In the trenches with the HEAG - and beyond

Professor Lynn Gillam
Melbourne School of Population & Global Health and Chair, The University of Melbourne central Human Research Ethics Committee

The School’s Human Ethics Advisory Group (HEAG) is one of 24 HEAGs across the University which work in the front line of the University’s Human Ethics review process. It’s not always a fun job, but someone very definitely has to do it – or research would grind to a halt. In this presentation, I will discuss how the whole human ethics review process works, the role of our HEAG in that, what some of the known obstacles and irritations are, and how we can work collaboratively to make things work as smoothly as possible. In particular, I will discuss the issue of review of research design and methodology and what that has to do with ethics. This presentation draws from the recent review of the School’s HEAG, which I conducted at Prof Terry Nolan’s request.

Lynn Gillam is Professor in Health Ethics in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at The University of Melbourne, and Academic Director of the Children’s Bioethics Centre at the Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH) Melbourne. Lynn is also Chair of the University of Melbourne central Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), which is an oversight and policy-making body, having been a member of various HRECs continuously since the early 1990s. Her research interests focus on human research ethics, and paediatric clinical ethics, and she has published widely in these fields. Lynn has been working in a clinical ethics role at RCH Melbourne for the past 8 years, and has participated in over 150 clinical ethics case consultations.

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12.30 - 1.30 pm, Seminar Room 515
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

ALL WELCOME