

NURS 4391 Evidence-based Practice and Nursing Inquiry
Ethical Issues in Nursing Research
Online Discussion 1

Online Discussion 1 Assignment:

1. Read the scenarios given below.
2. Select 2 and write a posting for **two** of the scenarios.
 - a. From each of the scenarios, identify an ethical principle that was violated.
 - b. Discuss how the principles were violated.
 - c. Include in the discussion what measures the researchers could have/should have taken to avoid the violations of ethical principles.
 - d. Include reference and citations in APA format for each posting.
3. Respond to the postings of two small group members postings.
 - a. In your responses, identify other ethical violations or give statement of support of their view of the violations.
 - b. Include reference and citations in APA format for each posting.
4. Give at least one reference (not the text book) used to discuss ethics violations in research for each main posting and each peer posting.

Investigation: Ethics Violations in Health Experiments

1. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study

"The Tuskegee syphilis experiment, formally known as *The Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male*. Carried out between 1932 and 1972 by the U.S. Public Health Service, the study involved 399 African-American men with syphilis who were studied to determine the effects of untreated syphilis in black men as opposed to whites, the hypothesis being that whites experience more neurological complications due to syphilis, whereas blacks were thought to be more susceptible to cardiovascular damage" (Gorski, 2009, p. 1).

2. San Quentin Penitentiary

"Enter San Quentin penitentiary in the role of the Fountain of Youth - an institution where the years are made to roll back for men of failing mentality and vitality and where the spring is restored to the step, wit to the brain, vigor to the muscles and ambition to the spirit. All this has been done, is being done ... by a surgeon with a scalpel," began one rosy report published in November 1919 in *The Washington Post* (Stobbe, 2011, p. 1).

3. New York State Vocational Institution Stomach Bug

"Researchers in the mid-1940s studied the transmission of a deadly stomach bug by having young men swallow unfiltered stool suspension. The study was conducted at the New York State Vocational Institution, a reformatory prison in West Coxsackie. The point was to see how well the disease spread that way as compared to spraying the germs and having test subjects breathe it. Swallowing it was a more effective way to spread the disease, the researchers concluded. The study doesn't explain if the men were rewarded for this awful task" (Stobbe, 2011, p. 1).

4. University of Minnesota and Malaria

"A University of Minnesota study in the late 1940s injected 11 public service employee volunteers with malaria, then starved them for five days. Some were also subjected to hard labor, and those men lost an average of 14 pounds. They were treated for malarial fevers with quinine sulfate. One of the authors was Ancel Keys, a noted dietary scientist who developed K-rations for the military and the Mediterranean diet for the public. But a search of various news archives found no mention of the study. But two studies in the 1960s proved to be turning points in the public's attitude toward the way test subjects were treated" (Stobbe, 2011, p. 1).

5. Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital and Cancer Cells

"The first came to light in 1963. Researchers injected cancer cells into 19 old and debilitated patients at a Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in the New York borough of Brooklyn to see if their bodies would reject them. The hospital director said the patients were not told they were being injected with cancer cells because there was no need - the cells were deemed harmless. But the experiment upset a lawyer named William Hyman who sat on the hospital's board of directors. The state investigated, and the hospital ultimately said any such experiments would require the patient's written consent" (Stobbe, 2011, p. 1).

6. Staten Island and Hepatitis

"At nearby Staten Island, from 1963 to 1966, a controversial medical study was conducted at the Willowbrook State School for children with mental retardation. The children were intentionally given hepatitis orally and by injection to see if they could then be cured with gamma globulin" (Stobbe, 2011, p. 1).

7. Trovan and Meningitis in Nigerian Children

"Pfizer, drug company, gave an antibiotic named Trovan to children with meningitis in Nigeria, although there were doubts about its effectiveness for that disease. Critics blamed the experiment for the deaths of 11 children and the disabling of scores of others. Pfizer settled a lawsuit with Nigerian officials for \$75 million but admitted no wrongdoing" (Stephens, 2006, p. 1).

8. Willowbrook Hepatitis Experiment

"Willowbrook State School in Staten Island, N.Y., housed and cared for mentally disabled children. Dr. Saul Krugman from the New York University School of Medicine and his coworkers began conducting hepatitis studies there in 1955 and continued for more than 15 years. Hepatitis was a major problem at Willowbrook for patients and staff, and Krugman believed that most newly admitted children became infected with hepatitis within the first year of residence in the institution" (Education Development Center, 2009, p.1).

References

- Education Development Center (2009). *Willowbrook hepatitis experiments*. Retrieved from https://science.education.nih.gov/supplements/nih9/bioethics/guide/pdf/master_5-4.pdf
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*If the websites have been changed or modified, please research the ethical issue and report. Make sure to reference the article in APA format.