American College of Epidemiology

Quarterly Ethics Committee Report (September)

DATE: 09/20/2017
INCOMING CHAIR: Edward Peters
OUTGOING CHAIR: Jennifer Salerno
VICE-CHAIR: Way Way Hlaing (Interim)

Official Membership
Edward Peters, Chair (2017)
Jennifer Salerno, Past Chair (2017)
Way Way Hlaing (2017)
Tom Weiser (2019)
Doug Weed (2017)
Ken Goodman (2017)
Jim Enstrom (2017)
Vijayan K. Pillai (2019)
Dora Il’yasova (2019)
Sazid Khan (2019)
Kenneth A. Mundt (2019)

No. Members: 11 in total

Meetings (Full Committee Meetings): 06/14/17, next meeting tentatively scheduled for the end of Sept.

No new Committee members since last BOD.

Objectives (according to the Strategic Plan - 2014)
1. Develop and maintain current ethical practice guidelines
2. Promote research ethics and professional ethics
3. Promote the study and discussion of ethics in epidemiologic practice
4. Facilitate solutions to ethical issues

2016-2017 Objectives
1. Contribute to and help foster research and publications on ethics and epidemiology
2. Stimulate work on curriculum development in ethics and epidemiology

In keeping with our objectives, we are focusing on the following activities (prioritized):
• Organize and participate in concurrent and other sessions at the ACE Annual Meeting, 2017
• Complete the supplement to the Ethics Guidelines (as 3-4 papers in the Annals)
• Contribute to teaching about ethics and epidemiology
• Publication goal (1 paper per year)

Details of Our Activities in Progress (2017)

• Concurrent session at the upcoming Annual Meeting
  o Session, Monday September 25th, 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm
  o Title: Untangling the Ethical Intersection of Epidemiology, Human Subjects Research and Public Health
• Breakfast roundtable at the Annual Meeting
  o Hosted by Ethics Committee member D. Weed, title: “Beyond Financial Conflicts of Interest.”
• Pre-Conference Workshop, hosted by Susan Pinney: “Extreme personal exposure biomarker levels: Guidance for Study Investigators”
  o Ed Peters from the Ethics Committee to give a talk on the “Ethical Considerations”
• Priority topics areas in ethics and epidemiology
  o Re-visit hot topics from the Ethics Committee at September Committee meeting
• Begin to revise our Ethics Syllabi Project: http://www.miami.edu/index.php/ethics/projects/EPHES/
  o Subcommittee: Ken Goodman, Sazid Khan, Jennifer Salerno, and other interested committee members.
  o Question: can we use the Ethics funds to pay for a University of Miami graduate student? Details required?
    ▪ Plan to get help from a graduate student (for performing survey, emails, phone calls) with a ~2k stipend for ~40 hours in total (10 hours/week).
• Consultation
  o The Ethics Committee discussed a matter that was forwarded to the Committee regarding an ACE member using their affiliation as credibility for their vaccination beliefs as they appeared on a personal website.
  o The Ethics Committee discussed the concern at the June committee meeting and exchanged detailed email responses among committee members, all of which has been summarized and circulated to ACE.
    i. Summarized themes include: reasoned responses/no response, membership process/complaints process, policy statements etc.

Membership: Same. Need new Board liaison.

New Initiatives: Highlights above.

Metrics: Meeting notes are taken at each committee meeting. Meeting notes are distributed but we have not attempted to accept or approve the meeting notes. Committee participation in meetings ranges. We are having full committee meetings as needed, about one every month or two. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for end of September.