

NB - Include main achievements, lessons learned and future with a focus on ending this pandemic and preparing for future pandemics

COVID-19 research: Ethics & Governance

Ethics at the frontline of pandemics

Sonali Kochhar & Ross Upshur

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COVID-19 – Ethics front & centre

I need to be blunt: the world is on the brink of a catastrophic **moral** failure – and the price of this failure will be paid with lives and livelihoods in the world's poorest countries.

This contagion exposes the fault lines, inequalities, injustices and contradictions of our modern world. It has highlighted our strengths, and our vulnerabilities.

Compassion is a medicine. Supporting other people in your community can help you as much as it does them.

In the eye of a storm like COVID-19, scientific and public health tools are essential, but so are humility and kindness. With solidarity, humility and assuming the best of each other, we can – and will – overcome this together.

Allowing a dangerous virus that we don't fully understand to run free is simply **unethical**. It's not an option.

It's a **moral** bankruptcy. We should not be **morally** dead. Every life, whether it's young or old, is precious and we have to do everything to save it.

But we now face the real danger that even as vaccines bring hope to some, they become another brick in the wall of inequality between the world's haves and have-nots.

Mixed messages from leaders are undermining the most critical ingredient of any response: trust



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1 Lessons learnt

- Ethics is central – e.g., ‘solidarity’, ‘equity’, ‘fairness’
- Need to focus on ethical outcomes of R&D, not just ethical conduct of R&D
- Ethics guidance and values frameworks exists – not operating in a vacuum
- Relationship between evidence and ethics
- Constant review, sunset clauses required
- Clearly articulating and prioritising goals of pandemic response

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1 Lessons learnt

- Improving public health systems
- Moving fast can mean people get left behind
- Protecting most at-risk populations
- Co-ordination/Governance
 - Transparency, accountability & participation
- We don't like to learn lessons

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2 Future actions: ISSUES

- Integrating ethics more effectively into decision-making
 - Key messages from Pandemic Ethics & Policy Summit
- Robust, yet flexible oversight mechanisms
- Ethics of 'living with the virus'
- Inclusion, exclusion & marginalisation

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2 Future actions: ISSUES

- Governance – appropriate models to support the ethical response to outbreaks
- Engagement across Blueprint WG - vaccine hesitancy, infodemic
- Ethical humility
- Ethical Roadmap – working with other initiatives to understand the key ethical issues in different settings
- Role of ethics community – advancing global justice in outbreaks – i.e. Treaty

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2 Future actions: ACTIONS

- Research design & oversight
 - Revisiting human challenge studies guidance
 - Changing clinical trial design models
 - Ethics oversight models
 - Inclusion/exclusion – i.e. children, pregnant women
- Governance – collaborative models
- Fair allocation of scarce resources (e.g., therapeutics), addressing issues of scarcity

Title

Thanks all members of the Covid-19 work and sub-working groups who have contributed to the outputs which are detailed in the background report.

Priorities to expand research capabilities so that we are better prepared for future pandemics.

Next steps



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Thankyou

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R&D Blueprint
Powering research
to prevent epidemics