The Declaration of Helsinki:

Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects

Jack Resneck, Jr, MD
Immediate Past President, American Medical Association
Chair, WMA Workgroup to Revise the DoH

The Declaration of Helsinki:
Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects

- One of WMA's seminal documents
- First adopted in Helsinki, Finland in June 1964
- Last revised in Fortaleza, Brazil in October 2013
- Multi-Year undertaking for current revision in 2024
  - Working group established April 2022 by WMA Council
  - Chair appointed 18 countries
  - Has met regularly to review feedback from regional meetings

Working Group Identified Priority Areas

- New or Evolving
  - Big Data (Data storage, machine learning, AI, dynamic consent, coherency with Taipei)
  - Challenge trials and Ethical Standards during Emergencies/Pandemics (in light of COVID-19)
  - Compassionate use of Unproven Interventions (misinterpretation to justify questionable therapies during COVID-19)
  - Emerging trial designs (Adaptive/Enrichment trial designs, Master Protocols (Umbrella, Basket, and Platform Trials), Decentralized Trials, Real-world data/evidence
  - Gender-inclusive language
- Ongoing
  - Use of placebos
  - Application only to physicians or also to others?
  - Vulnerable populations (neither exploiting nor excluding)
  - Post-trial access/benefits
  - Informed consent from those who lack capacity
  - Prevention trials (vulnerable vs concerned groups)

First Regional Meeting Held in Tel Aviv

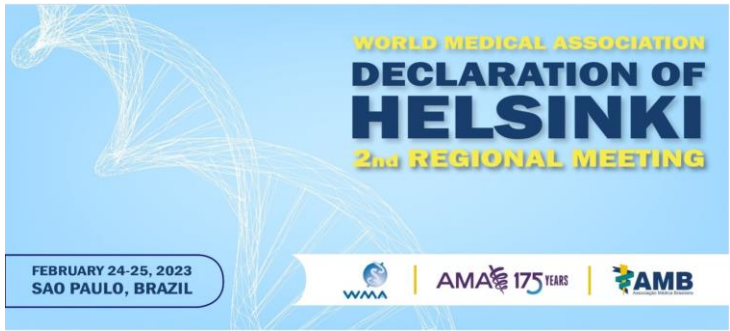
Strengthening language to address Technological Advancements in Big Data, Machine Learning, and Augmented Intelligence

- Current DoH language on biobanks
  - Inadequate to address consent for collection, storage, reidentification, reuse of data
  - Fails to address specific risks of AI, machine learning, big data (loss of privacy, creation of tools that cause harm)
- Alignment with Declaration of Taipei
  - Need to remedy lack of reference
  - Doesn't cover dynamic consent
    or risk of reidentification

Second Regional Meeting Held in São Paulo

Ethical Considerations on Use of Placebo

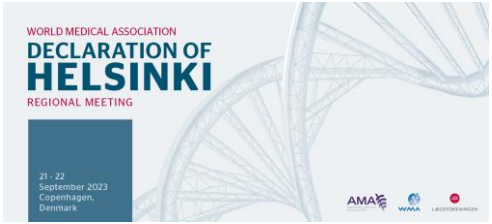
- Paragraph 33: Complex subject with differing perspectives
  - When is the use of placebo, or no intervention, acceptable?
  - When is the use of an intervention less effective than the best proven one acceptable?



Third Regional Meeting Held in Copenhagen

Emerging Trial Designs

- Adaptive/Enrichment trial designs, Master Protocols (Umbrella, Basket, and Platform Trials), Decentralized Trials, Real-world data/evidence, Challenge Trials (not really new)
  - Do we have best practices for obtaining informed consent for these types of trials?
  - Are ethics committees prepared to evaluate emerging ethical issues with them?
  - Do high-level principles of DoH already apply, or are new ones required?
- Other Issues Arose
  - Need for ethics committees to have adequate resources and training
  - Importance of Scientific Rigor to avoid research waste
  - Concept of Social Value



Fourth Regional Meeting Here in Tokyo
Research during Pandemics & Health Emergencies

- Pandemics
- Non-Pandemic Health Emergencies
- Conflict Settings
- Vaccine Challenge Trials (the COVID experience)
- Vulnerable Populations during Pandemics
- Compassionate Use

A 2-Year Process with Many Opportunities to Contribute

- Public Comment Period (Phase 1) begins in January
- Vatican City, Jan 18-19
  - Research in resource-poor settings
- Johannesburg, South Africa, Feb 18-19
  - Vulnerable populations: community inclusiveness, post-trial access
- Munich, Germany, May 14-15
  - Vulnerable groups: elderly, children, pregnant, incarcerated, stigmatized, etc.
- Public Comment Period (Phase 2) in late spring
- Washington, DC, USA, August 14-16
  - Communications and final revisions

**Meetings in blue will focus on vulnerable populations*