

## Ethics & Medical Research

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### Inducement and Coercion of the Vulnerable

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

#### Readings

- Carol Levine, "Research Involving Economically Disadvantaged Participants", pp. 431–436.
- Valerie Bonham & Jonathan Moreno, "Research With Captive Populations: Prisoners, Students, and Soldiers", pp. 461–474.

#### Questions

1. What are the different senses of "vulnerability" discussed by Levine and Bonham and Moreno? In what ways might the economically disadvantaged, prisoners, students, and soldiers be vulnerable according to these different senses?
2. What the arguments presented by Levine suggesting that the economically disadvantaged require special protections? What are the arguments encouraging more inclusion of these people in clinical research? Which do you find the most compelling?
3. What the respective arguments presented by Bonham and Moreno suggesting that prisoners, students, and soldiers require special protections? What are the arguments encouraging more inclusion of these people in clinical research? Which do you find the most compelling?