Possible Ethics Forum Topics

As indicated in the Guidelines, students have the option of presenting a case study related to research and ethics. Possible cases to use can be located by searching on the following website: ‘http://onlineethics.org’. Click on ‘Responsible Research’ then click on ‘Scenarios in the Responsible Conduct of Research for Student-Faculty Discussion’.

- Cloning human beings.
- Human volunteers for medical research.
- Human stem cell research.
- Use of extra embryos from in vitro fertilization attempts as a source of embryonic stem cells to provide tissues for transplantation.
- Use of embryonic germ cells.
- The return of healthy research animals to the wild.
- Use of animals in teaching (dissection) and its use as a requirement for some Biology courses.
- Unlicensed use of commercial and shareware software.
- Plagiarism Situations
- The deceptive benefits of placebos.
- Should pregnant women be punished for behavior that could harm their fetus?
- Abortion
- Do politicians deserve medical privacy?
- Genetic testing and gene therapy.
- Patients’ Bill of Rights vs. state’s rights.
- The use of senior citizens in cancer, etc. research. Are they too old to benefit?
- Helping HIV-infected babies.
- Dr. Kevorkian and euthanasia.
- Self-prescription/self-medication/homeopathic remedies for serious illness
- Medical research on prisoners and the military
- Selling eggs/sperm.
- HIV test reporting---public protection or individual punishment?
- Should patient’s be privy to their doctor’s medical history/past? The idea of a national “doctor databank”.
- Should our employers be privy to our genetic tests/medical histories?
- Decisions at Life’s End.
- Human error in Medical Information Systems
- Unprofessional Practices
- Professional misconduct and physician discipline
- Consent in Genetic research in Iceland
- Ethical issues with genetic testing in pediatrics
- First time cancer tests for embryo
- Should older women be offered in vitro fertilization?
- Physician-Assisted suicide under Jewish law
- Does my religion approve of organ donation?
• Ethical aspects of xenotransplantation
• Ethical issues in Terminal Health Care
• Assisted suicide
• Ethical issues related to reproductive technologies
• Student objections to use of animals in teaching
• Ethics of Self-Prescription
• Eugenics at the Bedside
• Using Animals in Research – experiment discomfort, introducing viruses into the field
• Consent for archived tissue specimens
• Human genetic research – recruitment strategies and the informed consent process
• Using shared tissue samples for genetic research
• Question of host factors in side effects of medication
• Recontacting old research subjects with new clinical findings
• Disclosing preliminary results to research subjects
• Recruiting relatives of a proband with a stigmatizing condition
• Negotiating research practices with local communities
• Data selection, legitimate or illegitimate
• Personal privacy and medical databases
• Should we be able to choose our kids
• Prisoners and transplants
• Cloning pigs for parts
• Using soldiers as guinea pigs for biological weapons vaccinations
• Should pharmaceutical reps be allowed to give medical doctors gifts?
• Should ethical standards of research be universal or should they differ based on local beliefs and customs?
• Advance directives
• Research involving individuals with questionable capacity to consent
• Research involving recombinant DNA and hazardous biological materials
• Human Genome Project
• Ethical Issues in Nanotechnology
  Links:  www.ethicsweb.ca/nanotechnology/
• Students Using Technology to Cheat
  www.cnn.com/2004/TECH/05/12/camphone.cheating.ap/index.html
• Fraudulent Data & Scientific Misconduct…What should penalties be?
• Use of 3rd World in testing by Pharmaceutical Companies
  Links:  www.pharmacoethics.com/news.html
• Technology and the Environment
  Ex. Ultra-Light Vehicles - www.onlineethics.org/cases/design/index.html
• NASA Policies… shuttle disasters
• Ethical Issues in Research Involving Human Participants
• Software Engineering and Computer Ethics
  Article:  http://www.onlineethics.org/cases/robot/robot.html
• Self Experimentation by Researchers
Topic Selection Form
for 2005 Ethics Forum

Please complete and return this form to Peggy Heely at the Office of Experiential Learning (mheely@fcas.pitt.edu or fax 412-624-6877) by Friday, June 10, 2005.

Research Group / Department
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Names of Group Members
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Name of Faculty Mentor
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e-mail of faculty mentor
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Topics (Choose up to 3 topics. Please indicate order of preference with 1 indicating highest preference)
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We will send you a confirmation of your group’s topic by Monday, June 13.