



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

www.ethics2010.org



Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: The Art (and Science) of Ethics Consultations in Research Issues

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

The process of ‘research’ can encompass a broad spectrum of activities: the generation of novel ideas; devising methods to test the ideas (for example, in dry or wet laboratories, in animals or in humans); securing funding and then conducting the research in a responsible manner; disseminating the results and, finally, translating worthwhile ideas into practice. Ethical dilemmas can arise at any point in the process, relating to specific projects or whole programs. Researchers may consult with their local ethics review committee but these are often under-resourced, and therefore focussed on the initial ethics review of individual projects. At the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, we have created a role, Research Ethicist, and a consultation process to aid our investigators as they move through the research process.

Consultations may be requested prior to, or ‘upstream’ from, the ethics review. Others occur during the conduct of the study, or ‘downstream’ from initial ethics approval. Some consultations overlap with clinical ethics issues, others with organizational ethics issues.

This paper will:

- Describe the experience of research ethics consultations from the perspective of an ethicist working in a rehabilitation hospital with many investigator-initiated projects. (Our clinical programs serve a number of vulnerable populations: those suffering from spinal cord injury, cardiac events, acquired brain injury, dementia and those requiring complex continuing care.)

- Discuss practical, institutional and ethical issues relating to research ethics consultations

- Reflect on the application of ethical concepts (such as integrity, beneficence, autonomy and justice) within the context of research ethics consultation.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

Building upon work initially published at

Van Laethem, MLP and Henry, B. Research ethics consultations: a Canadian perspective using research ethicists. Am J Bioeth. 2008 Mar; 8(3): 35-7.

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes No