

Introduction for research ethics for physical therapy students

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WHAT YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT IN THIS lecture:

- Why practicing ethical behavior is important
- The most important and basic principles of ethical behavior
- The different ethical guidelines presented by professional organizations

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Ethics

- moral principles of right and wrong
- not absolute; may vary by person, by time, by place
- and may be in competition with each other

Research ethics

- incorporating ethical principles into research practice
- may involve a balance between and within principles and practices
- all stages, all those involved, from inception of research through to completion and publication of results and beyond

Why is Research Ethics Important?

- It is a reflection of respect for those who 'take part' in research
- It ensures no unreasonable, unsafe or thoughtless demands are made by researchers
- It ensures sufficient knowledge is shared by all concerned
- It imposes a common standard in all the above respects

IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS IN RESEARCH

- Protects the vulnerable group and other study participants
- Participants are safeguarded from exploitation
- Establishes risk-benefit ratio for study subjects
- Ensures fullest respect, dignity, privacy, disclosure and fair treatment for subject
- Builds capability of subjects to accept or reject participation in study

- the researcher respects current regulations and principles of research ethics. Both the researcher and the research institution are responsible for accommodating and exercising good research practice.
- research has a more general responsibility to society

 Research may in addition have consequences for animals and the environment

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- 1- Research must be in accordance with human rights.
- 2- Research must be in accordance with sustainable development and respect for the environment.
- 3- Research must promote peace.
- 4- Research must promote and take part in the development of democracy.

• 5 - Research must promote greater global justice in the distribution of wealth through the spread of information.

Good research practice

- The researcher and the research institution are responsible for exercising honest research practices.
- The researcher is individually responsible for the activities, subject matter and method of his or her research, as well as for the quality of the results.
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• When conducting research, the researcher must follow National and International regulations on ethics and safety.

• Uncertainty, risk and the Precautionary Principle

• The researcher must clarify the degree of certainty and precision that characterizes the research results. In particular, the researcher must take care to clarify the relative extent of the results' certainty and validity, as well as to indicate any elements of risk or uncertainty that may be significant for possible uses of the research • In cases where plausible, yet uncertain information exists that the use of technology or the development of a certain research field might lead to ethically unacceptable consequences for health, society or the environment, researchers within the given field must strive to provide information that is relevant for using the Precautionary

Principle

Protection of research subjects

- The researcher must respect the demand for informed consent.
- Research must secure the privacy of the research subjects.

Protection of animals in research

- The researcher must show due care and respect for animal welfare in the preparation and execution of animal experiments, and must account for the experiment's necessity to the relevant authorities.
- The researcher must accommodate his or her research so that the use of research results is not contrary to the fundamental demands of animal welfare.

• When questions may be raised concerning a researcher's animal testing on the basis of ethical considerations, the researcher must ask an independent ethics committee for their assessment.

- Relationship with traditional and alternative sources of knowledge:
- Traditional knowledge is a cumulative set of knowledge, skills, practices and descriptions that have been preserved and developed by peoples experienced in interacting with nature.

- The researcher must whenever natural seek to incorporate and respect alternative sources of knowledge, such as traditional knowledge.
- The researcher should whenever natural seek to use participatory methods.
- Openness, contract research and conflicts of interest

- The researcher is responsible for ensuring openness and scientific quality in con-tract research.
- The researcher is obliged to be open about possible conflicts of interest.

Whistle-blowing and ethical responsibility

• When the researcher in the course of work comes into conflict with what he or she considers to be his or her social responsibility, the researcher must have the pos- sibility, and, according to the circumstances, duty, to act as a whistle-blower to society at large.

 Research institutions are obliged to have in place independent mechanisms that can support employees in whistle-blowing situations.

Research and popularization

- Research institutions should have in place clear routines that reward researchers who popularize research and participate in research related public debates.
- Researchers should actively use suitable modes of communication to reach relevant user groups with information about research results.