Ethical Research

RESEARCH FOR HEALTH

PUTTING RESEARCH
ETHICS REVIEW ON THE
MAP AND STRENGTHENING
NATIONAL RESEARCH
ETHICS REVIEW CAPACITY
GLOBALLY

The COHRED Group

UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL

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COHRED
Council on Health Research for Development

GlobalForum
FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

Supporting research and innovation systems for health, equity and development

Ethical Research

RESEARCH FOR HEALTH

National research and innovation systems should ensure that the research output of a country is excellent, ethical, equity promoting, relevant to national health and economic development priorities, and leads to health and health care improvements.

Products and Services

MARC (Mapping African Research ethics Committees) supports the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to ensure the efficient conduct of high quality ethical review. MARC is creating an interactive and 'self-updating' web-based map of three key aspects of health and pharmaceutical research:

i) research ethics committees – where they are, how they operate and what capacity they have;
ii) capacity building initiatives in this field in and for Africa;
iii) medicine regulatory authorities – where they are and how they operate.

Research Ethics Web (www.researchethicsweb.org) is a global platform that promotes knowledge-sharing in health research ethics, and is the platform used by MARC. There is no user charge – the only cost to you is time needed to upload your data. In return, you get the following benefits:

• instant visibility locally and globally;
• free web-space;
• instant information on other research ethics committees and their resources;
• see linkages between ethics review and national health research priorities;

- real-time updated standard information delivered to your inbox or you can download the generic database yourself.

Meeting Facilitation - we facilitate meetings that can impact the quality and efficiency of ethics review in Africa (and elsewhere if needed). In 2012, we aim to get African Research Ethics Committees to begin discussions on standardisation and quality control.

In Development - in the near future, we will offer:

- A web-based 'ethics networking' facility allowing users to set up closed and open discussion groups – creating an opportunity for all research ethics committees involved with the same multi-centre trial, for example, to get together on the web and compare notes. See www.researchethicsweb.org
- A management information system for Research Ethics Committees – linked to Research Ethics Web. A system to manage and track progress, set reminders, do oversight, print forms – and also manage staff.
- A high-level course in clinical trial review (one week, on site).

Our Successes

- MARC has collected information on 152 Research Ethics Committees (RECs) in 34 countries in Africa. Close to 60 RECs are uploading even more information themselves.
- PAHO (the Pan American Health Organization) has uploaded information on more than 1,000 RECs in 15 Latin American Countries.
- Eight RECs in four Caribbean countries have also joined.
- The first meeting of African Administrators of Research Ethics Committees (AAREC), organised in Botswana in September 2011, focused on the key role of REC administrators, on increasing review efficiency and on adherence to high quality Standard Operating Procedures.
- MARC's achievements were published in Developing World Bioethics (November 2011)
- Donor interest in MARC-web data to target sponsorship for research ethics capacity building to countries and institutions where it is most needed.

WWW.RESEARCHETHICSWEB.ORG

MARC is implemented in partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa, in particular, its SARETI programme (South African Research Ethics Training Initiative). Web-programming is carried out by COHRED's Web4Development team in Brazil.

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To be part of this initiative please contact:

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