
INTEGRITY IN SCIENCE: RESEARCH ETHICS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

TWAS-ARO ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE 28-29 NOVEMBER 2017

INTEGRITY IN SCIENCE



DISCUSSED TOPICS

- Role of academies of sciences in scientific integrity
- IRB (IEC) education, outreach, capacity building for staff and monitoring
- Ethical challenges in clinical trials
- Ethical challenges in stem cell and regenerative medicine
- Dealing with Vulnerability
- Challenges facing researchers in publishing
- Young scientists needs to responsible conduct
- Challenges face young scientist in conducting responsible research

ROLE OF ACADEMIES

- Academies around the world are mandated to recognize scientific merit
- Academies can address scientific integrity at different levels
- promoting distinction of responsible science
- Promoting culture of science among young researchers
- Promoting culture of science in society
- The discussion high-lighted the role of science communication & science journalism to prevent misuse of science

ROLE OF INSTITUTION REVIEW BOARD (INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMITTEES)

- IRB members are well trained (ethics, law and morals)
- Capacity building :
- Committees can facilitate and support
- Provide SOPs
- Provide training (for researchers as well as the members)
- Improve the whole process using the quality matrix (quality control and quality assurance)
- Review of research plans (at least 3 reviewers)

ROLE INSTITUTION REVIEW BOARD (INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMITTEES)

- IBR keep the right of patients as well as researchers
- There is no any kind of conflict of interest for IBR members
- Proposals are distributed according specialty
- What are the selection criteria for the committees (is it political decision)



