

Ethics & Ethics in Research

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28 Apr 2021

ETHICS

The English word ethics is derived from the Ancient Greek word *ēthikós* (ἠθικός), meaning "relating to one's character", which itself comes from the root word *êthos* (ἦθος) meaning "character, moral nature"



Ethics



When most people think of ethics (or morals), they think of rules for distinguishing between right and wrong, such as

- ❑ the Golden Rule ("Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"),
- ❑ a code of professional conduct like the Hippocratic Oath ("First of all, do no harm"),
- ❑ a religious creed like the Ten Commandments ("Thou Shalt not kill..."),
- ❑ or a wise aphorisms like the sayings of Confucius.

Ethics

- ❑ In contrast with science, which is descriptive, ethics is normative.
- ❑ Science sets out to describe the world as it is: laws of nature, molecular interactions and integrated systems.
- ❑ Ethics deals with what we ought to do or ought not to do.
- ❑ It tries to distinguish right from wrong using an ethical framework.

Ethics in Research

Ethical norms serve the aims or goals of research and apply to people who conduct scientific research

It is important to adhere to ethical principles in order to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants.

- ❑ *Standards and operational guidance for ethics review of health-related research with human participants, WHO 2011*
- ❑ *WMA Declaration of Helsinki – Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects, 64th WMA General Assembly, Fortaleza, Brazil, October 2013*
- ❑ *International ethical guidelines for health-related research involving humans, Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences*
- ❑ *ICH-GCP Guideline E6 (R2) – the ethical and scientific quality standard*

Ethics in Research



Why is it important ?

- ❑ Promote the aims of research, such as knowledge, truth, and avoidance of error.
- ❑ Ethical standards promote the values that are essential to collaborative work, such as trust, accountability, mutual respect, and fairness.
- ❑ Ethical norms in research also help to build public support for research. People are more likely to fund a research project if they can trust the quality and integrity of research.

Ethics in Research

Three Fundamental Principles of Research Ethics

- **Respect for persons**
- **Beneficence**
- **Justice**

Ethics in Research



These principles are considered to be universal—they apply everywhere in the world.

These principles do not have national, cultural, legal, or economic boundaries.

Everyone involved in human research studies should understand and follow these principles.

" Ethics and ethical principles
extend to all spheres of human activity.
They apply to our dealings with each other,
with animals and the environment.
They should govern our interactions not only
in conducting research but also in commerce,
employment and politics.
Ethics serve to identify **good, desirable**
or **acceptable conduct**,
and provide reasons for those considerations."

National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans, 1999

References

- ❑ <https://www.who.int/ethics/topics/research/en/>
- ❑ <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/>
- ❑ <https://ich.org/page/efficacy-guidelines>
- ❑ <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/belmont-report/index.html>