

Course Description:

This course introduces the theories, principles, concepts, and facts of ethics as they pertain to conducting ethical and responsible clinical research. You will apply your newly acquired knowledge through analysis of ethics case studies, group discussions, and interrogatories.

Specifically, you will explore the history of ethics from the Tuskegee syphilis experiments, to the Nuremberg Code and subsequent Declaration of Helsinki, to the Belmont Report of the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research.

You will discuss the language of ethics, ethical theories, norms of scientific behavior, and ethical principles including respect, beneficence, and justice as well as their applications to informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, assessment of risks and benefits, and selection of subjects. Also, you will apply the process of ethical reasoning and analysis to resolving ethical dilemmas, especially regarding conflict of interest.

You will consider the ethics of research management including authorship, intellectual property, use of data, peer review, privileged information, publication practices, and the responsible transfer of technology. Also, you will learn to avoid misconduct including plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, and fraud.

You will reflect on the ethics of research and experimentation as it relates to vulnerable populations. You will familiarize yourself with the function of research ethics committees and the role of institutional review boards. Finally, you will consider the role of the scientist as a mentor to students, residents, and colleagues.