

The Centre for Ethics at the University of Iceland

A doctoral course on "Research ethics" in Iceland in the Fall 2010.

Tuesday September 21:

Morning:

Pekka Louhiala, University of Helsinki:

9:00–10:00 Lecture: What are placebo and placebo effect?

Coffee break

10:30–12:00 Practical assignment: The justification of placebos in studies on new antidepressants.

Lunch

Afternoon:

Ruth Macklin, Albert Einstein College of Medicine:

13:30–15:00 Lecture: Ethical Issues in research in developing countries.

Coffee break:

15:30–17:00 Practical assignments and discussion groups

18:00 Optional participation in a traditional evening song in the church

19:00 Dinner

20:00–22:00 Roundtable discussion: Student's describe their final theses.

Wednesday September 22:

Morning:

Bjørn Hofmann, University College of Gjøvik and University of Oslo

9–10 Lecture: Science ethics: publication ethics and scientific misconduct – are scientists more honest than other professionals?

Coffee break

10:30–12 Practical assignments and discussion groups

Readings for Pekka Louhiala's part:

P Louhiala and R Puustinen. Rethinking the placebo effect. *Med. Humanit.* 2008;34;107–109.

B W Dunlop and J Banja. A renewed, ethical defense of placebo-controlled trials of new treatments for major depression and anxiety disorders. *J. Med. Ethics* 2009;35;384–389.

Damien G Finniss, Ted J Kaptchuk, Franklin Miller, Fabrizio Benedetti. Biological, clinical, and ethical advances of placebo effects. *Lancet* 2010; 375: 686–695.

Readings for Ruth Macklin's part:

Ezekiel J. Emanuel, David Wendler, Jack Killen, and Christine Grady. What Makes Clinical Research in Developing Countries Ethical? *Journal of Infectious Diseases.* 2004;189, 930–937.

Macklin, Ruth. Standard of Care: An Evolution in Ethical Thinking. *The Lancet.* Vol. 372 July 26, 2008: 284–285.

Macklin, Ruth. The Declaration of Helsinki: another revision. *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* Vol. VI, No. 1 (2009): 2–4.

Participants in the 2001 Conference on Ethical Aspects of Research in Developing Countries. Fair Benefits for Research in Developing Countries. www.sciencemag.org *Science* Vol. 298, No. 13 December (2002): 2133–2134.

World Medical Association. Declaration of Helsinki (2008).

Readings for Bjørn Hofmann's part:

Tore Nilstun, Rurik Löfmark and Anita Lundqvist. Scientific dishonesty – questionnaire to doctoral students in Sweden. *J Med Ethics* 2010 36: 315–318.

Riis P. Scientific dishonesty: European reflections. *J Clin Pathol* 2001;54:4e6.

Hofmann Bjørn. That's not science! The role of moral philosophy in the science/non-science divide. *Theor Med Bioeth.* 2007;28(3):243–56.

Holm S. Ethics and scientific conduct. In: *Research Methodology in the Medical and Biological Sciences.* London: Elsevier 2007: 33–52. ISBN 978-0-12-373874-5

Donald L. McCabe's Academic Dishonesty Survey Preliminary Report, Assessment Guide
Report Demographics 2003 Spring Semester Kansas State University Academic Dishonesty
Survey

Study Available from:

<http://www.kstate.edu/honor/honorsystem/researchlinks/mccabesurvey2003/survey03.htm>

Note about format:

The students should prepare for the session before the course.

The assignment could be as follows:

Pekka Louhiala: "After the morning lecture on Tuesday the students are divided into two groups. One group prepares a presentation arguing FOR the use of placebos in studies on new antidepressants, the other group prepares a presentation AGAINST it."

The teachers:

Pekka Louhiala is a lecturer in medical ethics at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He has degrees in both medicine and philosophy, and he also works as a part-time paediatrician in private practice. He has published on various topics in medical ethics, philosophy of medicine and epidemiology. His current academic interests include conceptual and philosophical issues in medicine, such as alternative medicine and placebo effects.

Ruth Macklin is Professor of Bioethics in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York. She is a member of the Vaccine Advisory Committee of the HIV Vaccine Initiative at the World Health Organization and an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the U.S. National Academies of Science. She is a past president of the International Association of Bioethics and was recently re-elected to its Board of Directors. Dr. Macklin is author or editor of 11 books and has more than 200 published articles.

Bjørn Hofmann is professor at the University College of Gjøvik and adjunct professor at the Section for Medical Ethics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo. He is trained both in the natural sciences (electronics, physics and biomedical engineering) and in the humanities (philosophy and history of ideas). He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy of medicine from the University of Oslo (2002). His fields of research are philosophy of science, medical ethics, science and technology studies and health technology assessment.