Ethics & Medical Research

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Fair Benefits of Multinational Research

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

- Participants in the 2001 Conference on Ethical Aspects of Research in Developing Countries, "Fair Benefits for Research in Developing Countries" (PDF on webpage).

- Ezekiel Emanuel, "Benefits to Host Countries", pp. 719–728.

Questions

1. In these articles, Emanuel (he was the primary author of the paper from the conference) presents and contrasts four approaches to understanding what counts as fair benefits to poor developing countries and communities for hosting research:

   - Reasonable availability,

   - The Nuffield Council on Bioethics'

   - The fair benefits framework, and

   - The human development approach.

   What is each approach? What are the justifications offered by the defenders of each approach? What problems does Emanuel identify with each approach? What reasons does Emanuel provide to defend his clear preference for the fair benefits framework?

2. Of these approaches, which one do you believe provides the most compelling account of the fair benefits of multinational research?