

## ETHICS GRAND ROUNDS

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 South Campus  
D1.602, Noon–1:00, McDermott Plaza Lecture Hall

### THE ETHICS POLICE? THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE HUMAN RESEARCH SAFE

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Experiments on human beings have saved countless lives, but sometimes harmed participants. Critical questions thus emerge: how much government should regulate science, and how. Nazi experiments and the Tuskegee syphilis study led the US, in 1974, to establish Research Ethics Committees (or Institutional Review Boards – IRBs) to oversee human research. But these committees have increasingly been criticized for blocking important studies, while ethical violations continue. Crucial dilemmas thus emerge: whether this system should be changed, and if so, how. In September 2015 President Obama's administration recommended several reforms. Yet we must first understand this system to know how to improve it. Unfortunately, these committees operate behind closed doors, and have received relatively little in-depth investigation. This talk, based on interviews with dozens of IRB leaders, explores how they make decisions, wrestling with conflicts and complexities assessing possible risks and benefits of studies, and deciding how much to trust researchers – key questions that ultimately affect us all.

Ethics Grand Rounds Videos are available a few days after the lecture at:

<http://repositories.tdl.org/utswnmed-ir/handle/2152.5/1292>

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**Target Audience:** Physicians, faculty, residents, fellows, trainees, students, health care professionals. **Educational Objectives:** At the conclusion of this activity, the participant should be able to: 1) Recognize perennial and emerging bioethical problems in clinical practice, research, public health, and health policy arenas. 2) Describe competing/contrasting viewpoints concerning these bioethical problems. 3) Demonstrate increased skills in analyzing and practically handling bioethical problems in the clinical, research, public health, and health policy arenas. **Educational Method:** Lecture and question-and-answer period. **Accreditation:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. **Credit Designation:** The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center designates this activity for 1 hour(s) in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility. **Conflict of Interest:** All persons in the position to control the content of an education activity are required to disclose all relevant financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months with any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on patients. A primary mechanism to resolve identified conflicts of interest is a content review that is prior to the activity. **Off-Label Uses:** Because this course is meant to educate physicians with what is currently in use and what may be available in the future, there may be "off-label" use discussed in the presentation. Speakers have been requested to inform the audience when off-label use is discussed.