - Simon E. Kolstoe, Tony Lockett and Hugh Davies // JME Blog  
*Ethics committee review of the first COVID-19 human challenge trial in the UK based on WHO guidance and review frameworks will serve as precedent for follow-on studies.*

**Heritable human genome editing: Who decides? Science or society?** - Françoise Baylis // JME Blog  
*The author posits that civil society must take up the lead in setting research parameters for human gene editing.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Singapore Research Ethics Conference: Navigating Ethical and Regulatory Challenges in the New Era for Human Subject Research**  
23 - 25 Nov 2021

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