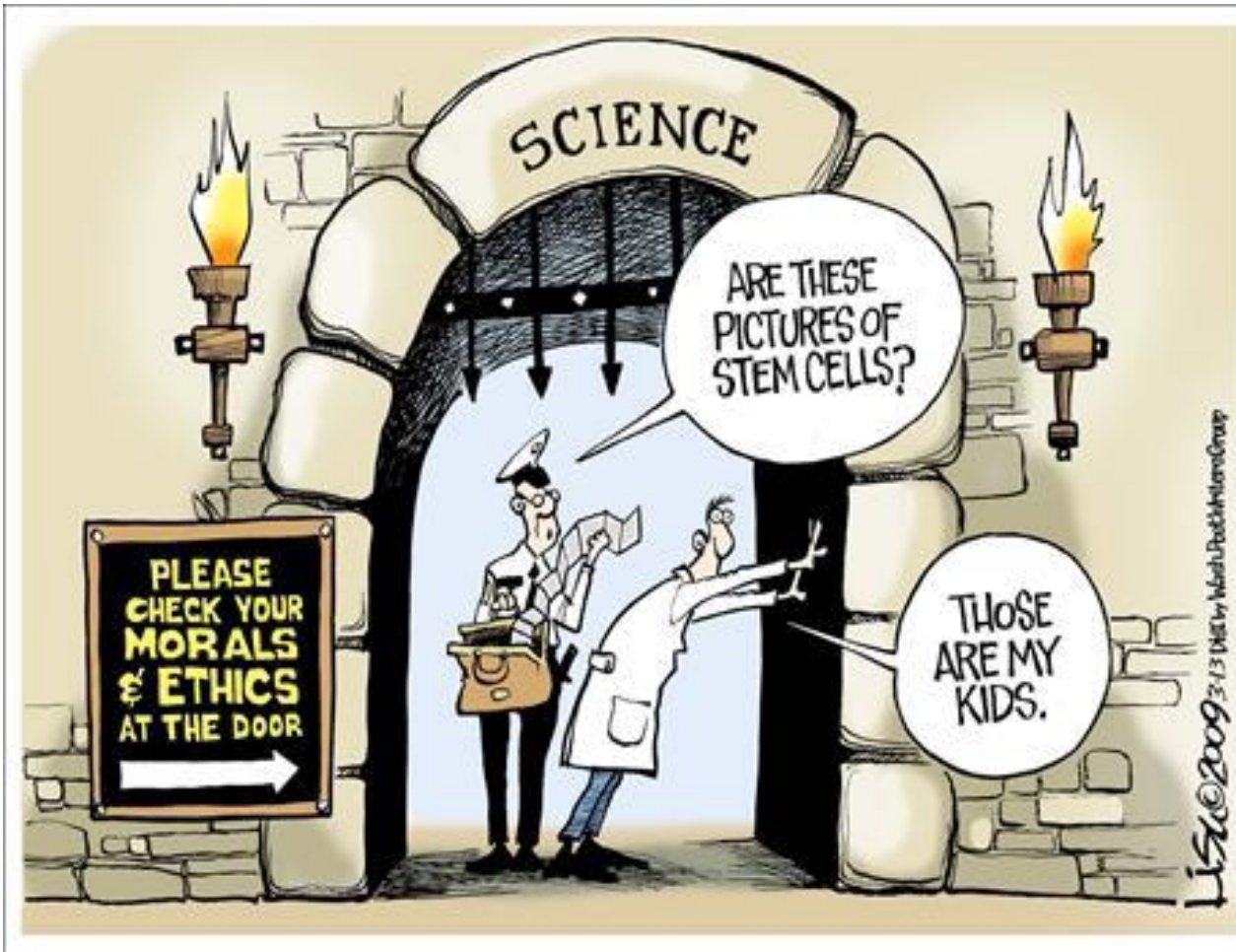
ETHICS IN CLINICAL TRIALS

ETHICS IN CLINICAL TRIALS

- Current market-share of Arab countries is very limited (1%)
- Egypt 2nd in Africa (after SA) 30%
- The region is attractive for clinical trial market:
- Abundant Non-communicable disease
- Genetic disorder more common than other regions (relatives marriage)
- Enrollment in trials is rapid, save costs

ETHICS IN CLINICAL TRIALS (CHALLENGES)

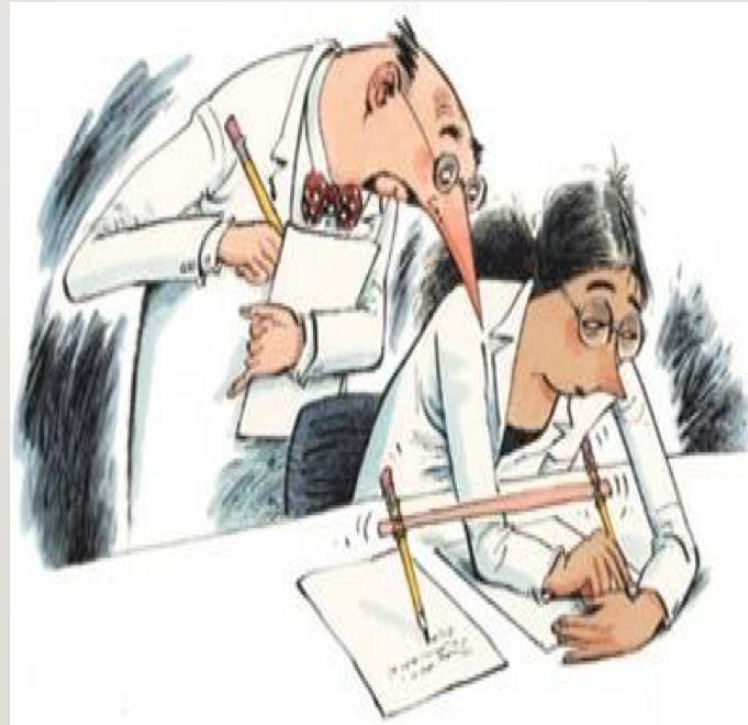
- No law to organize clinical trials
- Lack of proper training of investigators
- Lack of proper monitoring process
- Clinical trial outside certified centers
- Sometimes Arabic translation of the consent differs from its English version



ETHICS IN REGENERATIVE MEDICINE & STEM CELLS

- Cells come from animals
- Usually we do not adhere to the standards of animal welfare
- It is difficult to get cell lines to perform in vitro experiments
- We do not have cell/tissue banks
- Where do obtain the cell (from waste tissue or through invasive process)
- Is there informed consent to donor and patient
- Do we have SOPs or not
- Is there cross contamination

ETHICS IN PUBLISHING



ETHICS IN PUBLISHING

- Is it fair enough to judge our research through impact factor of the journals!
- Develop writing skills of younger generation
- Simplicity, avoid complex structures
- Is it common to have gift authors & ghost author in Arab world
- We do not adhere to global stand

ADDITIONAL POINTS

- Self funding of research Vs responsible conduct of research
- Researchers are overwhelmed with extra-academic duties and focusing enough on responsible conduct
- We are discussing the issue apart from decision makers
- We are ignoring our indigenous knowledge when practicing responsible science
- Environment in Yemen does not support responsible conduct of research, so they stopped some kind of research

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Academies can work to improve the science communication skills of scientists
- There are around 9 academies in the Arab world in addition to young academies, they can cooperate to produce a guide of best practice for responsible conduct in research to ensure that our science adhere to the highest standard
- New funding models (charities)
- More skillful administrative support to researcher that they can focus on their mission
- We need to set fair criteria for assessment of excellence in science

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clear dialogue between regulatory bodies and scientists/ young scientists
- IRB/IEC on university level (however, all committees should apply same standards)
- Develop Arab registry from clinical trial
- Raise awareness among young researchers e.g. virtual schools for undergraduate research
- Awareness for funding agencies, basic research is important to get the level of applied research
- Develop appropriate guidelines to be followed

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide young researchers with access to appropriate facilities to be able to conduct responsible research
- Establishing national cell/tissue banks
- Proper monitoring of private centers
- Safe waste disposal of biohazardous waste
- Develop curricula that educate undergraduate and graduate students the responsible conduct of research (we may even start from schools)
- Establishing public database for clinical trials

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**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

