

Research Ethics Network in CEE | Newsletter #11

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the eleventh edition of our Network Newsletter! The main news item this time is a call for proposals for Research Ethics Study Visits in Vilnius. You will also find some materials on last year's study visits as well as other information relevant to our network.

Sincerely,
Vilnius team

**Call for Proposals: Research Ethics Study Visits in Vilnius,
Lithuania (May 22-26, 2017)**

The Department of Medical History and Ethics, Vilnius University, plans to organize a special week-long research study visit for up to 5 current trainees or alumni of the Advanced Certificate Program in Research Ethics in Central and Eastern Europe.



Trainees and alumni must be from countries that are currently classified as low- or middle-income countries by the World Bank. Currently eligible countries are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

These study visits will take place May 22 through May 26, 2017.

During the stay, trainees and alumni are expected to work on selected topics in research ethics. Acceptable projects include an evaluation of the quality of research ethics review systems in their home country or institution, new or modified policies at the institutional or national level that would lead to an improvement in research ethics review systems, new educational programs in research ethics, or any other research ethics issue relevant to their respective countries or the region. The results of these projects are expected to lead to a peer-reviewed publication or other deliverables relating to educational, research, or policy materials that will improve research ethics capacity in the trainee's or alumni's home country or institution.

The study visit will also include visits to the Lithuanian Bioethics Committee and the Vilnius Regional Biomedical Research Ethics Committee (based at Medical faculty of Vilnius University) to enable trainees to better understand the structure and functioning of the research ethics system in Lithuania.

Advanced Certificate Program in Research Ethics in Central and Eastern Europe will provide round-trip economy transportation to Lithuania (up to US \$400), six nights accommodation (May 22 – May 26), and a per diem to cover additional costs, meals, and incidentals.

Interested trainees and alumni should send two-page description of their proposed research topic and planned deliverables to Eugenijus Gefenas at eugenijus.gefenas@mf.vu.lt no later than April 1, 2017. Two or more trainees and alumni can also submit proposal for a joint visit to engage in a collaborative work.

Acceptance to this special program will be awarded on a competitive basis, with attention given to: 1) the academic performance of trainee while supported by the Advanced Certificate Program; 2) the significance, approach, and innovation of the proposed project; 3) a realistic plan for implementation; and 4) the relevance of the to the training goals of the Advanced Certificate Program.

This program is supported by the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R25TW007085.

Follow-up on last year's research visits in Vilnius

The Research Ethics Study Visit program was initiated in 2016. The first study visits took place on 1-5 February, 2016. Alumni had an opportunity to learn more about the system of the research ethics committees in Lithuania by visiting Lithuanian bioethics committee and Vilnius regional biomedical research ethics committee. They have also developed individual projects on the issues in developing research ethics infrastructure in their countries:

Marina Topuridze and **Ketevan Shermadini** (Georgia) developed the Recommendations for Research Ethics System and Policy Development for Georgia (you can [download](#) it here).

Sergiy Pakharyna (Ukraine) together with the other alumni of the Program **Viktoria Dobrova** (Ukraine) published the paper “The system of ethical review of biomedical research in Lithuania: structure, peculiarities of functioning, ways of development” in the peer-reviewed academic journal (in Russian, [download here](#)) where a number of approaches for public discussion and implementation in practice of the Ukrainian system of biomedical research ethical review were also suggested.

Andrei Famenka (Belarus) contributed to the Policy Module within the Advanced Certificate Program for CEE aiming at providing guidance to students of the Program on how to feasibly carry out framework analysis of the factors which theoretically might have a potential to influence a position of the issue of protection of human research subjects on the public policy agenda. Marija Stevanović (Serbia) prepared the report with specific Recommendations for Future Development of Research Ethics Infrastructure in Serbia that was shared with the Serbian National Bioethics Committee.

Webinar on informed consent in resource limited countries

Webinar: “The goal of valid and respectful informed consent in resource limited countries: data from the field”

Presenter: Professor Nancy E. Kass, ScD, Phoebe R. Berman Professor of Bioethics & Public Health, Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

16 February at 9:00am Eastern Standard Time (GMT -5:00 h).

The webinar, the first in a series, will review some of the recent literature highlighting challenges and strategies for informed consent for research in resource limited countries.

All are welcome to join free of cost.

Advance registration is requested [here](#).

To join the webinar [click here](#).

Bioethics on the Serbian State Television

In 2016 Program alumni **Marija Stevanović** broadcasted interesting programs on bioethics on the Serbian State Television (RTS):

Bioethics in Central and Southeast Europe

Bioethics in Genetic Research

New CIOMS guidelines



Official version of the new CIOMS 'International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans' is now available online. You can access the file [here](#).

New publications and positions

Fletcher, F., Ingram, L. A., Kerr, J., Buchberg, M., Bogdan-Lovis, L., & **Philpott-Jones, S.** (2016). "She Told Them, Oh That Bitch Got AIDS": Experiences of Multilevel HIV/AIDS-Related Stigma Among African American Women Living with HIV/AIDS in the South. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs* >>>

Famenka, A. (2016). Transformation of the role of healthcare ethics committees and the concept of clinical ethics in Belarus. In *Ethics and Professionalism in Healthcare: Transition and Challenges* >>>

Mezinska, S., Kakuk, P., **Mijaljica, G.**, **Waligóra, M.**, & O'Mathúna, D. P. (2016). Research in disaster settings: a systematic qualitative review of ethical guidelines. *BMC medical ethics* >>>

Dranseika, V., **Gefenas, E.**, & **Waligora, M.** (2016). Broadening the "Infrastructure Effect": Lessons from the Early Development of Research Ethics in Eastern Europe. *The American Journal of Bioethics* >>>

Piasecki, J., **Waligora, M.**, & **Dranseika, V.** (2016). What Do Ethical Guidelines for Epidemiology Say About an Ethics Review? A Qualitative Systematic Review. *Science and Engineering Ethics* >>>

Program alumnus **Marcin Waligora** was recently awarded a Fulbright Senior Award and will accept a 9-month visiting scholar position at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics. He will be working on a project entitled, "Children in phase 1 cancer trials. Risk and social benefit," which will systematically evaluate the risk/social benefit for enrolling children in phase 1 cancer trials.

As always, we hope you enjoyed this update. You are encouraged to share information on your recent publications and any other accomplishments, as well as any other news that could be interesting and/or useful to Network members. One way to do this is via our [Network Facebook Page](#).

You can access older newsletters [here](#).

Please also send your news to Vilius Dranseika, vilius.dranseika@fsf.vu.lt

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